

PAWSD talks security concerns, changes access to offices

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

At its Dec. 14, 2023, meeting, the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD) Board of Directors discussed the need for increased security at PAWSD offices and plants given growing safety concerns.

Following a discussion of increased threats and antagonism by customers, District Engineer/Manager Justin Ramsey explained that PAWSD is planning to hire a security company to help improve security at PAWSD facilities due to concerns about threats from customers and the potential for thefts or intentional wa-

ter contamination at PAWSD plants. He added that, due to recent incidents with customers, staff feel "threatened."

In an interview with The SUN, Ramsey elaborated on the nature of the incidents, stating that they involved customers harassing and expressing anger toward staff, a theft at one of PAWSD's water plants and some incidents where customers made physical threats to staff.

At the meeting, Ramsey indicated that finalizing the security improvements may take time and proposed that, in the meantime, PAWSD return to its method of operations during the

■ See PAWSD A8

Commissioners issue written warning to county manager

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

At a Dec. 12, 2023, special meeting, the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) delivered a written warning to County Manager Derek Woodman for his role in directing staff to post openings for two cleaning staff positions not approved or authorized by the BoCC.

Commissioner Ronnie Maez opened the meeting by indicating that it was being called pursuant to Colorado Revised Statute (CRS) 24-6-402(2)(f) for the "purpose of supervision of county employees, specifically the county manager" and was therefore exempt from the noticing requirements of CRS 24-6-402(2)(c), which requires, among other things, that a meeting be noticed at a board's designated posting location at least 24 hours before it occurs.

The special meeting occurred

shortly after the BoCC's work session that morning and was not noticed prior to occurring.

In an interview, Maez stated that he called the meeting in the manner he did on the advice of County Attorney Todd Weaver.

At the meeting, Maez explained that he called it to present a written warning to Woodman that he prepared concerning Woodman's actions in posting the two cleaning positions earlier in December without BoCC approval.

He stated that he previously gave Woodman a verbal warning concerning his role in signing a contract with Rippling for county human resources and finance software without approval from Weaver.

Maez added that, upon reviewing the contract, Weaver determined that it contained terms that the county could not legally agree to.

■ See Warning A8

Archuleta County public health, water quality departments open



SUN photo/Josh Pike

Archuleta County Public Health Department (ACPHD) staff stand by the recently installed sign at the department's offices at 502 S. 8th St. The ACPHD opened for business on Jan. 2, following the dissolution of San Juan Basin Public Health in 2023.

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

The Archuleta County Public Health Department (ACPHD) opened its doors on Jan. 2, following the dissolution of San Juan Basin Public Health (SJBPH) at the end of 2023.

The Archuleta County Water Quality Department is also slated to open its doors this week, on Friday, Jan. 5.

ACPHD Executive Director Ashley Wilson explained in an interview that the ACPHD will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday at 502 S. 8th St., the same location as

SJBPH's former Pagosa Springs offices.

She noted that these hours are expanded from those of SJBPH and that the department will be open during the lunch hour, which SJBPH was not.

In a communication to The SUN, Wilson outlines the services that ACPHD provides, beginning by stating that appointments for ACPHD services can be obtained by calling (970) 264-2409 or by visiting the ACPHD offices.

She stated that the department will offer the following services:

- Birth and death certificate processing is available with the potential for same-day print-

ing. The required documents should be brought to the ACPHD offices before 1 p.m. for same-day printing. Printing for documents brought after 1 p.m. will occur by the next business day.

- Food safety plan reviews, permits and inspections will be performed by Angelica Leslie. The fees and processes for such reviews largely match those charged by SJBPH, according to Wilson.

• Health insurance and care coordination assistance will be provided by Karen Evans, who previously provided these services for SJBPH. Appointments for these services are encouraged.

■ See Open A8



SUN photo/Randi Pierce

2023 drew to a close with a signature staple, with alpenglow turning the mountains around Pagosa Springs pink during sunset.

Charter school director announces upcoming resignation

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

At the Dec. 13, 2023, meeting of the Pagosa Peak Open School (PPOS) Board of Directors, PPOS School Director Angela Reali-Crossland announced she will not be renewing her contract at the end of its current term.

"I'm looking at different directions and ways to impact education," she told the board.

Reali-Crossland told the board she has enjoyed her time at PPOS and wants to give the board enough time to look at adjustments, advertise and have enough time to fill the director position.

Board member Bill Hudson thanked Reali-Crossland for letting the board have that time, which board president Lawrence Rugar echoed.

"We don't want to hear it," one board member said, while board member Pamela Mead suggested PPOS has been on "borrowed time" since Reali-Crossland said three to five years when she was hired.

"I love my job, don't get me wrong," Reali-Crossland said, adding that it's also been taxing and time consuming and there are other areas where she can use her strengths.

"Working for Pagosa Peak Open School for the past four and a half

■ See Resignation A8

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Opinion

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OUR VIEW

You learn something new every day

A year ago, our front page reflected feet of snow falling on Wolf Creek and a blanket of white covering Pagosa Country, with elk photographed in the falling snow and gorgeous wintry vistas showing off part of the reason we call this place home.

This year looks a little different so far, with many of us still doing snow dances and keeping a hopeful eye on the weather forecast to see when Mother Nature will send measurable moisture our way.

But, despite the fact we've had to keep our snowshoes, sleds and skis tucked away in the closet, there's been no shortage of things going on that have kept us on our toes, entertained and learning over the last few weeks.

We found it both interesting and entertaining that the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD) Board of Directors literally called upon an audience member to fill a vacancy on the board recently. While the course of events seems to be in accordance with the board's bylaws and the audience member had previously served on the PAWSD board, that's the first time we've witnessed an appointment play out that way.

We were also caught off guard when we found out that the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners had called a

meeting without the standard notice on Dec. 12.

Upon hearing the news initially, our government watchdog responsibilities kicked in and we had a lot of questions.

Once we had access to the draft minutes (as posted to the commissioners' Jan. 2 agenda) and paid \$25 for copy of the recording of the meeting, we learned something new.

Commissioner Ronnie Maez called the meeting pursuant to Colorado Revised Statute (CRS) 24-6-402(2)(f) for the "purpose of supervision of county employees, specifically the county manager" and explained it was therefore exempt from the noticing requirements of CRS 24-6-402(2)(c), which requires, among other things, that a meeting be noticed at a designated posting location at least 24 hours in advance.

Again, while it was in accordance with the law, it caught us off guard and we immediately dug into state statute to learn more about that provision.

That's the first time in our current staff's years of covering local government to see that statute employed.

We also learned during the commissioners' Jan. 2 meeting that online security continues to be an issue when, in the middle of public comment, a jerk bombed the

meeting acting as Santa, but with far fewer clothes than the real St. Nicholas.

County staff worked to quickly quell the situation and get the meeting back on track, but, nevertheless, it was a huge disruption that we would have all been perfectly fine not experiencing.

We recommend that the county look into moving into a webinar format on Zoom like other local governments. We've also been consistently learning new things since we launched our new website (still at www.pagosasun.com) and moved to a new e-edition provider recently, and continue to work on making both the best user experiences possible (as a reminder, the "Sign In" link for subscribers can be found at the top right of the website).

Last week, we learned that our technology partners are apparently as excited to get The SUN to you as we are since they accidentally sent out the e-edition about 12 hours early — on Wednesday afternoon instead of Thursday morning.

At this point, we're a little nervous about what else we'll learn in 2024, but, nevertheless, we're excited to see what the year brings.

Here's to learning something new every day.

Randi Pierce

LEGACIES

By Shari Pierce

100 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
January 4, 2024

As librarian of the Pagosa Public Library I will give you a short outline of how our library was started and by whom it is kept up. The Women's Civic Improvement Club conceived the idea of giving a dinner and charging one book for each serving and in this way obtained about 250 books to start Pagosa's library. Mr. Ed. Colton donated the use of a quaint little log house (one of the oldest in Pagosa) for the library. Shelves were built and curtains put up, a nice rug on the floor, a desk and comfortable seats and the library was formally opened on November 22, 1922. Since then books have been bought and donated until I am proud to say that on our first anniversary it had grown from about 400 volumes to over 2000.

To date there are 360 cards in use and about 100 books are let out each library day. When you take into consideration that there are only 1,300 people in Pagosa and near vicinity, that is quite a record. At least we feel quite proud of all that has been accomplished and we are planning great things in the future.

Rhoda Parcell, Librarian.

75 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
January 7, 1949

Lumbering was the original reason for the branch of the narrow gauge railroad and is still one of the main industries of the county. The railway has been abandoned since 1936 but the lumber industry continues to grow.

The town of Pagosa Springs, which is laid out on the site of the original Fort Lewis, is at a healthful, invigorating 7,099 altitude and is a mecca for summer vacationists. It was one of the few tourist spots in the state that showed a substantial increase in its tourist business in the past season. Not only does it enjoy a big tourist trade during the summer, but the proximity of the Wolf Creek ski tow also brings hordes of winter enthusiasts from all of the San Juan basin to enjoy the excellent skiing facilities.

Perhaps nowhere in the county is there more opportunity for new businesses in a locality where they may be sure of growing along with the rest of the community.

50 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
January 3, 1974

A big winter storm moved into this area late Monday night and it has been snowing steadily since that time. Early Wednesday morning approximately 16 inches of new snow had fallen during the storm.

County road crews, state highway crews and town workers were keeping main travel routes open. The state highways are snow packed, but in good condition. Snowplow crews have been working 24 hours per day and do have most roads in very good shape.

However, the storm is continuing and more snow seems to be in prospect. Precipitation the past seven days totaled .85 inches of moisture in 22 inches of snowfall. More snow fell Tuesday night and by late Wednesday the total snowfall was estimated at 30 inches for this week.

Some below zero nights — three of them — made this a real winter-type week. Minimum temperature for the week was 12 below zero early Monday morning. It was eight below the mornings of December 26 and 27. Maximum temperature for the week was 36 degrees.

25 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
January 7, 1999

After approving a \$10,000 donation to a local group working to design and construct a new community center in Pagosa Springs, the town trustees set guidelines Tuesday for a process to consider extension of a local cable television franchise.

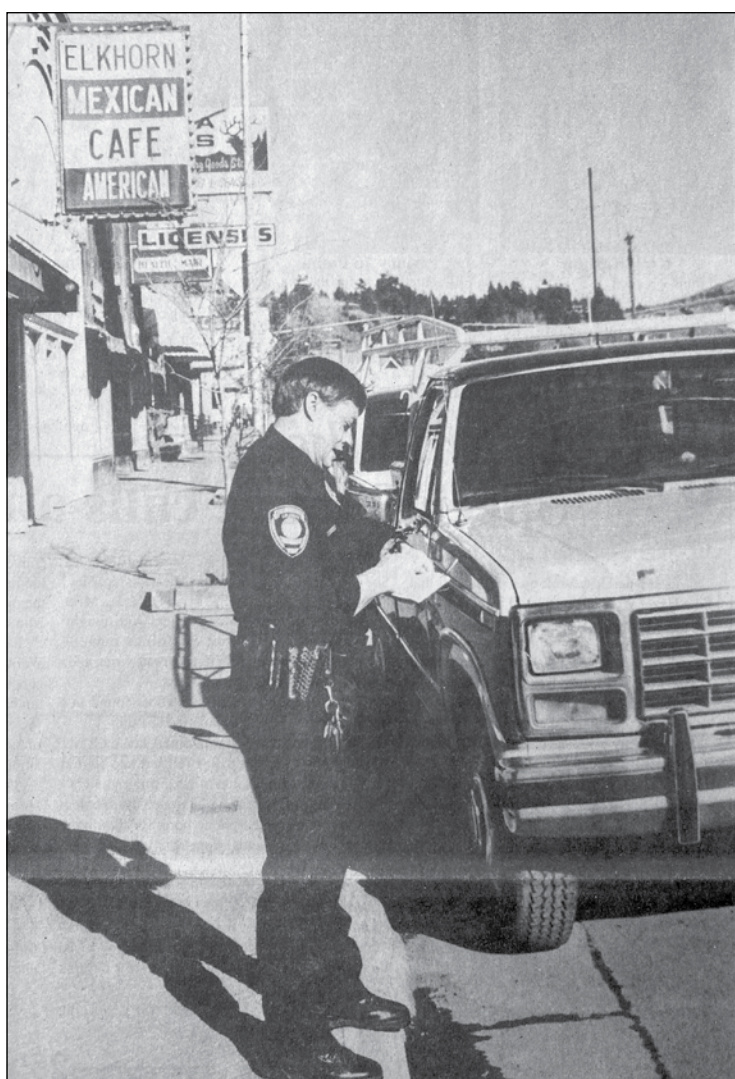
Asking the trustees to consider the donation, Mayor Ross Aragon said the community center project was undertaken by residents "of the entire community." He then updated the board on fund raising efforts by the Pagosa Springs Community Facilities Coalition as that group attempts to procure local monies prior to efforts to secure foundation and grant funds.

"Five months ago," said Aragon, "the coalition didn't have the price of a postage stamp. Today the group, with pledges, has \$30,000."

In 1997, the town spent \$305,832 to purchase the 2.5 acre Hot Springs Boulevard site for the facility.

In 1998, Pagosa Springs spent approximately \$83,000 in support of the community center project, using the money as matching funds in a grant-supported acquisition of wetlands between the proposed building site and the San Juan River, deed restricting the land to prohibit development in the park-like setting.

LOOKING BACK



From the January 6, 1996, Pagosa Springs SUN - Getting tough: Police Chief Don Volger takes advantage of spectacular weather Tuesday to check restricted parking zones in town and issue tickets to violators. Volger reminds motorists that Pagosa Springs police are serious about preventing violations in no parking and handicap parking zones on town streets. SUN photo.

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Buckley
06/1

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.

The wetlands

Dear Editor:
The Wetlands Wait..... they wait until spring, saving their strength to come forward once again with a priceless green of new cattail growth, white of chokecherry blossoms, pink of filaree. they wait out the drought, hoping for a good spring runoff and the monsoons of summer. they wait, and watch the Springs Resort construction. It's been loud, and the birds, fox, frogs have been disturbed. Agitated. Longing for dark nights and silence. There are unknowns: will the new soaking pools, perched right on the river, whose soakers wear sunscreen, use soap... will that taint the waters? Where will the water flow back to the river? Will environment friendly screen be required? they wait for the Audubon water monitors, regulars now, who note the hindered flow of hot water through the travertine rock. Will the hot seeps resume? Are they absent in some areas because of the drought and lack of rain? Or is it something related to the construction?

..... they wait for the ponds to refill with a mix of hot thermal water, rain and river flow. It's been a hard year for them, losing so much that was meant for them. they wait for those who see that this very unique ecosystem is not just rare, but precious. They wait for a young bird monitor, a native son, searching for the osprey overhead. They wait for an older man, who daily records his finds in eBird. they wait for the town council to understand that it is not the soakers alone who fuel the economy of this town, it is also the photographers who line the ponds looking for the elusive sora, the dippers, the muskrat, the hemlock. Will the town council realize that as the wetland goes, so goes a large segment of the downtown economy?

We naturalists wait with them, looking North to the snow on Pagosa Peak. We wait by the butterfly garden, wait for the first shoots of the lead plant and penstemon, gentian, mariposa lily... wait til the bees emerge, the butterflies flit.

Will we all wait in vain?
Diane Cirksena

Re: Right to die

Dear Editor:
Dear Readers:
Like a lot of attorneys who have tried a lot of trials, we have one or more that tend to come back to our memory from time to time. I have two, probably more, and no I want share them.
A letter by Constance d'Angel published in the Sun a week or so ago was, I believe, one of hers. We owe her a debt of gratitude for taking the time to share her thoughts with us. I know it was painful.

Most of you will remember the tragic case involving Terri Shiuvo. She suffered a serious injury, was hospitalized, and diagnosed as being in a persistent vegetative state. No doctor wants to write that on a patient's chart but sometimes it has to be done. In short Terri was in a state from which there was no recovery. There were those, her family, I believe who persisted over an unconscionable period time, keeping Terri in this state.

A story about Terri was in the news from time to time and the public began to realize that people in a vegetative state should not be kept in that state by artificial means. Most states have now passed laws, but not back then, allowing a person like Terri to designate someone to care for them and make the most difficult decisions. These are typical called "Advance Directives." They are frequently part of a Medical Power of Attorney but can be separate.

Some states also have statutes that allow, with very strict rules, someone like Terri to have all treatment withdrawn so that she can "die." She was not alive in the sense that we normally think about a living person. This withdrawal of care is sometimes done with family members, clergy, and others present and sometimes not. You can be sure that Terri was treated with all of the respect and care that would have been provided to anyone in a similar situation.

I personally have a Medical Power of Attorney and an Advance Directive. Most of my family does and many of my friends and acquaintances. I believe I owe that to my family and friends.

Thank you.
Sincerely,
William L. "Bill" Hubbard

Constitutional

Dear Editor:
Last week a letter writer complained in these pages about the Colorado Supreme Court's decision to prevent Donald Trump from appearing on our primary ballot. "How unconstitutional?" At least he put a question mark in there because it is literally in the US Constitution that someone who has participated in an insurrection against the United States cannot run for office — 14th Amendment, Section 3. It's even called the insurrection clause. It does not say that someone who has been tried and convicted cannot run. It just says that someone who tried to overthrow the government is prohibited from running.

I don't know where the writer was on January 6, 2021— unlike me, he was probably not standing, gobs-smacked, in front of their TV watching a mob overtake the Capitol. I'm guessing this writer did not, like me, watch every minute of the January 6th Commission hearings, also broadcast on TV. That would have been when the writer could have heard the damning testimony of all the people who worked in the Trump administration (all Republicans!). Also included in the hearings were videos (so many!) of what happened inside the Capitol that day and references to the behavior of the "great patriots" who broke into our Capitol and showed their respect by dragging in Confederate flags; defecating and urinating in the hallways — not your normal "tourist" behavior.

But it was Donald Trump's behavior that was particularly egregious. He encouraged and inflamed the crowd that day, wanted to march on the Capitol with them but was prevented from doing so by his Secret Service, sat and watched the whole thing on TV and refused to step in when the mob erected a gallows and chanted "hang Mike Pence". When he finally told the rioters to go home (which they immediately did upon his command) he told them that he

loved them! He was deeply involved in the fake elector scheme, stole top secret documents and refused to return them, storing them in a shower at Mar a Lago; and has continued his litany of lies and hatred while planning to retake the White House so that he can dismiss all charges against him and dismantle the administrative state.

I am proud of our Colorado Supreme Court for doing what is obvious and constitutionally mandated. In order to run for president of the United States one must be a natural born citizen, at least 35 years old and have lived in the country for minimum 14 years. The 14th amendment added one more qualifier: when you take an oath of office to uphold the Constitution and then incite, engage in, or give aid and comfort to any rebellion or insurrection against the US, you can't run for office.

Donald Trump and his minions try to tell us that Jan 6 was a typical (patriotic) tourist day in DC: "Who are you going to believe? Me, or your own lying eyes?" I know what I saw — it looked a lot like an attempted coup.
Lee Stopher

Presidential election

Dear Editor:
In the 1860 presidential election many states did not have Lincoln on the ballot. Maybe the Colorado Supreme Court will decide to use all of their state's \$5 bills to pay people to rub the image of Lincoln off of all the pennys in Colorado. Both Lincoln and Trump have stood for freedom and the American way.

Yours for a better America,
Dan Manka
Fairmont, W.Va.

Wolves

Dear Editor:
Since the voters living in Denver want to release wolves to the western slope, we should consider releasing mountain lions in Denver. We could vote on this, but only voters living on the western slope get to vote. That's fair isn't it? After all the voters in Denver didn't want wolves in their backyard but they got to dictate what happens on the western slope. While we are at it let's transfer the judges on the supreme court who think it is all right to decide for us who we should

See Letters A4

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Letters

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All letters must:

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

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

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

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

Letters quoting other people must contain proper attribution.

There is no guarantee letters will be published.

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



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Town approves contractor for Pagosa Gateway Project on San Juan River

By Derek Kutzer
Staff Writer

On Dec. 21, 2023, the Pagosa Springs Town Council approved FlyWater — a Fort Collins-based riverine consulting and construction firm — as the contractor for the Pagosa Gateway Project, which aims to construct ecological and recreational enhancements along the San Juan River upstream from the Town of Pagosa Springs.

Community Development Director James Dickhoff, who presented the proposal to the council, explained the project as an effort to “enhance the river ecosystem and improve water quality for a 2.1-mile section” upstream from the town.

The project will focus on a section of river running upstream from the U.S. 84/U.S. 160 intersection to the Running Iron Ranch, a property jointly owned by the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD) and San Juan Water Conservancy District (SJWCD).

The nonprofit organization Upper San Juan Watershed Enhancement Project (WEP) has supervised the project since October 2023, when the town council approved a project management agreement for WEP to manage the project on behalf of the town.

WEP’s concept plan for the project, published in September 2022, states that the impetus for the project is a response to a “Phase II assessment,” which found that the effects of climate change and “trends in historical hydrology” will likely produce “limiting conditions for aquatic life in this section of river” in the near future.

The concept plan also cites the potential for “reductions in the number of days that various types of recreational floating activities can be performed on river segments above, through, and below town,” if nothing is done to improve or enhance this section of river.

WEP states that it “presents an alternative view of the future, where the negative impacts of changing streamflows on environment and recreation are somewhat offset” by the project.

The SJWCD, which funds WEP and lends support for the project, explains on its website that the project’s main objectives are stream improvements, including “low flow channel shaping, grade control structures, riparian plantings, placement of habitat structures, and streambank stabilization work.”

After WEP became the manager of the project, it solicited a request for proposals from qualified riverine contractors, receiving four quality bids for the project, according to agenda documentation on the matter.

WEP then formed a committee, consisting of both WEP representatives and town staff, to review the proposals and interview three finalists for the project, according to documentation.

“FlyWater stood out for various reasons including their ability to work collaboratively with local communities, technical proficiency, commitment to process-based restoration, and experience with similar projects,”

states the documentation.

Dickhoff, who served as one of the town’s representatives on the search committee, said the group used a competitive scoring analysis to find the right contractor for the project and that FlyWater “rose to the top” of the competitive bid process, adding that the firm’s recommendations were “glowing.”

Mayor Shari Pierce added that, as she was going through FlyWater’s proposal, “I kept going back to this one phrase,” where “they said that they have a design philosophy of working with, not against, the prevailing forces of nature, and I just really liked that philosophy.”

The Gateway Project has received funding from various local, state and federal entities, including the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.

Dickhoff explained that since the town was awarded most of the funding, “we thought it was important for town council to weigh in for approving awarding the contract.”

He explained that the CWCB contributed the “majority” of the funding and that this grant was awarded to the town, hence the need for the council to sign off on awarding the contract to FlyWater.

The SJWCD’s website, states, “WEP’s funding goal, \$1,246,160, has been reached with committed support from the US Bureau of Reclamation, Town of Pagosa Springs, Trout Unlimited, Southwestern Water Conserva-

tion District, The Nature Conservancy, Pagosa Tourism Board, San Juan Water Conservancy District, Friends of the Upper San Juan, and Colorado Water Conservation Board.”

Dickhoff added that WEP was able to find “enough additional funding” to help to give “a little bit of a buffer and contingency in case costs are increased for the project.”

The town committed \$54,000 for the project in its adopted 2024 budget.

When council member Gary Williams made a motion to approve FlyWater as the project contractor for the Pagosa Gateway Project, it was carried unanimously by the council, with council member Madeline Bergon absent from the meeting.

In a letter to the council, WEP board chair Mely Whiting states, “FlyWater has consistently demonstrated a high level of expertise in river restoration, showcasing innovative ideas and employing techniques that not only enhance the ecological integrity of water bodies but also contribute positively to the surrounding environment.”

It adds, “What sets FlyWater apart is not only their technical proficiency and experience but also their ability to work collaboratively and effectively with local communities. Their approach to river restoration resonates with the values and objectives of Pagosa Springs.”

FlyWater’s website states, “Simply put, our mission here at FlyWater is to responsibly improve the rivers and streams we love.”

derek@pagosasun.com

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Letters

■ Continued from A3

vote for. The Democrats think they cannot win the 2024 election so they are willing to cheat or do whatever is necessary to win. This is just about the most undemocratic tactic I’ve ever seen the democratic party do. They may get fooled though when Texas removes Joe Biden from the ballot. Texas has about six times the population Colorado does, so who is going to be the winner here? This entire fiasco is getting completely ridiculous and a waste of time. I guess democrats don’t believe in democracy anymore.

John Meyer

New Year’s resolution

Dear Editor:

Ahhh, a new year, a time for a little self-examination, right? From the recordings in the “Secret Gospel of Thomas,” Thomas asked Jesus the question: “How can we know ourselves?” Jesus answered: “Go back to where you came from and take your place”. Yes, all of us are a continuation of the souls who came before us, our family roots. That is a rather deep answer but worthwhile to “take a look.” As we learn of their life histories, we gain a better understanding of ourselves. You may find much to be proud of as you look for “good acts” by those who came before you. I believe God expects us to build on their goodness in all that we do to honor their memory by living our lives with purpose. How about that for a New Year’s Resolution? A worthwhile

endeavor for sure and yes! Happy New Year to all for joy in your hearts and good health for all.

Know you are loved,
Patty Tillerson

Politics

Dear Editor:

I would like us to reconsider our popular stance on politics. No, I am not asking you to reconsider your position on any political issue. Instead, I would like us to take a deep look at how we view the discipline of politics.

I hear quite often the sentiment that we want to keep a conversation, a relationship, or an entire life “out of politics.” “Politics,” and their much-maligned devotees, “politicians,” have been made into bad words. We talk about issues that matter to us as worth discussing, until someone “makes it political.” Then, we insinuate, the whole enterprise is ruined.

I get it. But then again, I get it, and I see the negative effects of stiff-arming politics. So I invite you to go back with me to first principles.

Politics is the practice of establishing community standards without violence. Every community, from a household to a non-profit organization to a nation, must have community standards. Those standards must be established somehow. The vast majority of community standards across human history have been established with violence: Disagree with my thoughts on how we should behave, and I club you (or bomb your town, or burn your house down) so

that my version of behavior prevails.

Politics is the non-violent discourse that allows communities to figure out the best way to live together without beating each other up. The only alternative to politics is to beat each other up. Refusing to engage in politics, even at the most local level, does not bring peace. On the one hand it silences disagreement; at the same time it encourages the strong-armed to take control.

We are in yet another season of heated politics, of disagreement over the standards that guide our communities. Though entering the scrum of thoughts and opinions can be daunting, and doing so respectfully requires great discipline, the only alternative is a community in which the meanest, most shrill, and most violent have control. So I invite you to stay in politics. Keep it political, for the sake of loving one another. Consider it your highest civic good. Stay calm, stay respectful, stay peaceful, and stay honest. But stay in it. Our practice of speaking our minds on politics is the only thing that keeps this country alive and well.

Emrys Tyler

The party of bad manners

Dear Editor:

It appears to me that the Republican Party has become the party of bad manners. Their leader is a hateful man who calls people names and disrespects veterans and the less fortunate. He acts like a petulant child.

This man’s behavior alone should make anyone run far and fast. Seriously, you wouldn’t let your child act like that, but you would vote for him?

Followers cite that they like his “accomplishments,” or his “policies.” Which ones? The tax law that favored the wealthy and added trillions to the national debt? The policy of losing 2,000 children at the border? The sloppy way he handles our national secrets? Promises to be a dictator? Oh, and let’s not forget that he tried to overthrow the government. He lost, by millions of votes, and he and all of you who support him know it. Over sixty lawsuits verified this.

Still, his bad manners seem to be a badge of honor for his followers. Trumpers are flying flags or wearing shirts/hats with vulgar language. I cannot remember a time when anyone wore a shirt that said “F*** Reagan/Bush/Obama/anyone. Why do Republicans think it is okay to wear such filth now? In this country we vote. If your guy loses you sit down and wait four years, then get to vote again. Feel free to enthusiastically support your party and ideals, but please do so politely. That is what patriotic Americans do. We don’t try to overthrow an election.

Let me point out that I was a life-long Republican. The Republican party used to have worthy causes and ideals, but no more. It has become a scary cult, led by a con man. Current Republicans, remember the manners you once knew, and for heaven’s sake PLEASE get a new candidate!

Sue Wells



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Obituaries

Philip Janowsky

The Rev. Philip Janowsky, beloved father, grandfather, friend and minister, passed away at Penrose Hospital in Colorado Springs on Dec. 25, 2023.



His father, Walter Janowsky, was a Free Methodist minister and his mother, Lena Blowers Janowsky, excelled in children's ministry. They served on a Seneca Indian reservation when Phil was a child and the experience gave him an enduring love of Native American history and culture.

Phil was a man of many gifts, and the books in his home office reveal a treasury of wisdom and adventure that reflect his spirit well. He was known for passionate yet intellectual preaching, sensitive pastoral care and mastery of an eclectic mix of history, religion, cowboy music, sports, hunting and fishing.

He was born on Sept. 2, 1934, in Forestville, N.Y. As a young man Phil loved athletic competition, excelling in basketball, tennis and weight lifting. He loved to roam the western New York backcountry, usually with a bow or shotgun in hand. While studying at Houghton College in preparation for entering the ministry, he met his lifelong sweetheart, Mary Jo Wilson. They married in 1956 and had four children. Mary Jo passed away during their 62nd year of marriage and Phil wore her engagement ring on his little finger to the end of his life.

They were true partners in ministry and served three New York churches before moving "out west," where they served 10 churches over the family's years, primarily in Colorado and Kansas. A lover of scholarship, Phil earned two advanced degrees along the way: a Master of Arts in religion from Kansas University and a Master of Divinity from Denver's Iliff School of Theology. Phil's preaching covered a wide-ranging mix of scripture, humor, historical theology, sports and popular culture, but it always ended with the grace and forgiveness offered to everyone through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Moving west had been one of Phil's boyhood dreams and he especially enjoyed pastoring two rural churches, each for a decade: West Bethany Free Methodist Church northwest of Leoti, Kan., and the Sargent Community Church in Colorado's San Luis Valley. His appreciation of cowboy culture grew during those years and he created a music presentation with slides called "Pictures, Songs and Stories of the American Cowboy." He loved to sing and play guitar, and his program led to invitations to perform at various Colorado cowboy poet events.

After his retirement from full-time ministry, Phil supported Mary Jo as a teacher at Pagosa Springs Elementary School and later Our Savior Lutheran Church. Every year he would load up some hay bales and sing his beloved cowboy songs for her students. In his 80s he would accept help to climb stage steps and sing "Ghost Riders in the Sky" when his son Andy's Durango-based band The High Rollers was in town. He liked applying his knowledge of history and theology in letters to the editor and he was especially fond of giving thoughtful devotional talks at the conclusion of his son Dan's wrestling camps.

Phil was preceded in death by his wife, Mary Jo Janowsky (2013), and son, Andrew Thomas Janowsky (2021). He is survived by his daughter, Peggy Haslar (Rick), and sons Daniel Janowsky (Nyana) and Mark Janowsky; grandchildren Benjamin Haslar, Matthew Haslar (Kate), Ronnie Janowsky (Michelle), Caleb Janowsky; and great-grandchildren Philip and Abby Haslar and Kensington and Caden Janowsky.

A memorial service will be held at the Community United Methodist Church in Pagosa Springs at 2 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 5.

Herman Lee Riggs III 'Trae'

Herman Lee Riggs III — Trae — was born May 21, 1972, in Louisville, Ky. He was 51 years old and died Nov. 22, 2023, in Colorado Springs, Colo. He is survived by his father, Herman Lee Riggs II; mother Janice Lynn Riggs; brothers Brian Matthew Bahn Riggs and Michael John Riggs; sisters Sally Bess Riggs, Sarah Lenee Manore, Sierra Star Johnson and his two best friends "the snaps," Bonnie and Clyde.



He graduated from Fountain Valley College Preparatory School and went on to study at Colorado University and Denver University, graduating from Fort Lewis College with a degree in philosophy. He graduated cum laude, No. 3 in a class of 730. He studied creative writing and wrote, "Cottonwoods look like dandelions far below beside the Piedra where he meanders on his way. We don't come into this world, we come out of it as leaves from a tree." He also graduated

from the Pueblo School of Nursing. Trae held many other certifications, certificates and distinguished awards. He worked most recently as faculty with Denver University, College of Nursing, and on a specialized team administering central venous catheters and cardiac cauterizations. One of his recent quotes was, "It sure feels good to give, doesn't it?" He understood this and gave thousands of hours of comfort and lifesaving care while nursing in the challenging field of emergency medicine. Private services were held in Colorado Springs, Colo. May his precious soul rest with eternal love and life.

Nettie Trenk

Nettie Trenk, 85, of Pagosa Springs, Colo., passed away peacefully from complications from scleroderma on Dec. 25, 2023, surrounded by family. She was a loving and caring wife to Bruce Trenk for 65 years. Bruce and Nettie met in Madison, Wis., in 1954 and were married in June 1958. They moved to Newburgh, Ind., in 1961, where Nettie was a devoted teacher for more than 19 years. It was in Newburgh where Bruce and Nettie raised their three daughters, Sheri Skolnick (Marty), Karen Mowbray (Bryce) and Jennifer Salvino (Mark). Upon their retirement, Bruce and Nettie moved to Pagosa Springs, Colo., in 1999. She was passionate about quilting, basket weaving, live theater, reading and Mahjongg. Throughout her life, teaching career, volunteering and her hobbies, Nettie amassed an incredible number of cherished friendships. She delighted in spending time with the ones she loved, sharing stories, creating memories, and laughing with her friends and family. She was Nana to six grandchildren and Great Nana to six great-grandchildren; all 12 loved and adored her. Nettie looked forward to hosting the Fourth of July family get-together every year for her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. In the spirit of Nettie's love for this annual gathering, we are planning a celebration of her life in the summer of 2024. In place of flowers, please consider donating to the National Scleroderma Foundation or the 'Thingamajig' Theatre Company, Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts.



Anita Scanga

Anita Martinoli Scanga, 78, passed away peacefully on Christmas morning, Dec. 25, 2023, at Beehive Homes in Parker, Colo., after a lengthy battle

with posterior cortical atrophy and Alzheimer's disease. Anita was born in Revere, Mass., on Oct. 30, 1945, to Albert (Rusty) and Ida Martinoli. She attended Springfield College where she attained her B.S. degree and teacher's certificate in 1967 and subsequently her M.A. degree from Adams State College. She met her husband and lifelong partner Samuel Scanga in New Hampshire while Sam was serving in the U.S. Army. They married on Nov. 2, 1968, at the First Baptist Church in Revere and moved to Colorado. Anita was a dedicated wife and mother along with being an elementary and middle school geography teacher. Anita retired from teaching in Pagosa Springs, Colo., in 2003 after teaching in the Route, Moffat and San Juan County school districts. Following retirement, Anita and Sam moved to Poncha Springs, Colo., to fulfill Sam's retirement dreams of ranching on the Scanga Family ranch. Anita loved to travel and was looking forward to being closer to her children and grandchildren in northern Colorado. Unfortunately, her ability to drive and travel independently was cut short by the loss of her vision. Despite the loss of her eyesight, Anita loved knitting and reading, and you could often find her listening to audio books and working yarn with her fingers. After Sam's passing in 2018, Anita stayed at their home in Poncha Springs until 2021, when she moved to Beehive Homes in Parker, Colo., for full-time living assistance.

Anita is survived by her caring and loving daughters, Rebecca (Robert) Montoya and Lisa Scanga, and her son, John (Chauna) Scanga, in addition to her five grandchildren: Megan Montoya, Sam Scanga, Ian Scanga, Madison Montoya and Benjamin Hatfield. She was preceded in death by her husband, Sam; brother John Martinoli; and parents Albert and Ida Martinoli, with whom she has been reunited with for all eternity.

In lieu of flowers or cards, donations can be made in Anita's name to the Friends of Colorado Talking Book Library at <https://www.friendsofctbl.org/>.

"An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.' — Luke 2: 9-11.

"For I will restore health to you, and your wounds I will heal, declares the Lord." — Jeremiah 30:17.



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MLS 802483 • \$68,500



46 Gala Place
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MLS 806764 • \$35,000



6 Laurel Drive
.31 acre lot in Twin Creek Village, easy access, sits above Dutton Canyon open space, near National Forest.
MLS 798968 • \$35,000



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Public Meetings

The following meetings are subject to change.

Thursday, Jan. 4

Archuleta County Board of Health meeting. 1 p.m., Archuleta County administration building, commissioners' meeting room, 398 Lewis St. For more information, visit: <http://archuletacounty.org/agendacenter>.

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

Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District special meeting. 5 p.m. PAWSD administrative offices, 100 Lyn Ave. For more information, visit pawsd.org.

Thursday, Jan. 9

Archuleta County Board of County

Commissioners work session. 8:30 a.m., Archuleta County administration building, commissioners' meeting room, 398 Lewis St. View Zoom meeting at: <https://zoom.us/j/91609048375?pwd=dIFFV0J1cGVKa1NHWHFsa2taeGxtZz09>, meeting ID: 916 0904 8375, passcode: 4141885. For more information, visit: <http://archuletacounty.org/agendacenter>.

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

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

Archuleta School District Board of Education meeting. 6 p.m., Pagosa Springs Middle School

library, 309 Lewis St. See www.mypagosaschools.com for more information.

Thursday, Jan. 11

Main Street Advisory Board meeting. 4 p.m., Pagosa Springs Visitor Center meeting room, 105 Hot Springs Blvd. See town website for participation information: <https://pagosasprings.civicweb.net/portal/>.

Friday, Jan. 12

Main Street Advisory Board Heritage Committee meeting. 1:15 p.m., Pagosa Senior Center dining room, Ross Aragon Community Center, 451 Hot Springs Blvd. See town website for participation information: <https://pagosasprings.civicweb.net/portal/>.

Tuesday, Jan. 16

Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners work session. 8:30 a.m., Archuleta County admin-

istration building, commissioners' meeting room, 398 Lewis St. View Zoom meeting at: <https://zoom.us/j/91609048375?pwd=dIFFV0J1cGVKa1NHWHFsa2taeGxtZz09>, meeting ID: 916 0904 8375, passcode: 4141885. For more information, visit: <http://archuletacounty.org/agendacenter>.

Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners meeting. 1:30 p.m., Archuleta County administration building, commissioners' meeting room, 398 Lewis St. View Zoom meeting at: <https://zoom.us/j/91609048375?pwd=dIFFV0J1cGVKa1NHWHFsa2taeGxtZz09>, meeting ID: 916 0904 8375, passcode: 4141885. For more information, visit: <http://archuletacounty.org/agendacenter>.

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

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Business

County unemployment rises in November

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

According to a Dec. 21, 2023, press release from the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment, Archuleta County's unemployment rate rose from 2.9 percent in October 2023 to 3.1 percent in November 2023.

County unemployment dropped during the previous months, going from 3.4 percent in July 2023 to 2.9 percent in October 2023.

From October to November 2023, Archuleta County's labor force grew from 7,027 to 7,060.

For the month of November 2023 there were 6,844 individuals employed in Archuleta County, according to the press release. This figure is up from the October 2023 report of 6,824 individuals employed in Archuleta County.

County-level unemployment rates are not seasonally adjusted.

According to the press release, the county with the highest unemploy-

ment rate for November 2023 was San Miguel County with 5.5 percent unemployment, followed by Huerfano County at 5.3 percent and Pitkin County at 5 percent.

Las Animas County is next at 4.9 percent, with Fremont County following at 4.7 percent.

The state's unemployment rate stayed even from October to November 2023, remaining at 3.3 percent.

The state's labor force rose by 2,700 from 3,247,000 in October 2023 to 3,249,700 in November 2023.

The press release notes, "Colorado's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was flat from October to November at 3.3 percent. The number of unemployed individuals grew by 1,900 over the same time period to 107,900. The national unemployment rate decreased two-tenths of a percentage point to 3.7 percent from October to November. Colorado's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was flat from October to November at 3.3 percent. The number of unemployed individuals grew by

1,900 over the same time period to 107,900. The national unemployment rate decreased two-tenths of a percentage point to 3.7 percent from October to November."

Employers in Colorado shed 700 nonfarm payroll jobs from October to November 2023, bringing the total number of jobs in Colorado to 2,915,500.

Nonfarm payroll jobs measure the number of workers excluding farmers.

The private sector lost 2,100 nonfarm payroll jobs and the government sector gained 1,400 jobs.

The private-industry sector with significant job gains in November 2023 is other services, which added 900 jobs.

The manufacturing private-industry sector lost 1,400 jobs in November 2023, while the trade, transportation and utilities sector lost 1,500 jobs.

"Since November 2022, nonfarm payroll jobs have increased 31,100, with the private sector growing by 11,700 and government adding

19,400 jobs," the press release notes.

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

- Leisure and hospitality at about 16,800.
 - Professional and business services at about 9,200.
 - Educational and health services at about 6,300.
- Since November 2022, the largest private-sector job losses include:
- Trade, transportation and utilities at about 8,600.
 - Financial activities at about 8,300.
 - Construction at about 4,400.
 - Information at about 1,900.

According to the press release, "Over the year, the average workweek for all Colorado employees on private nonfarm payrolls rose from 33.1 to 33.5 hours, while average hourly earnings grew from \$35.35 to \$36.93. Colorado average hourly earnings are two dollars and eighty-three cents higher than national average hourly earnings of \$34.10."

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Mark your calendars: WinterFest slated for Jan. 19-21

By Mary Jo Coulehan
Pagosa Springs Area Chamber of Commerce

Happy new year, Pagosa.

Mark your calendars for Jan. 19-21 for WinterFest activities.

There will be a new event occurring this year and the absence of one. Please note that skijoring will not be taking place this year. Hopefully, this event will return in future years. We know this is a popular event during the WinterFest weekend; however, there will be plenty of other activities to enjoy.

More details about WinterFest weekend will come out in the upcoming weeks.

Here is an overview of the weekend's activities. On Friday evening, Jan. 19, the bonfire will return. The location this time will be at the Archuleta County Fairgrounds, not Hot Springs Boulevard.

With the bonfire in mind, please recycle your Christmas trees at the Archuleta County Fairgrounds. There is signage on where to deposit your trees.

The bonfire event is free and there will be live music by the Jackson Mountain Ramblers, food vendors and a drink station: hot and cold, alcoholic and nonalcoholic.

On the mornings of Jan. 20 and 21, the hot air balloons will launch from the west side of town around the Park Avenue and the Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Association admin areas.

Please do not park on U.S. 160 to view the balloons. While we know along the highway affords some great photo opportunities, it is dangerous and hinders traffic.

The balloons will launch each morning around 8 a.m.

On the morning of Jan. 20, there will be the BB Gun Biathlon hosted by the Pagosa Nordic Club at Yamaguchi Park.

The Barkus Parade, benefiting Rugby's Rescue, will begin in Town Park around 10:30 a.m., with the parade beginning at 11 a.m. along the Riverwalk.

The crazy plungers will jump in the San Juan River for the Penguin Plunge at 1 p.m. Spectators can view the antics from along the Riverwalk or overlook. If your organization would like to have people plunge in the river to raise money for your organization, pledge forms are available on the Chamber's website, www.pagosachamber.com.

Following the plunge, the crazy Sledz on Rez, hosted by Build Pagosa, will take place downtown on Reservoir Hill with the sledding beginning at 2:30 p.m. Sled guidelines and entry forms can also be found on the Chamber website.

On the morning of Jan. 21, the Pagosa Nordic Club will host a Learn to Cross Country Clinic. With minimal snow at this time, stay tuned for the location. Please preregister for the class as there are different levels of

skiing and the classes are usually full. You can sign up for the biathlon and the clinic at www.pagosanordic.com.

All of the events can be found on the Chamber's website at www.pagosachamber.com. The entry forms and links to the various organizations can also be found on the WinterFest event page.

Plan now to attend one of these events or participate. It's a fun weekend.

Community Awards

The public has until Jan. 17 to nominate people and organizations for the 2023 Community Awards.

The categories are Citizen, Volunteer, Small Business and Non-profit of the Year.

All the nominees must have been living or doing business in Pagosa Springs for at least three years. Both Citizen and Volunteer nominees must be contributing to the community outside of their job or business practice.

For Citizen of the Year, the nominee(s) must have made a lasting contribution to the community in at least one of the four categories: philanthropic, lifestyle, economics or cultural. Effecting a significant contribution in one of these four categories is the main difference between Citizen and Volunteer of the Year nominees.

In addition, we highly encourage businesses and non-profit agencies

to self-nominate. Be proud of your business, achievements and work in the community and self-nominate. The public should also encourage a business or agency to self-nominate as there are questions on the form that most likely only the business may know the answer for.

These nomination forms are located on the Chamber's website, www.pagosachamber.com. Scroll down to the Community Award graphic and click on that link. It will take you to the page where all the forms can be downloaded, filled out and returned to director@pagosachamber.com or dropped off at our offices by Jan. 17.

For more information on WinterFest or the Community Awards, contact the Chamber at (970) 264-2360.

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State's paid family leave program open for claims

Colorado Department of Labor and Employment

Colorado workers who have been waiting for a statewide solution for paid family and medical leave are getting the program they voted to create this week.

The Colorado Department of Labor and Employment's Family and Medical Leave Insurance (FAMLI) Division announced recently that the state's first FAMLI claims would start Jan. 1 and payments will be heading to workers next week, so they can temporarily step away from their jobs.

Starting Jan. 1, paid FAMLI leave can be used for life events such as welcoming a new child, managing a serious health condition or caring for a loved one with a serious health condition.

Colorado is the first state to set up a paid-leave program through a public vote, instead of through the legislative branch. FAMLI opened Colorado's application portal (called My FAMLI+) in late November to allow workers who need leave right at the beginning of 2024 to get their claims filed in advance.

"We're proud to have built a claims application system that makes it as simple as possible for Colorado workers to access this important benefit," said FAMLI Division Director Tracy Marshall. "Most Coloradans have been paying FAMLI premiums for a year now, and we're excited to have reached the important milestone of issuing our first set of benefit payments."

As of Dec. 31, 2023, Colorado had seen 5,213 claims filed. Of those, 3,262 have been approved pending their leave start date:

- 69.4 percent of claims were to bond with a new child.

- 23.8 percent of claims were to manage a serious health condition.

- 5.8 percent of claims were to assist a loved one facing a serious health condition.

- 0.78 percent of claims were to address their own health and safety needs following sexual assault, domestic partner violence, harassment or stalking.

- 0.21 percent of claims were to address needs arising out of a family member's active duty military service.

The first set of approved wage-replacement benefit payments will be distributed the week of Jan. 8.

Claimants can choose to receive their payments directly to a banking account or on a reloading debit card. Anyone who filed a claim in advance needs to log into their My FAMLI+ account to let the division know their leave has officially begun before they will receive their first benefit payment.

As a reminder, anyone working for an employer that is using an approved private insurance plan should talk to their employers about applying for benefits with that plan instead of filing a claim through the state's My FAMLI+ portal.

To help everyone navigate the process and get their questions answered about applying for FAMLI benefits, the FAMLI Division has two upcoming statewide virtual town halls in English and Spanish:

- Jan. 10:
English: 11 a.m. to noon.

- Spanish: 3 to 4 p.m.

- Feb. 1:
English: 11 a.m. to noon.

Spanish: 3 to 4 p.m.
Zoom registration and YouTube streaming details are available at https://famli.colorado.gov/resources/famli-events?utm_medium=govdelivery&utm_source=email.

For more details, check out famli.colorado.gov to find how-to videos, user guides, webinar recordings and FAQs to help navigate the program.



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County adopts changes to plan review regulations

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

At its Dec. 5, 2023, meeting, the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) approved changes to the Archuleta County Land Use Regulations (LUR) concerning conceptual development plan reviews, general plan reviews and vested property rights by a 2-1 decision.

Development Director Pamela Flowers explained that the language being discussed had not been used since she started at the county, but that she recently had an applicant who wished to present their project to the board for conceptual review prior to committing the funds for a full conditional use permit application.

She stated that the sections being altered provide an opportunity for an applicant to request the commissioners to vote on their general opinion of a project.

However, Flowers explained that, upon looking through the LUR sections more thoroughly, she found that the regulations include a variety of inconsistencies, and that she and County Attorney Todd Weaver decided to attempt to clarify the sections and make them more usable.

"That's what this change is all about, getting clarity and consistency and a thorough, clean outline that we can actually execute consistently and be sure that we're complying with all the requirements," Flowers said, adding that the language would allow an applicant to acquire a formal opinion on a project from the BoCC prior to formal approval.

In response to a question from Commissioner Ronnie Maez, Flowers explained that these changes are being implemented before the potential applicant submits an application for conceptual review.

She also explained that, without the review process, an applicant would have to submit a fully completed conditional use permit application and have the Archuleta County Planning Commission and the BoCC approve or deny the application with no prior review.

Maez commented that, with the changes and growth in the community, the review process is "not a bad idea."

Flowers reiterated that the primary goal of the changes is to make the conceptual review process clearer and remove the currently existing inconsistencies.

She then began reviewing the language, starting by noting changes to the review process and public no-

tice tables to clarify the requirements for various types of reviews.

Flowers explained that the amendment also included clarifying changes to the language describing the conceptual plan review processes and the associated vested rights review processes.

Following a conceptual plan review and an affirmative vote by the board, she stated that a project could be referred for a general plan review by the Planning Department and the planning commission.

That would involve additional detail, and the planning commission voting on the project and providing comments, she added.

Flowers stated that, unlike a conceptual plan review, which occurs at a public meeting and where public comments may or may not be taken, a general plan review hearing is required to include public comments.

She explained that the planning commission's vote and comments will then be relayed to the BoCC, which will then review and vote on the project.

She indicated that the BoCC can refer the project to the Planning Department so that the application can move forward through the approval process or can refuse to endorse the project, although in this case the applicant can still seek approval of the project through the traditional planning approval process.

Flowers then reviewed the procedures involving vested property rights, much of which she noted are taken from state statute and include minor clarifications.

She also presented the commissioners with a flow chart of the plan review process that she intended to add to the LUR.

Commissioner Warren Brown asked County Attorney Todd Weaver if he reviewed the changes for legal compliance.

Weaver stated that he did and that, despite some minor changes he wished to propose in one paragraph, he believes that the changes clarifying the review process would be valuable.

In response to a question from Maez, Weaver and Flowers added that these LUR changes are not related to changes in zoning, but do allow an applicant to gain some assurances on the likely success of their project and learn of potential changes they might need to make to their project to address county or neighbor concerns.

Maez pointed out that the BoCC heard a presentation at a work session from the Forest Park project on County Road 500 that was similar to

a conceptual plan review.

Flowers stated that Forest Park is also the applicant that desires to undertake the conceptual and general plan review process with the county.

She explained that the Forest Park project's investors want additional feedback from the BoCC and the public on the project before moving forward with purchasing the land and investing in the engineering necessary to apply for a conditional use permit.

Maez commented that his "biggest hang up" on the LUR changes was that "one person is causing this change."

Flowers stated that Forest Park asked to use the process, but that when she reviewed the associated regulations, she was unclear how to proceed, thus necessitating the clarifying changes.

Weaver added that the language is infrequently used and needs to be clarified to make it usable for future applicants.

Maez questioned how older subdivisions such as the Crowley Ranch Reserve near Chromo or Aspen Springs were established.

Flowers explained that she was unsure, although the county did not have a LUR in place at the time and that these changes were intended to clarify how applicants can seek another opportunity for review.

In response to a comment from Maez about the changes adding bureaucracy, Flowers stated that the changes are intended to clarify currently existing bureaucracy.

Weaver commented that the conceptual review process gives a lower-cost option for review by the BoCC than having to complete the entire subdivision or conditional use permit process prior to the project going before the BoCC.

Flowers echoed Weaver's comments about the plan review process providing a lower-cost and lower-risk approach to having a project reviewed.

Brown commented that he feels it is useful to clarify this process and make it a "useful tool" no matter who is driving the clarifications.

Maez countered, commenting that he sees the issue differently because one entity is driving it, although he indicated that he would support the changes if they came from Flowers reviewing county regulations independent of planned projects.

Commissioner Veronica Medina commented that she sees the situation as being similar to the issues with flag regulations in the LUR where one business made the county aware of

the issue, but they have a broader impact.

Flowers added that clarifying the process and having it used might encourage others to use the process as well.

Weaver then presented his proposed changes to the board, primarily involving clarifying language to state which steps of review involve public hearings or meetings.

Flowers added that the changes were reviewed and unanimously approved by the planning commission at its Oct. 25, 2023, meeting.

She also clarified that she brought forward the revisions due to her concerns about the current review process being unclear and not on the behalf of a specific applicant.

Maez commented that he supported the changes to the LUR, but reiterated that he objects to the way the changes came about and were presented.

The board then heard public comment from Bill Hudson supporting the changes, who noted that the process was used in 2010 and 2011 and that he felt it was "effective" at that time.

Maez then commented that the regulations do need to be changed, but that he believes that the changes were driven by one developer bringing the problems to the county's attention.

Flowers replied that the developer asked for a conceptual plan review and that the change was triggered by her and Weaver being unable to determine how to enforce the currently existing language.

"It shouldn't matter who brought it to my attention, but when I looked through it and was asked to execute it, it wasn't executable and so I wanted to make it executable, and that's truly all it is," Flowers said, adding that she would do the same for any other process that she discovered she could not execute.

Maez commented that the county needs to be constantly reviewing the LUR, which Flowers expressed agreement with and noted that she frequently brings LUR changes to the BoCC.

Brown then made a motion to adopt the changes with the amendments Weaver suggested, which Medina seconded.

Before the vote, Maez noted that he has his "principles," adding, "I do believe in this change, but I can't support it for the reasons of how or what triggered this change."

The board then voted 2-1 to approve the changes, with Brown and Medina voting for and Maez against. josh@pagosahun.com



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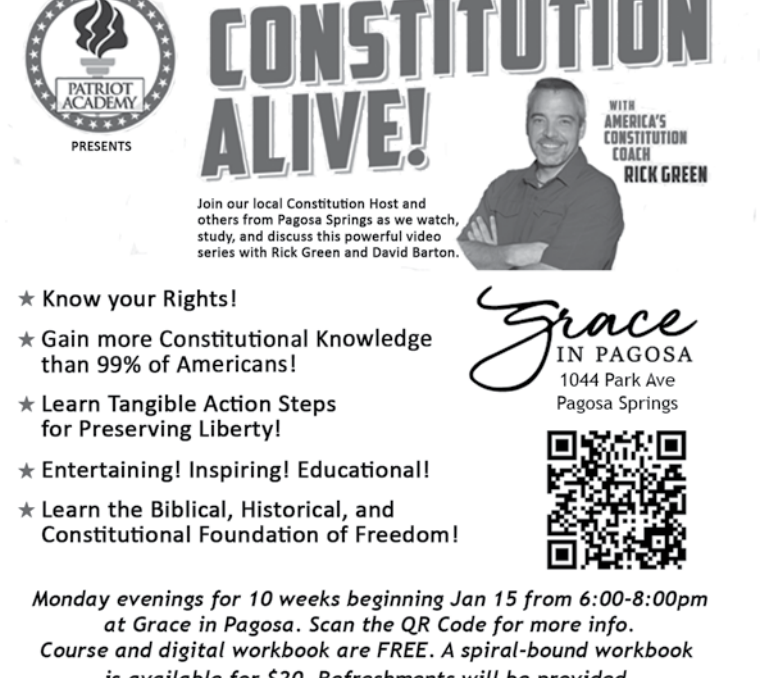


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Paul Hansen appointed to PAWSD board

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

At its Dec. 14, 2023, meeting, the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD) Board of Directors accepted the resignation of former board member Peter Hurley and appointed Paul Hansen to the empty seat on the board.

PAWSD board chairman Jim Smith explained that Hurley sent him an email on Nov. 20, 2023, indicating that he was resigning from the board immediately, that he enjoys working with Smith, and that he wishes Smith and the board the "best in the future."

The board then moved on to discuss filling the vacancy, with Smith stating that former PAWSD board member Paul Hansen was in the audience and asking Hansen if he would be willing to be appointed to fill Hurley's remaining time as a board member.

Hansen stated that he would be willing to do so.

PAWSD board member Bill Hudson asked if anyone else in the audience would be interested in filling the vacancy, which garnered no responses.

PAWSD board member Glenn Walsh noted that there have been

several opportunities recently to join the board given resignations of board members and that he supported taking the minimum steps to notice the vacancy since he did not sense that there is "intense" interest or competition in the community to serve on the board.

In response to Walsh, PAWSD General Manager Renee Lewis indicated that there is no requirement in the PAWSD bylaws or state statute for the district to notice a board vacancy.

"So, to some extent, we have gone above and beyond because we put it on the agenda today," Lewis said,

adding that the district typically gives more notice of vacancies but that it would be acceptable for the board to make an appointment at the meeting.

The board then unanimously voted to appoint Hansen.

Following this, Hansen was sworn in and participated in the remainder of the meeting as a board member. josh@pagosahun.com

Nominations sought for Noxious Weed Advisory Committee

Colorado Department of Agriculture

The Colorado Noxious Weed Advisory Committee, a critical link between the citizens of Colorado and the Colorado Department of Agriculture, is seeking nominations to fill three vacant positions representing the interests of a public or private weed scientist, a municipal government representative and a county government representative.

The primary responsibility of the

committee is to discuss Colorado's weed management challenges and craft solutions that best reflect public and private interests. The committee makes recommendations to the department concerning designation and classification of state noxious weeds; development and implementation of state weed management plans; and prescribed techniques for eradication, containment and suppression of state noxious weeds.

"The members of this committee play an important role in shaping Department and State policy concerning noxious weeds. Their recommendations help protect landowners, agricultural lands and the environment," said Patty York, the noxious weed

program manager.

The committee's 17 members are appointed by the commissioner of agriculture and represent varying interests and geographic locations on the committee. Members serve two-year terms and the committee meets quarterly, with most meetings occurring at the department's Broomfield office and including a virtual option. At least one meeting and corresponding field trip are usually held out of the Denver area annually.

Nominations must be submitted through an online application form no later than Jan. 24. For more information, please visit <https://ag.colorado.gov/conservation/noxious-weeds/advisory-committee>.

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Open

■ **Continued from front**
aged, but walk-in support is possible. Evans will provide assistance with health insurance applications for the Connect for Health Colorado exchange, Medicaid and Child Health Plans Plus (CHP+). She can also assist community members in getting connected with health care and other resources.

Wilson highlighted that open enrollment for the health insurance exchanges is open through Jan. 15 and that appointments for assistance are available.

- Tobacco use prevention services include educational programs and cessation support. These services will be offered by Lacy Carpe.

- Nurse Family Partnership services will be offered through a partnership with the La Plata County Public Health Department. Those interested can contact ACPHD staff, who will work to connect them with program staff.

- Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) is offered for families

with children under 5 years old and pregnant mothers. These services will be offered by Inez Lobato, who provided WIC services for SJBPH. These services are also offered in Spanish.

According to Wilson, the ACPHD will initially offer clinic services one day a week on Fridays with a first day planned for Jan. 26.

The clinic staff includes Medical Director Dr. Dave Shaeffer, nurses Shelby Aragon and Kelly Blocki, and support staff Lisa Sanchez and Berkeley Ruthhardt.

She states that the clinic services will include sexually transmitted infection (STI) testing and treatment; pregnancy testing; immunizations, including routine child and adult immunizations and COVID-19 vaccines; and tuberculosis testing and treatment if tuberculosis is confirmed.

Wilson notes that the days for clinic services are planned to expand throughout the year.

She also stated in an interview that the fees for clinic services are in line with those charged by SJBPH, although she indicated that she hopes

to work on reducing costs where possible in the future.

In an interview, Water Quality Manager Kevin Torrez explained that the Water Quality Department offers a range of services related to on-site wastewater treatment systems (OWTS), including permitting, transfer of title reinspections and retroactive OWTS permitting for currently operating, unpermitted systems.

He steered those interested in or needing OWTS permitting to the Water Quality Department website at <https://www.archuletacounty.org/754/Water-Quality-Department>, which he explained contains contact information for department staff, permitting documents and additional information, such as lists of companies that provide OWTS engineering and installation in the area.

Torrez indicated that those seeking an OWTS permit for new construction or who are planning on an alteration, change of use or minor repair to an existing system should begin by contacting department staff and completing a permit application, which is available on the department website.

He explained that an alteration involves changes to the design of an existing OWTS, while a change of use involves additional users or a new service connection being added to an existing system whose design is planned to remain unchanged.

A minor repair, Torrez stated, involves the replacement of components of the OWTS system without changes to its use.

He added that such a repair might require an emergency use permit at an additional cost depending on the timeframe for the repair.

The minor repair permit documentation adds that the replacement of OWTS components not involved in the treatment of waste does not constitute a minor repair and does not require a permit.

Torrez stated that retroactive permitting of an existing unpermitted OWTS system follows a similar process to permitting of a new OWTS system.

The fees for a new construction OWTS permit are \$1,023, \$973 for an alteration permit, \$473 for a change-of-use permit and \$373 for a minor repair permit, Torrez stated.

In a change from SJBPH, Torrez explained that the department issues emergency use permits for the operation of OWTS that are malfunctioning and deemed to be creating a risk for the public.

He stated that these permits can be issued for a 30-, 60- or 90-day duration depending on the severity of the problem and feasibility of fixing it given current weather conditions.

He added they are intended to create a pathway for a malfunctioning system to continue operating while repairs are made and to incentivize quick repair of the system through the permit costs.

He explained that the fee for such a permit is \$40 per month and that, if the permit expires before a repair is completed, a new permit may be issued or the system may be shut down.

He added that new permits will be handled by himself and Water Quality Specialist Katie Neher.

Transfer of title and associated paperwork and reinspections will be handled by Water Quality Technician Danielle Brower, Torrez explained.

He added that the department also performs plan reviews for projects that involve OWTS systems as part of the planning approval process.

Overall, Torrez noted that the fees for the Water Quality Department remain in line with those charged by SJBPH.

Transitions and next steps

In an interview, Wilson indicated that the ACPHD has plans for expansion and additional programs for the year, including expanded clinic services and the addition of a grant-funded air quality program.

She explained that the air quality program will be funded by a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency grant that is being transferred from SJBPH and will include the addition of a staff member.



SUN photo/Josh Pike

Archuleta County Public Health Department Health Navigator Karen Evans prepares to receive clients for health insurance navigation and health care connection assistance. Open enrollment for health insurance through Connect for Health Colorado is open until Jan. 15, and Evans has appointments available to assist area residents in enrolling.

She stated that the transfer of the grant will occur later in the year, but that the ACPHD was able to secure funding to hire and onboard the staff member sooner and that the program will likely launch for the public in the summer.

Wilson indicated that the program will likely include a publicly accessible air quality dashboard providing real-time data to inform residents about air quality risks in addition to information on the linkages between poor air quality and conditions like asthma or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

She stated that the program will also include the placement of air

quality monitoring equipment in the area and outreach to the public about air quality and its health impacts.

Clinic services are planned to expand over the course of 2024, Wilson explained, including additional days the clinic will be open and additional services and partners being involved.

She stated that her goal is to have the clinic open three days a week by the end of 2024 with the potential for it to be open five days a week in the future if the community need supports this.

"I want to be really conscious about meeting the need and not as

■ **See Open A9**

Resignation

■ **Continued from front**
year has been an honor. I have learned so much about running a school, myself, and leadership. As I approach the end of my five years at PPOS, I look toward the next steps in my career. I plan to use what I have learned here to support other charter schools and organizations with organizational change and development," Reali-Crossland's letter states.

It continues, "As we enter the second half of the school year, I want to let the board know I will not return to PPOS as the School Director for the 24-25 school year. For the remainder of this school year, I look forward to continuing my duties and giving 110% to PPOS. Six months' notice may seem unique. However, hiring in education is a very unique situation. To ensure you have the opportunity to attract the highest caliber of applicants, I encourage the board to start

the hiring process soon.

"I appreciate the support I have received from the board, staff, and families over the years. I hope to find a way after June 30th, 2024 to offer my support back to PPOS and the new director."

The board discussed routes for moving forward, including looking more into budgeting for a grant writer (something Reali-Crossland does) or fundraising/volunteer coordinator, putting together a subcommittee, creating an updated organizational chart and looking at updated job descriptions.

At the same meeting, the board opted to keep its current schedule of meeting the third Wednesday of each month, except for July (when there is no regular meeting) and December, with the board opting to meet Dec. 8.

randi@pagosasun.com

Warning

■ **Continued from front**
"I hate doing this," Maez said, "but I still have to do it. We still have to do our job, and sometimes our job sucks."

At Woodman's request, Maez then read the letter, which stated that Woodman "posted a position that was not budgeted without the approval of the board" and that he "was previously warned about acting outside his authority level" concerning the signing of the Rippling contract.

Commissioner Warren Brown explained that Woodman came to him and presented the bids the county received for janitorial services, which Brown indicated he felt were "really high" and Woodman suggested that the county could hire two full-time staff to perform cleaning for the county.

Brown stated that he responded that that was "a good idea" and recommended that Woodman "look into it."

Brown then questioned if this conversation was part of the impetus for Woodman's posting of the positions and if he "should bear some responsibility" for the events due the answer he gave Woodman.

He also questioned if, due to unspecified "legal action that's going on," the warning could be "misconstrued as retaliatory."

Brown concluded by noting that he posed both these questions to Weaver.

In response to a question from Maez, Brown explained that when "things that were not kosher" were occurring with a previous county manager, he did not recall a similar

warning being considered.

Maez and Brown then discussed the issue further, with Brown explaining that he asked Weaver if the county should take a different approach than the warning to remain consistent with past events.

Maez noted that past events should not bear on the current situation and that the previous situation was different and involved the immediate resignation of the person involved.

Commissioner Veronica Medina explained that she had a similar conversation with Woodman as Brown described but that she did not feel that she gave him "direction" on the issue.

She added that the BoCC being presented with items such as requests for proposals (RFPs) or job postings on them in public meetings is important.

Maez stated that he discussed that he does not like being "blindsided" with Woodman in the past and that he only learned about the positions being posted due to looking at the website.

After this, Maez explained that he contacted Weaver to ensure his response was "appropriate" and "in my bounds" prior to contacting Woodman, where Woodman explained that the high bids motivated the job postings.

Maez noted that, if any direction was given, it was given incorrectly and should have occurred in a work session where all commissioners could review the job postings.

He commented that Woodman knows that he cannot add jobs with-

out commissioner approval, which Woodman expressed agreement with, and that he should seek approval from the board for actions outside his authority.

Maez added that, if the BoCC does not issue a warning and a similar incident occurs again, "it's on us."

Medina expressed agreement with this statement.

Brown stated that he was not "beating up" issuing the warning, but that he did not want to "inadvertently be part of what's caused this to come about," adding that he believes Woodman frequently brings issues to all three commissioners for their review and opinions.

Maez asked Brown if he felt that he gave Woodman direction on the issue, to which he responded that he did not and that he was not "arguing" the issue.

Maez commented that, in his initial conversation with Woodman about the postings, he asked him if he had been given direction and Woodman responded that the other two commissioners knew about the bids and associated issues.

Maez indicated that he questioned why he was not informed about the situation and stated that Woodman should have called him about the issue.

Medina then commented on other issues where Woodman has made decisions contradictory to what the BoCC discussed, including a decision to give a flat amount of money for end-of-the-year employee bonuses instead of accounting for taxation to ensure the bonuses post-tax came in at a round number.

"There is, I think, at times you take the liberty in changing things just a bit to make it easier on your staff," Medina said. "When the commissioners do make an action and put it forward, that's the action that should actually be taken, not adjusted because of whatever reason. So ... I feel like this is a good way just to document ... this."

Maez noted that these events are not part of the warning, which Medina agreed with, though she stated that it fell under Woodman making decisions without commissioner approval.

Woodman asked if he could provide a written comment to be attached to the warning.

Maez stated he could.

Woodman then provided comments on the cleaning job postings, beginning by taking responsibility for the issues with the Rippling contract.

He stated that Maez was absent when the cleaning bids came in and the job postings were made and that, although he could have called him and did not, he did present the issue to the BoCC at its next work session where he knew the topic would be on the agenda.

He added that he discussed the issue with Brown and Medina because they were present at the time and they stated that he should "look into" bringing cleaning services within the county.

"My attempt at doing this was leaning forward — I didn't add anything, I didn't add positions, we didn't hire anybody — it was leaning forward to see what the opportunity was within our community of interest," Woodman said. "Nobody's

hired, there were no positions added because that is a board decision. I know that. I don't add positions. I don't. I haven't. And so it's ... leaning forward to be able to provide you, the commissioners, the best information that is possible of, 'Yeah, we can do this,' 'No, we can't do it,' 'Here's what it might cost us,' 'Here's what the alternative is.'"

"Being a good steward of county funds, I thought that an extra \$100,000 was excessive, I'll be honest with you. But this is no surprise. I told all three of you this while they were out for RFP of what I felt would be most appropriate is to bring it in house. And, when the RFP came back with that dollar amount, it was like, 'Holy crap, that's an extra \$100,000 over two people.' So, did I do it? Yes, absolutely I did it. It was a fact-finding, information gathering. Not a hiring. Nobody was hired. And I can certainly see how it could be perceived that that information may have led to belief that I actually created two positions, but I didn't."

Maez and Woodman then debated if the job postings counted as information seeking, with Maez questioning Woodman seeking job applicants for positions that do not exist and Woodman stating that county frequently seeks information and posts RFPs without being committed to selecting a bidder from among the applicants.

Maez added that Woodman should have discussed posting the jobs and sought approval at the Dec. 5 BoCC work session where the cleaning bids were discussed prior to posting them.

Another dispute followed where

Maez stated that Woodman put out the job postings prior to the BoCC making a decision on how cleaning services will be secured and Woodman characterized the postings as "fact finding" and noted that no one was hired.

Maez commented that the positions were not filled because he directed Woodman to take them down, which Woodman stated that he did the next day.

"And I appreciate that, I really do," Maez responded. "But, the thing is ... you know, unfortunately, we still have to do what we have to do."

Woodman commented that he did not disagree with this and that he was providing his comments on the issue.

Following a brief discussion where Woodman indicated he would provide written comments mirroring what he stated in the meeting, Woodman and Maez agreed that they should finish delivering the letter and move forward, with Maez emphasizing the need to "govern our actions in the future."

The meeting concluded with the board discussing the logistics of Woodman providing his comment and Medina noting for the record that she asked other county staff to leave the room following a consultation with counsel because she did not feel that other staff being present was "appropriate."

Maez commented that, although he understood the reasons why it might be beneficial for administrative staff to not be present, the meeting was public and staff had the right to attend.

Maez then closed the meeting.
josh@pagosasun.com

PAWSD

■ **Continued from front**
COVID-19 pandemic where the gate to the PAWSD administrative offices at 100 Lyn Ave. was normally shut and customers had to call the office to be admitted to speak with staff, although bills could still be paid at a drop box outside the gate.

PAWSD board member Glenn Walsh indicated that he might also support "focusing" the hours the office is open and asked how many people pay their bills in person.

Ramsey indicated that "very few" customers pay in person, and Administrative Assistant Cyndi Foster added that most customers who visit the PAWSD offices have complaints or problems they wish to bring to staff.

Business Manager Aaron Burns stated that having the gate closed makes the office more "secure" and that incidents where staff feel threatened are increasing in regularity, which raised concerns for him about staff retention.

The group then discussed closing the gates, with Walsh noting that there is a difference between the measures that should be taken to protect "stuff" and "people."

He added that securing the buildings could lead to a "false sense of security" and that the district also needs to be "very assertive" in involving law enforcement in addressing threats, thefts and disturbances.

In response to a question from

PAWSD board member Paul Hansen, Burns explained that the district and its customers had limited difficulties when the offices were partially closed during COVID-19.

Burns stated that the security measures the district intends to implement include replacing and upgrading security cameras, and additional steps to secure access to the buildings.

In the interview, Ramsey stated that some of the security improvements in the buildings might include plexiglass to separate staff from customers and improved door-locking systems for the buildings to reduce public access to staff areas.

At the meeting, PAWSD General

Manager Renee Lewis commented that staff are "thankful" for the security measures being taken and that they would "appreciate" the support of the board as well.

She added that she agreed with Walsh that the district should "push back against the lack of civility" and take steps to show the public such behavior will not be tolerated.

Lewis also commented that the current events are a "significant escalation" from incidents during her previous tenure at PAWSD from 2010 through 2017.

She stated that conversations with Town of Pagosa Springs staff suggested a similar escalation in customer behavior, although Lewis noted that

the town houses the Pagosa Springs Police Department in its offices, which may act as a deterrent.

Following further discussion of the security benefits of closing the gate and potentially limiting hours, PAWSD board chairman Jim Smith proposed that the district temporarily return to COVID-19 protocols concerning the office being open until further security improvements are investigated.

"I think it's a temporary measure until we figure out what we're going to do and what makes sense," Ramsey said.

Ramsey added in the interview that the new operations at the PAWSD offices would likely begin early in

2024 and would include restricted hours that the office is open and customers needing to call the office to be admitted to the complex to speak with PAWSD staff.

He stated that the limited number of customers who pay their bills in person will be able to deposit them in the drop box outside the gate to the offices.

Ramsey concluded by reiterating that this set of procedures caused few customer complaints during the COVID-19 pandemic and stating that PAWSD has previously invested in strong digital security systems, while its physical security investments have been less so this point.
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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 April, May and June.

April

The dissolution of San Juan Basin Public Health (SJBPH) and the formation of new county health departments and boards of health remained a topic of discussion at several meetings moving into April.

It was announced in early April that local scout Peyton Jackson earned his Eagle Scout.

For his project, he built nest boxes with local community members in collaboration with the Weminuche Audubon Society. Jackson's Eagle Scout project was aimed at helping to increase bird populations in the area.

An unidentified 16-year-old male from New Mexico was arrested on April 2 following an investigation stemming from a threat about an area school made on social media.

Around 7:30 a.m. on March 31, Archuleta School District (ASD) Superintendent Rick Holt sent an email to district families notifying them that the previous night the district was made aware of a threat on social media.

An investigation then took place, and the suspect was arrested after a warrant was issued by the Colorado District Court for the arrest of the juvenile for "Interference with staff, faculty, or students of an educational institution C.R.S. 18-9-109."

At its April 4 meeting, the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) approved contracts for magnesium chloride application and the reconstruction of Piedra Road.

The Pagosa Springs High School (PSHS) track and field teams recorded a number of first-place finishes at the Abel Velasquez Invitational in Ignacio on April 8.

Pagosa's effort at the meet included a first-place finish for the Lady Pirate team. The Lady Pirates logged 160 points on the day, with Durango tallying 96 to come in second among the 10 teams at the meet.

The Pirate boys' team finished second out of 12 teams, with Dove Creek besting the Pirates by six points.

On April 10, Archuleta County Coroner Brandon Bishop announced

his resignation effective April 16.

Bishop announced via his resignation letter that he would be working with the Pagosa Springs Police Department as a school resource officer.

After Pagosa Fire Protection District (PFPD) personnel responded to a missing vehicle report on U.S. 160 near milepost 160 on April 10, it was discovered that a 40-year-old man was killed after his semi with trailer went off the roadway on Wolf Creek Pass and traveled several hundred feet down a cliff.

"The missing vehicle was reported by the vehicle's transport company," the PFPD release notes, later explaining, "A search of the area revealed the vehicle, a large cargo truck, to be over the edge of the roadway approximately 550 feet."

According to the Colorado State Patrol, the truck pulling the trailer was westbound when it traveled onto the westbound shoulder of the roadway and hit a concrete barrier.

The vehicle, a press release by the agency notes, traveled along the concrete barrier maintaining continuous contact before it overturned over the concrete barrier and continued to overturn an unknown number of times down a steep embankment/cliff for an estimated 500 to 600 feet.

ASD administrators and local law enforcement representatives held a community meeting on April 10 following the threat to an area school.

In a special meeting on April 13, the BoCC named Steve Wadley the interim county coroner.

With a 2-1 vote, Wadley was appointed to the role effective April 17 for a period not to exceed 30 days.

Multiple issues affected Pagosa County, including flooding and telecommunications issues, the second week of April.

The week's warmer temperatures led to runoff and flooding issues across Pagosa Country. The San Juan River peaked at 1,700 cubic feet per second (cfs) at midnight and 12:45 a.m. on April 12—above the medians for those times that are near 400 cfs.

The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) closed Colo. 151, with the agency announcing that

motorists should expect a long-term closure due to flooding, erosion and road damage at the location of a culvert.

Other area roads also flooded.

Around the same time, guard rail installation taking place in La Plata County damaged fiber, knocking out most telecommunications in the community.

Local 911 calls were routed through Durango dispatch during the outage.

On April 14, Sixth Judicial District Chief Judge Jeffrey Wilson issued an order granting a motion filed by Archuleta County to dismiss an election-related lawsuit filed against, among others, Archuleta County Manager Derek Woodman.

The case was filed on Oct. 5, 2022, by Bill Hudson, with Hudson alleging the county violated Colorado election law in creating pro and con statements for the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights Notice for Ballot Issue 1A that was mailed to registered voters.

After a hearing was held on the matter and the election occurred, Wilson ruled the case was moot.

In mid-April, it was announced that four members of PSHS's Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) chapter placed in the top 10 at the recent FBLA State Leadership Conference.

Jesse Beck placed third in Intro to Business Concepts, Jenna Jenkins nabbed a top-10 placement in Marketing Concepts, and Abigail and Olivia Nehring took first in Digital Animation.

Beck, Abigail Nehring and Olivia Nehring earned the chance to compete at the national level in Atlanta, Ga., over the summer.

It was also announced in April that the San Juan National Forest Pagosa Ranger District had recently completed the scoping phase of the Jackson Mountain Landscape Project.

The forest reported that numerous comments were received during this process, primarily relating to the proposed gravel pit and recreational trail system.

The agency also stated that, after a thorough review of public, agency and internal comments, the district had decided not to move forward with consideration of the gravel pit or trail system as part of the environmental analysis for the Jackson Mountain project.

On April 18, the Archuleta County Sheriff's Office (ACSO) and Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI) announced that a body was located in Lake Pagosa and positively identified as 22-year-old Jeremiah Enriquez Villarreal, who was reported missing days earlier.

According to an April 17 ACSO press release, on April 16, Archuleta

County Combined Dispatch received a report of a possible missing person, with law enforcement agencies beginning a preliminary investigation.

A full-scale investigation began the following day.

At its meeting on April 28, the Pagosa Peak Open School Board of Directors voted to accept the resignations of a pair of board members — President Ursula Hudson and Treasurer Julie Simmons.

On April 20, the Pagosa Springs Town Council appointed Leonard Martinez to serve out the remainder of former council member Jeff Posey's term, which ends in April 2024.

The seat was left vacant after Posey's recent resignation. In 2021, the council appointed Posey, filling a previous vacancy.

At the same meeting, the council voted on the second reading of Ordinance 995, creating the framework for the council to implement a fee on STRs.

Revenue collected from the fee was set to go into a restricted line in the town's budget for use on workforce housing projects and programs.

Later in the meeting, the council set the fee at \$500 per year.

On April 20, the town council approved a letter from Town Attorney Bob Cole to Archuleta County Attorney Todd Weaver.

The letter concerns the county justice center's alleged violation of the town's building codes and states the town plans to "withhold a certificate of occupancy for the Archuleta Justice Center" unless the county "complies with all conditions" that would bring the building into compliance with the town's Land Use and Development Code.

The building, which sits within town limits, was originally approved by the Pagosa Springs Planning Commission, sitting as the Design Review Board, and was awarded a temporary certificate of occupancy, but had to meet conditions for a permanent certificate of occupancy, "which among other things require the County to screen from view rooftop appurtenances, such as mechanical equipment and antennas," the letter states.

Colo. 151 was reopened to two-way traffic on April 21.

Lady Pirate runner Rylie Carr set

a new school record at the April 22 Ron Keller Invitational in Durango, running the 100-meter dash in 12.58 seconds.

According to coach Connie O'Donnell, Carr beat a record set in 2006 by Nikki Kinkead.

At its April 25 work session, the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) directed staff to close the Pagosa Junction bridge on County Road 500 and discussed imposing weight limits on the lower section of the road.

Public Works Director Kevin Pogue opened the discussion by noting that issues with the bridge were ongoing and that, following an inspection in October 2022, the county received a letter from CDOT giving the county 90 days to repair the bridge, although nothing had been done yet.

The same day, the BoCC appointed Bradley Hunt as the new county coroner at a special meeting.

This appointment follows the resignation of Bishop effective April 16 and the April 13 appointment of Wadley as interim coroner to serve following Bishop's departure and until a more permanent appointment could be made.

At a special meeting on April 25, the ASD Board of Education voted to move forward with a consultant to explore the possibility of putting a mill levy override (MLO) on the upcoming ballot.

In 2018, voters within the school district approved a \$1.7 million MLO, which was set to sunset in 2025. Due to the state offering free full-day kindergarten (one of four initiatives listed for the district's MLO revenue), the district was collecting \$1.5 million for the MLO.

See Review A11

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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.

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Open

Continued from A8

suming the need," Wilson said, adding that the clinic will open late in January due to the need to complete certain tasks to recertify the clinic under ACPHD operation.

She added that additional clinic services would be guided by the community needs.

Wilson cited that the clinic might offer "low-level" health services to assist the large number of uninsured people in the community.

The services the clinic hopes to add include breast and cervical cancer screenings through Women's Wellness Connection, Wilson explained, adding that the program can also provide financial support for referrals out for mammograms or other procedures.

She stated that the ACPHD also hopes to partner with Axis Health Systems or another agency to provide family planning services through Colorado Title X funding.

She indicated that Axis currently holds this funding in the community and that ACPHD hopes to partner with it to provide remote services at the department's offices to help people living in the downtown area access this resource.

Wilson added that she intends to pursue partnerships with other organizations who can utilize the department's clinic space and to continue conversations with the community to determine what other services might be beneficial, particularly for those who cannot afford to access the medical services available in the area.

To help guide the process of expanding services, Wilson explained that she hopes to use data from the recent SJBPH Community Health Assessment in addition to local data sources to determine what public health needs and data gaps exist in the community.

She explained that this process will likely occupy much of the department's and the Archuleta County Board of Health's first year, with the development of a five-year plan for

public health to come afterward.

The ACPHD is pursuing grant funding to support its strategic planning efforts, Wilson added.

For the Water Quality Department, Torrez noted that his staff worked with and learned from SJBPH staff during the transition and are focused on being "the best water quality team we can."

He stated there are areas he believes the team can improve on from SJBPH and highlighted that one of his team's biggest strengths is being "people people" and problem solvers.

Torrez stated that identifying and facilitating the repair of OWTS with existing problems is a priority, as well as continuing to build relationships with local builders, engineers and community members.

In addition, he explained that the water quality team is beginning training with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment to deliver educational programs and recommendations on testing for and addressing radon in local buildings.

He added that the team hopes to begin looking at implementing regulations and performing inspections on swimming pools, spas and mineral baths in the area later this year.

Torrez commented that these regulations are a priority due to the hot springs in the area.

He stated that he is unsure when such regulations might be implemented given the ongoing state rule-making processes on pool regulations and uncertainties on when staff will be able to develop them.

The Archuleta County commissioners and County Manager Derek Woodman also spoke with The SUN about their perspectives on the opening of the ACPHD and Water Quality Department.

Commissioner Veronica Medina commented that she was "really happy" that the county had reached the opening day for its health department.

"I'm happy we are where we're at, and I'm comfortable in saying that all

Archuleta County residents are going to be able to receive services that they may not have had access to previously," she said. "So, I'm just really excited about what 2024 has in store for our health department."

Commissioner Ronnie Maez commented that he is pleased that the departments are "getting started" and under the control of Archuleta County citizens.

He added that he was particularly pleased that the county was able to continue the WIC program in the new department.

"I think that, for me, I am pleased and very excited to see all of the hard work that has been put into creating our new health department come to fruition," Commissioner Warren Brown said. "And although I know that there will be challenges that we will face, I believe, based upon how far we've come in one calendar year, that we will be able to successfully handle anything that comes our way."

Brown also spoke on the challenges that the county overcame in forming the health department, noting the doubts in the community whether the department could succeed and highlighting the contributions of Wilson and the ACPHD staff, the County Health Department Transitional Advisory Committee and Woodman in enabling success.

"It's always so pleasing when you're met with a task not many people think you can actually complete and then you complete it and it's done very well, not just good, but very well," he added.

Woodman commented that he is "extremely proud" of the county's accomplishments in creating the ACPHD and assembling the department's staff.

"There were a lot of doubters initially and I think that collectively we — Archuleta County and our citizens — stepped up to the plate and really put our heads down and have created something we are all proud of," Woodman concluded.

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Sports

WRESTLING

Pirates set to host Rocky Mountain duals, tournament

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Pirate boys' wrestling team will return to action at the Rocky Mountain Duals event at home on Jan. 5 at 5 p.m., followed by the Rocky Mountain Invitational tournament at home on Jan. 6 beginning at 10 a.m.

Cocher Dan Janowsky explained that the team is "anxious" to return

to normal practice and competition following the winter break, although he stated that the team's lineups for the events will likely be determined "at the last minute."

He indicated that Nucla, who the Pirates will face at the Rocky Mountain Duals event, is a small school, but is well-coached by a former coach from the Pagosa Springs program and has several talented wrestlers.

He explained that the Rocky

Mountain Invitational tournament is expected to feature 15 teams and will be challenging for the Pirates, with accomplished programs and talented wrestlers competing.

He highlighted Centauri as a favorite to win the tournament and stated that Center, Monticello, Utah; Durango; Bayfield; and Montezuma-Cortez are also strong teams, although he noted that all teams will be bringing at least some strong

wrestlers to the event.

Janowsky also noted that the tournament contains more 3A and 2A schools compared to other tournaments like the Warrior Classic in Grand Junction or the Columbine Tournament in Littleton, where the team faced a large number of 4A and 5A schools.

"So, there'll be a lot of good matches for us," Janowsky concluded.

josh@pagosasun.com

BASKETBALL

Pirates looking to extend win streak against Sanford

By Robert Moore
Staff Writer

While many relaxed and enjoyed the recent holiday break, the Pagosa Springs High School Pirate boys' basketball team continued its hard work and practice, hoping to build on their current six-game winning streak as they return to action this week.

The Pirates did get to enjoy a short break, but the team returned last week to voluntary practices, where coach Wes Lewis explained the team "primarily worked on shooting and conditioning and free throws."

The Pirates returned to their regular practice schedule Tuesday to

prepare for their away game with the Sanford Mustangs on Thursday, Jan. 4.

Lewis explained the team went through a more normal practice routine, focusing on "defense, transition, press, press break, and half court offense, half court defense — the whole deal."

Lewis also reflected on what's ahead for the Pirates in league play, which begins Jan. 12, saying: "It's a balanced league. I think there's a lot of good teams in our league. No nights off. You got to be prepared and bring your A game every time you have a league opponent. It's nice to have a very balanced, competitive

league."

Of the team's chances in the league, Lewis said, "Well, I think if we play well and do what we're capable of doing, we have as good a shot as anybody, but we got to stay healthy."

Lewis also stated the Pirates will continue to hang their hat on defense.

"Defense is good; defense travels. Some nights, you don't shoot the ball well on the road for different reasons, but we feel like if we can be good in the half-court defense, that's always going to give us a chance to be in games."

Pagosa will resume play against the 2A Sanford Mustangs at 4 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 4, in Sanford.

The Pirates are 7-1 and are ranked No. 1 in the current 4A Ratings Percentage Index (RPI) standings, which help determine postseason seedings.

The Mustangs are 4-2 on the season and ranked 10th in the 2A RPI standings.

robert@pagosasun.com

Lady Pirates to open 2024 in Sanford

By Robert Moore
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs Lady Pirates girls basketball team gave coach Sarah Osborn exactly what she asked for Christmas this past holiday season with a victory over the 4A Durango Demons.

A laughing Osborn explained she told the team before the Durango game, and prior to heading into the Christmas break exactly what she wanted for a Christmas present: "Come on, you guys get the seven days off and you don't think about it. But to give me my real Christmas present, you got to win so I can actually take the seven days off and not be stewing over something."

The Lady Pirates returned to their regular practice schedule Tuesday to prepare for their away game with the 2A Sanford Mustangs on Thursday, Jan. 4.

"We've got two more games before league starts... So, we want to go into that in the right mindset by not only keeping up with the good teams, but beating the good teams," she said.

Commenting on the Intermountain League play that is scheduled to begin on Jan. 12, Osborn said, "Cen-

tauri's our first league game and that will give us a good idea of where we're at and where we're headed."

She added that the Falcons won the league championship last year and "are consistently going to state in 3A."

Centauri is 5-1 and is the No. 6 in the 3A RPI standings.

But, ahead of that game, the Lady Pirates will resume play this week

and open the 2024 portion of their schedule against the Mustangs at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 4, in Sanford.

The Pirates are 5-3 and are ranked ninth in the 4A Ratings Percentage Index (RPI) standings, which help determine postseason seedings.

The Mustangs are 5-1 on the season and ranked sixth in the current 2A RPI standings.

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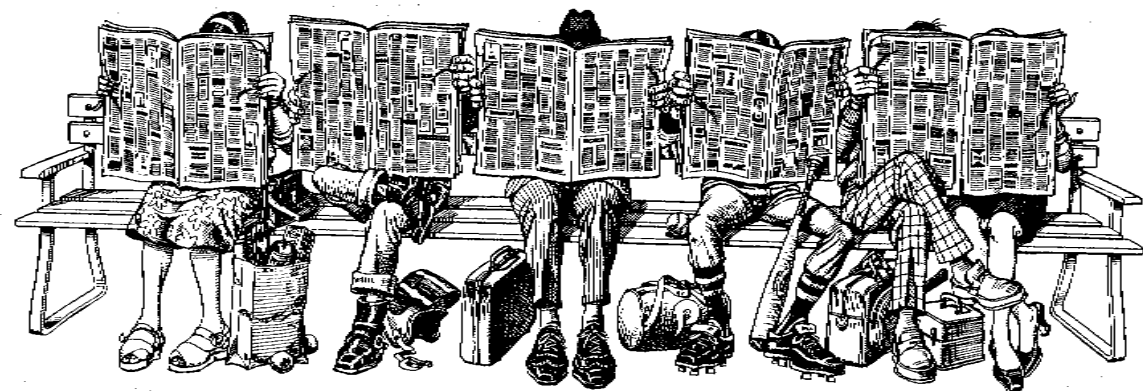
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Public Notices

COMBINED NOTICE - PUBLICATION CRS 338-38-103 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 Evidence of Debt 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 338-38-101(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 ENCUMBERED 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

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 within 35 days after the service of this summons upon you. Service of this summons shall be complete on the day of the last publication. A copy of the complaint may be

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

This is an action to quiet the title of the Plaintiff in and to the real property situate in Archuleta County, Colorado, more particularly described as follows:
Lot 21 of Block 13 in AMENDED ASPEN SPRINGS SUBDIVISION NO. 2, according to the plat thereof filed for record June 15, 1971 as Reception No. 74503. Respectfully Submitted this 27th day of November, 2023.
Published in *The Pagosa Sun*
First Publication: December 7, 2023
Last Publication: January 4, 2024
Eggleston Kosnik LLC
/s/ Duke Eggleston, #24965
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
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 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 PLANNING COMMISSIONERS HEARING ON July 28, 2023 ARX WIRELESS, has applied for a Board Conditional Use Permit for the CRIMS TOWER, on the PARCEL on MARTINEZ MOUNTAIN ESTATES at 246 Horseshoe Circle, Pagosa Springs, CO (PLN23-194). The property is zoned PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT. The proposal is to construct a new cell tower for the area. Comments regarding this proposal may be submitted to Archuleta County Development Services-Planning Department, P.O. Box 1507, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147-1507, telephone: (970) 264-1390 or to planning@archuletacounty.org prior to the public hearing by the Archuleta County Planning Commission on January 24, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. in the County Administration Office Meeting Room, 398 Lewis Street, Pagosa Springs. Public comment will be taken at the meeting.
Published January 4 & 18, 2024 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*, (224975)

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.
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)

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 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.30046

All persons having claims against the above-named estate are required to present them to the personal representative or to District Court of Archuleta, County, Colorado on or before April 21, 2024 (date)*, or the claims may be forever barred.

Daniel L. Fiedler, Attorney at Law
190 Talisman Drive, Suite D-6
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
Published December 21 & 28, 2023 and January 4, 2024 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*, (224180)

The Town of Pagosa Springs has received two applications for the 22-acre property at the intersection of Highway 160 and Alpha Drive. The first application is to subdivide one or more parcels from the 22-acre parcel; the second application is to develop a resultant 3-acre parcel to two 3-story buildings of a total of 50 apartment units, including the extension of Aspen Village Drive for the length of the property. This development is the only proposed development at this time for this 22-acre parcel. The apartments will be a mix of 1, 2, and 3 bedroom units available for local residents and workers, not available for short-term rentals.
The Design Review Board and Planning Commission will conduct a public hearing on Tuesday, January 16, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. to consider both applications. Public Hearings and Meetings will be conducted at 551 Hot Springs Blvd and available for remote attendance via the Zoom meeting platform. To access the meeting agendas and staff reports, click the round **Minutes and Agendas** tab located along the bottom of the photo on the Town's website home page at pagosasprings.co.gov. You may also view the application at my.pagosasprings.co.gov/proposed-development-projects. We encourage interested parties to contact the Planning Division prior to the public hearing dates, with any questions at either 970-264-4151 x221 or cschultz@pagosasprings.co.gov. Written comments received 7 days prior to the meeting or public hearing will be forwarded to the Design Review Board for their consideration. Public comments will be accepted at the public hearing(s) meeting(s).
Published January 4, 2024 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*, (225534)

School board certifies election results, approves new classes

By Robert Moore
Staff Writer

At the Archuleta School District (ASD) Board of Education meeting on Dec. 12, 2023, the board's first order of business was to certify the 2023 election results, which included the election of Bob Lynch (District 2), Amanda Schick (District 3), Dana Guinn (District 4) and Ray "Butch" Mackey (District 5).

The board then moved to elect its new officers, with Lynch again elected as president, Guinn as vice president and Tim Taylor as secretary/treasurer.

ASD Administrative Assistant Heather Schultz was appointed secretary and Finance Director Mike Hodgson was appointed as assistant treasurer.

The board then reviewed and approved the list of committee liaisons and committee memberships that members sit on outside of the school board before delving into a number of other matters at the meeting.

English learner language program update

During the district reports section of the meeting, ASD Superintendent Rick Holt opened with an update on the English language learner (ELL) program.

Holt reported that, last year, the program was operated by one individual to serve 80 students, and that each qualified student above the age of kindergarten is required to get 45 minutes per day of direct instruction in English language development.

Two new positions for ELL were added this year, a new curriculum purchased for students and additional professional development resources provided for the staff,

which Holt explained should lead to an increase in Access scores.

"I expect in the next two years we'll have a high-functioning and very effective programming," Holt said.

Financial report

Hodgson followed with a discussion on the effect the current Colorado property tax situation would have on the district, indicating much is still to be resolved at the state level, but that he considers any district funding shortages to be short-term, indicating, "We will be dipping into reserves on a temporary basis, but we will have those replaced by the end of June."

Agreement with Build Pagosa approved

Holt moved on to report that he is "ecstatic" with the work that Build Pagosa has been doing to potentially develop a career and technical education (CTE) building that would reside on the property between the San Juan Mountain School and Pagosa Springs High School.

He reviewed the memorandum of understanding (MOU) between Build Pagosa and the district, which he indicated will help Build Pagosa raise funds and apply for grants, adding that the district would lease the land for a predetermined amount of time, "which would enable Build Pagosa to build on the land and also be able to access grants that schools alone cannot access."

Holt shared that the MOU outlines "our intent to do this work together" and has been reviewed by the legal counsel of both Build Pagosa and the district, adding that, in January, the district will "actually be engaged in a charrette looking at what that building might actually serve, what

function it will serve" and that a couple of board members will be invited to attend.

A charrette is a collaborative, multidisciplinary workshop with the aim of developing a design or vision for a project.

In answering questions from the board, Holt explained that it would be in the lease agreement that the program would be staffed through existing positions, that Build Pagosa would be responsible for the building management and that the building would be leased back to the district from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily with the building available to other community partners outside of those hours.

With that, the board agreed to approve the MOU and continue to move forward with Build Pagosa.

New high school courses added

Two new high school courses, patient care technician and drones, were presented for approval by the board by Pagosa Springs High School Sean O'Donnell.

O'Donnell explained that for the patient care technician course, the school had been approved to participate in an innovation grant that was sent to health science teachers in the state and that Stephen Urban, science and CTE teacher, was accepted for the grant.

Responding to questions from the board, Urban explained that the technician role is similar to a certified nursing assistant, but that they can be cross-trained afterward in electrocardiography and working in labs.

"Patient care technicians are an emerging profession that makes them more usable in a large health care facility," he added.

O'Donnell introduced the drones course next, prefacing that this did include a financial ask, but that the ask would not occur until the course is approved and enough students show interest.

Jessica Walker, computer science teacher, utilized a short video to present an overview of the course, explaining that the students learn to fly the drones in a cage through gamification and also learn how to repair them.

She indicated that part of the course would be studying for students to get their drone pilot license after reaching age 16.

Asked about the career path this training might provide, Walker enumerated several, including firefighting, geographical mapping, search and rescue teams, traffic monitoring, military, law enforcement, and others.

In answer to questions about the cost, Walker replied that the \$13,500 is a onetime ask and any ensuing budget requirements would likely be for repairs.

The board approved both courses, making three new courses approved within two months.

In November 2023, the board approved the addition of an AP European history course.

Master plan update

During the new business section of the meeting, the board discussed the benefits of reviewing and updating the master plan for the district, with the current plan to be brought to the January meeting.

That meeting is set for 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 9, in the Pagosa Springs Middle School library.

robert@pagosasun.com

Review

Continued from A9

At the same special meeting, the school board heard about and discussed measures being taken to increase school safety.

The special meeting was a follow-up to the district's April 10 community meeting in which it discussed school safety after a prior incident involving a threat to a district school.

Carr broke another school record on April 29.

Carr's time of 26.45 seconds in the 200-meter dash broke a 2019 record set by Mackenzie Wedemeyer and was Carr's season best.

Later that day, good times and memories were had by all during PSHS's prom. Gabriel Gallegos and Lynelle Bartz were chosen as the prom's king and queen. Junior attendants were Levi Hinger and Lauren Monteroso.

May

At its May 2 meeting, the BoCC heard public comments on the closure of the Pagosa Junction bridge on County Road 500 and provided clarifications.

On May 3, after more than two years of statewide stakeholder meetings and outreach via a series of public hearings, the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission gave final approval to the final Colorado Wolf Restoration and Management Plan.

The Lady Pirate soccer team ended its season with a loss to the Crested Butte Titans at home on May 5.

Coach Lindsey Kurt-Mason explained that the Pirates had only 11 players on the day, which he described as a challenge, although he noted that the team rose to the occasion.

The team ended the season with a 3-10-1 record.

The Pirate track and field teams hosted the Terry Alley Invitational at Golden Peaks Stadium on May 6, with the Lady Pirates taking first and the Pirate boys taking second.

Shortly after 8 p.m. on May 9, Archuleta School District and the Pagosa Springs Police Department announced that school bus driver Beverly Fleming died following an af-

ternoon incident involving two buses.

Shortly before 4:30 p.m., the district announced a bus accident at the middle school involving a bus driver.

Responders recovered a body from Echo Lake the evening of May 9 after the person was reported missing in the water.

According to a press release from the Pagosa Fire Protection District, it was called to a missing person in the water at 5:33 p.m.

The victim was later identified as Antony Andrew Jaramillo, 29.

River and lake levels rose in early May, causing enthusiasts to take to the waves through town and emergency response personnel to put out sandbags in vulnerable areas of the county.

As of 2 a.m. on May 10, the San Juan River at Pagosa Springs was flowing at 238 percent of normal at 2,940 cfs, measured at 9 feet at the gage, according to the San Juan River Basin SNOTEL site, which measures snowpack and river flows and is operated by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

The federal public health emergency declared in 2020 at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic came to an end May 11, and the local disaster emergency declaration made by San Juan Basin Public Health (SJBPH) was also set to lapse.

At its May 11 meeting, the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD) Board of Directors appointed two new members to the board.

The board had two openings to fill at the meeting and appointed Jim Smith and Peter Hurley, who previously served on the board, to fill them.

On May 13, Pirate wrestling coach Dan Janowsky received the Lifetime Service to Wrestling Award from the Colorado chapter of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame. Janowsky has been head coach at the school since 1990 and has run the Pagosa Springs Wrestle the World Team Camp since 2004.

The ASD Board of Education opened its meeting May 15 by reading a pair of statements honoring and expressing condolences for two members of the school community

who had recently passed away: former board member Bruce Dryburgh and Fleming.

Two members of the Archuleta County Health Department Transitional Advisory Committee (TAC) resigned in mid-May, including Pagosa Springs Medical Center CEO Dr. Rhonda Webb and TAC chairperson Kathy Campbell.

The resignations coincided with the county's hiring of TAC member Ashley Wilson as the new transitional public health director, which was announced by the county on May 17 after interviews of two candidates on May 12.

In a May 16 email to county Executive Assistant/Paralegal Mary Helmski, which Webb requested to be distributed to the commissioners, she states, "Those of us on the Archuleta County Public Health Transitional Advisory Committee volunteer our time to this committee because how our new public health is structured will significantly impact the health of every person in this County. While those of us on the Advisory Committee understand that the County makes final decisions, we devote our time and our expertise to provide advice."

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Pagosa Springs Photography Club set to meet Jan. 10

By Gregg Heid and Andy Butler
Pagosa Springs Photography Club

The Pagosa Springs Photography Club will meet on Wednesday, Jan. 10, 6:30 p.m., at the Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St.

Feel free to arrive any time after 6 p.m. for social time.

Our January program will be "Top Ten: Show and Tell." This has been a popular program, where members may bring up to 10 of their photographs taken in 2023 for brief discussion. These might be what you consider your best, your most interesting or your most challenging photos of the year. This is a good exercise in selecting your best images of the year.

The goal is to inspire club members through a conversation about what makes great images, including aspects such as composition, impact and technical quality. This will be a more extensive discussion than what we typically have during our image share sessions (which we won't do this month). Please bring your images to the meeting on a flash drive or (if attending by Zoom) email them by the evening of Jan. 9 to abutler@mac.com.

The Pagosa Springs Photography Club promotes educational, social and fun interactions between all who enjoy making and viewing great photography. The club sponsors educational programs and outings to help photographers hone their skills. We welcome photographers of all skill levels. Dues for 2023 are just \$25 (\$35 for a family). For more information about the club, and to download a membership application, visit our website at <https://pagosaprinphotoclub.org/about/>.

Upcoming club trip

We are planning a club photography trip to Moab, Utah, for Feb. 20-23 (three nights). This will be a great chance to photograph the natural wonders of Arches National Park and the Island in the Sky portion of Canyonlands National Park.



Snow piles up during the winter of 2019. At its January meeting, the Pagosa Springs Photography Club will view and discuss members' favorite photos from 2023.

Photo courtesy Gregg Heid

We did a similar club trip in 2020 (Arches only) that was quite popular and led to some great images. It's about a four-hour drive to Moab from Pagosa Springs.

We will try to gather in Arches for late afternoon photography on Feb. 20, and on Feb. 21 and 22 will go to the parks early morning and late afternoon. You may attend all or a portion of this trip. If interested, email abutler@mac.com.

Entrance fee to the parks is \$30 per vehicle per day, but is free with a parks pass. Many of us have one of these, so we just need to make sure each car has one. At this time of year (until April 1) there is not a timed en-

try system in effect at Arches, and the park is open 24/7. The visitor center is open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Lodging will be up to each person. There are a number of motels in Moab, and rates are fairly reasonable at that time of year. For those of you are traveling solo who are willing to share a room, we can try to coordinate. There are also RV parks and campgrounds, but keep in mind that nights can still be freezing in Moab this time of year.

New Year's resolutions

While New Year's resolutions often don't mean much, it's at least a good time to consider what you want

to accomplish in your photography during the coming year.

One practical piece of advice: If you have a copyright set in your camera, or on import into your photo editing software, this would be a good time to change the date to 2024.

For a few more ideas on "resolutions" to improve your photography, check out the article by Marco Larousse at <https://photofocus.com/photography/8-new-years-resolutions-to-improve-your-photography/>.

Pagosa Springs WinterFest is coming up on Jan. 19-21. This is always a photogenic event, with hot air balloon launches, Sledz on the Rez sled racing, the Penguin Plunge and other events.

Happy new year from president Andy Butler and all club members.

Review

Continued from A11

town staff to spend up to \$50,000 on a comprehensive system analysis of the town's wastewater management system.

- Eight Pirate track and field athletes competed at the state championship meet May 18-20: Jonathan Nasralla, Jordan Lindstrom, Chantelle Caldwell, Carr, Annabelle Parker, Sienna Rose, Elissa Mars and Annie O'Donnell.

Six athletes brought home medals for placing in the top 10: Caldwell, Lindstrom, Nehring, Parker, Rose and O'Donnell.

- The Pirate baseball team entered the postseason as the No. 26 team on May 20 after the team closed out the regular season with a win over the 2A Ignacio Bobcats the previous week.

The 10-13 Pirates traveled to Delta to take on the No. 7 Delta Panthers, 18-5, in the first round of the Region 7 bracket.

The Pirates fell prey to the Panthers 16-0 in the game to end their season.

- For the first time in its history, Pagosa Springs Medical Center (PSMC) recorded a positive bottom line for the months of February, March and April in the same year.

The news was delivered as part of the financial report given to the Upper San Juan Health Service District Board of Directors, which oversees PSMC, on May 23.

"PSMC had a modest positive bottom line for April of \$191,566," a written report to the board states.

That report later notes, "Year-to-date PSMC has a positive bottom line of \$311,835. PSMC generally operates at a deficit for the first half of the year,

but February, March and April all had a positive bottom line (in PSMC history, we have never had Feb., March, and April all be positive)."

- In May, Pagosa Springs Elementary School received the Governor's Distinguished Improvement Award for its academic success during the 2021-2022 school year at the Colorado Department of Education awards ceremony in Denver.

- At a May 25 special meeting, the PAWSD Board approved contracts with PCL Construction and Veolia Water Technologies and Solutions for construction of and equipment for the Snowball Water Treatment Plant project.

According to the contract with PCL, the guaranteed maximum price for the project is \$40,565,680.

- In late May, it was made known that, in early March, Archuleta County's insurance carrier settled a lawsuit with a former county employee who filed a lawsuit against the county last fall alleging that the county withheld a COVID-related bonus from her and other employees and retaliated against her.

The civil complaint was filed in U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado by law firm Albrechta and Albrechta LLC on behalf of Lacy Brown. It was filed against the "Archuleta County, Board of County Commissioners," as well as commissioners Warren Brown and Ronnie Maez as individuals.

The settlement, released by the county in May following a Colorado Open Records Act request, is for \$105,000.

"The County's portion of the payment was \$2,000.00 (minus with-

held taxes) and then an additional \$15,000.00, which is the County's deductible under its insurance policy," County Attorney Todd Weaver wrote in an email to The SUN. "The remainder was paid by the County's insurance carrier. It was the County's decision to settle the case and decided to do so. The County had no authority to override its insurance carrier's decision, even if it disagreed with the decision to settle the case."

It was made known earlier in the month that Mark Garcia filed a lawsuit alleging discrimination for not hiring him and former Department of Human Services director Matthew Dodson filed a discrimination action.

- American Legion Post 108 held its annual Memorial Day ceremony at Hilltop Cemetery on May 29, honoring Archuleta County's war dead as well as veterans who have passed in the last year. The ceremony also included, among other things, a flyover, a reading of "In Flanders Fields," and speeches from Jim Huffman and Warren Brown.

Later that day, Veterans for Veterans hosted its inaugural Memorial Day Luminaria Tribute Monday at Veterans Memorial Park. The ceremony, which included American Legion Post 108 and the San Juan Squadron, featured a flyover, flag ceremony, 21-gun salute, flag-folding ceremony, the playing of taps and more. The evening was capped off with the lighting of luminarias dedicated to service members past and present.

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PREVIEW photo/Shari Pierce

January 4, 2024

San Juan Stargazers to hear about eclipses at Jan. 11 meeting

By Joan Mieritz
San Juan Stargazers

At the San Juan Stargazers' Astronomy Club monthly meeting on Thursday, Jan. 11, our speaker will be Barbara Sanborn.

She will be speaking on "Around the World Eclipse Chaser" and will share her three most-exciting eclipses.

The Stargazers will hold their monthly educational meeting on Thursday, Jan. 11, at the Community United Methodist Church at 434 Lewis St. You can use the parking lot and enter at the side door right off the parking area. (We leave the front doors locked.)

There will be a social hour starting at 6 p.m. with coffee/tea and treats. You can bring something to share if you would like. We may have lots of Christmas fruitcake.

2024 Deep Space Mysteries Calendars, Tours of the Night Sky booklets and additional sheets for those already having the notebook will all be available.

There also will be a very important letter to the Dark Sky International Association supporting Chimney Rock to be designated an Official Dark Sky Area. Instead of just my signature, I would like every Stargazer to add their name showing their personal support.

Please get there early enough to gather all your goodies and sign your name so our program can start on time.

At 7 p.m. the meeting will begin. It will be available on Zoom for members and, soon, also for the public.

At 7:10 p.m., Sanborn, who is a club member, will give her exciting presentation, which includes many photos.

She noted that it is more like a travel log with scientific information about eclipses. She will talk about an eclipse she observed in Chile, South America; one that she saw from a ship on the Pacific Ocean; and the

eclipse from 2006, seen in Libya, where Muammar Gaddafi added much political excitement and intrigue.

There will be an important eclipse this year on April 8. It will cross North America, passing over Mexico, the U.S. and Canada. In the U.S. it will be visible from Texas to Maine. The next total solar eclipse that will be visible over North America will not happen until 2045.

This year might be an important one for you to catch if you want to see totality.

In the interest of scientific accuracy and full disclosure, the eclipse will be visible in Pagosa as an approximate 64 percent partial eclipse, which should still be exciting and will require special glasses for you to safely view.

After Barbara's presentation, Dena Lateraz will open the wrapped packages of needed telescope parts and accessories gifted by club members from her wish list.

Event planning

This January and February our club will spend time picking dates, times and activities for our Summer Night Sky programs at Chimney Rock and other astronomy events to be presented for the public right here in Pagosa Springs.

We would like all members to participate so that everyone will have at least one event that you helped plan and will take part in. Of course, you can help with more than one event. The reality is that we will not be able to hold events that we do not have enough volunteers to cover.

Make sure you add your name to the sign-up sheets before you leave. We need your commitment now to make better plans.

More about the Stargazers

If you would like to join the San Juan Stargazers,

■ See Stargazers on next page

Live Performers



- Friday**
The Springs Resort lodge atrium: Maxwell Miller, 5 p.m.
- Saturday**
The Springs Resort lodge atrium: Jason Rose, 5 p.m.
- Tuesday**
The Springs Resort lodge atrium: Glenn Unrath and Rodger Bennett, 5 p.m.
- Wednesday**
The Den: Karaoke, 8 p.m.

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Crystal energy event for teens tomorrow, Shakespeare read-aloud returning

By Carole Howard
PREVIEW Columnist, and the library staff

Tomorrow, Friday, Jan. 5, 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 onetime special event that will be led by Amma Lee, a practicing chakra clearing/crystal healer.

Shakespeare fans of all ages will be pleased to know that the

Library News

Join us every Monday in January from 3:30 to 5 p.m. except for Jan. 15 because of the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. Call Jenny at (240) 426-7887 for more information.

Early library closure

Your library will close early on Monday, Jan. 8, for a staff meeting at 5 p.m. This is our regular staff
■ See Library on next page

Shakespeare Read-Aloud Club is returning this month, with "As You Like It" on the agenda.



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Holiday Church Events

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

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.

Burning Bowl Ceremony. 1 p.m., New Thought Center, 3505 West U.S. 160.

Stargazers

■ continued from previous page

you will also receive Reflector Magazine, which is the publication of the National Astronomical League of which you automatically become a member. To join both groups and get an excellent astronomy magazine, annual membership is only \$25 per family. You can join the club at any of our events or using PayPal on our website, sanjuanstargazers.org.

Check out our constantly improving website with new information and fabulous photos.

This month's program should be worth attending. You are welcome to join us to learn more about the amazing universe that we all are part of.



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Library

■ continued from previous page

meeting schedule — on the second Monday of the month.

Special event for Friends

Friends of the Library will gather Wednesday, Jan. 10, 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.

Online author talks

Our highly popular free on-line author talks continue with three more opportunities for you to interact with New York Times bestselling authors and ask questions this month. For details and to register, go to <https://library.org/pagosalibrary/upcoming>.

Wednesday, Jan. 10, at 6 p.m. will feature “Embrace Love in the New Year: A Heartfelt Conversation with Rebecca Serle.”

Jan. 23 at noon will showcase a conversation with Rajiv Nagaich, author of “Your Retirement.”

On Jan. 30 at noon we will talk with Dr. Robert Lustig, author of “The Lure and the Lies of Processed Food, Nutrition and Modern Medicine.”

LEGO Club Saturday

Kids aged 6-11 are invited to the free LEGO Club on Saturday, Jan. 6, from 11 a.m. to noon. Bring your own LEGOs or use ours.

Knitting and crochet lessons

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

Note that we have added an additional session and this group will now meet the first three Mondays of the month — except for Jan. 15 because of the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.

Music fun

Pagosa Unplugged is free from 4 to 5 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 8, for

amateur musicians who would like a safe, supportive, non-bar setting to play, sing or both with other people. For program information contact Susan at (970) 946-3396.

Ruby's Book Club Tuesday

Ruby's Book Club meets from 2 to 3 p.m. next Tuesday, Jan. 9, to discuss “Lewis and Clark: Voyage of Discovery” by Stephen E. Ambrose. Copies are available at your 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

Next Tuesday, Jan. 9, 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.

Therapy dog visit

Next Wednesday, Jan. 10, from 11 to 11:45 a.m., you are invited to come to the library for a free visit with a certified therapy dog.

Visits are limited to 10-15 minutes — just the right amount of time to pet the dog, read to the dog or just say “Hi.” This is an all-ages activity.

Elementary tutoring sessions

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

Teen/tween escape room

Solve puzzles and find clues quickly to be sure you can get out of the room before the deadline next Thursday, Jan. 11, from 4 to 5:30 p.m. at the free escape room session for teens and tweens.

Family storytimes

Wednesdays from 10 to 11 a.m., join us for a free educational hour

of reading, singing and free play to build early literacy skills.

Writers' guild

Thursdays from 9 to 11 a.m., Ruby's Writers Guild welcomes writers looking for opportunities, support, resources and camaraderie with other writers at this free gathering.

ESL class times

Free in-person evening classes take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and there is a change in the way the time is divided: 4 to 5 p.m. is reserved for beginners, 5 to 6 p.m. for intermediate and 6 to 7 p.m. for advanced students.

Please help us spread the word about these classes to others in our community who would be interested, and contact us by phone or email if you have any

■ See Library on next page

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Pagosa Peak Genealogical Society to meet Jan. 6

By Dan Senjem
Pagosa Peak Genealogical Society

The next meeting of the Pagosa Peak Genealogical Society (PPGS) will be held on Saturday, Jan. 6, at 10 a.m. at the Community United Methodist Church on Lewis Street (enter through the side door from the parking lot).

Our featured speaker, via Zoom, will be Katherine Scott Sturdevant, who was scheduled for our meeting last month that, due to technical issues, was canceled.

The topic by Sturdevant is “Our Ancestor’s Seasonal Lives: Discerning and Describing their Social and Work practices from Social and Regional History Sources.”

This presentation will focus on the role of seasonal changes in the life patterns of ethnic and regional groups, teaching how we can use the genuine and general experiences and patterns of life for people like our ancestors to present their lives in more accurate and historically significant ways.

Sturdevant is the senior professor of history at Pikes Peak State College in Colorado Springs. She has presented programs for PPGS numerous times in-person and by Zoom.

If you wish to take part by Zoom, contact Dan Senjem for login information at (970) 398-0214 or desenjem@yahoo.com.

There will be a business meeting following the presentation, including new officers beginning their terms. Visitors, especially young



Photo courtesy Pagosa Peak Genealogical Society

Katherine Scott Sturdevant will present at the Jan. 6 meeting of the Pagosa Peak Genealogical Society.

people, are welcome and encouraged to attend to learn more about the group. We have a wide range of experienced members to help in your search of your ancestors.

So, bring your coffee cup and notepad to take in the information to be presented.

Library

■ continued from previous page

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 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.

Activities calendars

Pick up monthly events calendars at the library so you don’t miss any of the free activities available to

you and your family.

Downloadable books

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

Nonfiction – self-help and how-to

“God Never Gives Up on You” by Max Lucado describes how Jacob’s story teaches us about grace, mercy and God’s love. “Natasha’s Kitchen” by Natasha Kravchuk includes more than 100 easy, family-friendly recipes. “More is More” by Molly Baz uses 100 recipes to teach different techniques and flavor combinations. “Tonight We Pray For The Momma” by the mother-daughter team Becky Thompson and Susan K. Pitts contains inspirational prayers, devotional stories

■ See Library on next page



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New Thought Center to meet Sunday

By Shayla McClure

New Thought Center for Inspirational Living

Sunday service on Jan. 7 at 11 a.m. with Dr. Elaine Harding will be “Express Your Spiritual Gifts for a Renewed Life in 2024.”

“We are not human beings having a spiritual experience. We are spiritual beings having a human experience.” — Pierre Teilhard de Chardin.

We will have a potluck after the service and a burning bowl ceremony at 1 p.m.

Upcoming events

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

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

Jan. 7, 11 a.m.: Sunday service with Harding. Potluck and burning bowl ceremony at 1 p.m.

Jan. 27: Quintangled Masquerade Ball Fundraiser with Julie Loar and the Good Vibe Tribe. This is a benefit for Wolfwood Refuge. There will be a cash bar, live band and costume contest. Tickets will be \$50 and will go on sale Jan. 5.

About us

The New Thought Center is a 501(c)(3) and promotes philoso-

phies similar to Centers for Spiritual Living and Agape Centers. We honor all lifestyles, cultures and religious paths to the divine. The vision of the New Thought Center is to empower possibility through revelation of spiritual truth, and to enhance our members’ life experience through self-empowerment, inner peace and being part of an all-inclusive community. Our mission is to create a world that works for everyone through awareness of a higher power. We are the Good Vibe Tribe that practices Science of Mind principles of positive thinking.

The SpiritHeart Band provides
■ See Center on next page

Library

■ continued from previous page and biblical wisdom relating to motherhood. “The Indoctrinated Brain” by Dr. Michael Nehls exposes brain-damaging processes and countermeasures you can take. “Activate Your Greatness” by Alex Toussaint is a motivational guide based on gratitude, preparation and curiosity.

Nonfiction — memoirs and biographies

“Oath and Honor” by former Republican Congress member Liz Cheney outlines her experiences during Jan. 6 and on the Select Committee to Investigate the January 6th Attack on the U.S. Capitol. “World Within a Song” by singer-songwriter Jeff Tweedy explores 50 songs that affected his life. “Endgame: Inside the Royal Family and the Monarchy’s Fight for Survival” by Omid Scobie looks at life inside the royal family after Queen Elizabeth’s death. “Her Space, Her Time” by award-winning quantum physicist Shohini Ghose documents major contributions and innovations by women physicists and astronomers around the world.

Other nonfiction

“Blood Memory” by Dayton Duncan and Ken Burns tells the tragic story of the American buffalo finally saved from extinction. “Prequel: An American Fight Against Fascism” by Rachel Maddow documents the rise of a strain of authoritarianism at the beginning of World War II. “Killing the Witches” by Bill O’Reilly and Martin Dugard revisits the events of 1692 and 1693 in Salem, Mass. “Tyranny of the Minority” by Harvard professors Steven Levitsky and Daniel Ziblatt calls for reform of our political and judicial institutions to preserve our democracy.

Poetry anthology

“Playing with Phosphores” by Sabine Ruth Houe contains both short and long poems celebrating the power and splendor of poetry

and verse by taking readers on an exploratory journey inward.

DVDs

“The Chosen” is season two. “A Christmas Story Christmas” is a family show. “Three Men and a Baby” is a Hallmark holiday movie. “I Can” is an inspirational story of a young girl who is born with one arm. “Everest: Mountain Without Mercy” is a revised and updated National Geography documentary.

Mysteries, thrillers and suspense

“Edge of Dusk,” “Break of Day” and “Dark of Night” by Colleen Coble are Christian romantic suspense stories. “The Mystery Guest” by Nita Prose begins when a guest dies at a fancy hotel.

Other novels

“A Nearby Country Called Love” by Salar Abdoh is set in Tehran. “We Must Not Think of Ourselves” by Lauren Grodstein is a romance set in the Warsaw ghetto.

Thanks to our donors

We are grateful to Patrick Shettle for his 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.

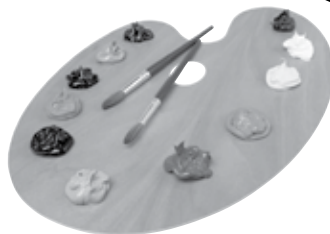
Quotable quote

“The purpose of life is not to be happy. It is to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate, to have it make some difference that you lived and lived well.” — Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882), American essayist, lecturer, philosopher, abolitionist and poet.

Website

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UUs to look within to celebrate the new year

By **Pauline Benetti**
Pagosa Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

We are in the planet's darkest time, and as we look forward to the new year and increasing light, it is a propitious time to seek the truth and meaning of this moment in our lives. Please join the Pagosa Unitarian Universalist Fellowship this Sunday — the first Sunday of 2024 — at 10:30 a.m. for a special streaming service as we begin that search.

To help us in this search we will receive the ministry of the new Unitarian Universalist Association's (UUA's) president, the Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt, and several other contributors via the streaming of a service collection distributed by the UUA and created especially for the turning of the year.

Betancourt offers the sermon "Seeds for the New Year" and also presents the insightful story for all ages "The Bridge of Flowers" by Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarintha.

The Rev. Dr. Rebecca Parker shares her poem "Winter Blessing." The Rev. Megan Foley offers a reflection on "Life Abundant."

Music from the collection "Trinity Fanfare" by The Chalice Bells of First Unitarian Congregation of Ann Arbor and "Shelter Me" by Lea Morris completes the offerings for this first Sunday of 2024.

As preparation for a service that will have you thinking meaningfully about the greeting "Happy New Year," you might consider the question, "What seeds will you plant this winter?"

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

The message of meditation

At the Dec. 24, 2023, Sunday meditation, Dan Dempster dis-

cussed "Be The Present, Become The Gift Of Joy To The World."

The holiday season is billed as a time of joy through shared generosity. Yet, for too many, it is a time of heightened anxiety and loneliness, exacerbated by the commercial nature and expectations of the season.

Learning and practicing the selfless art of meditation for the benefit of all is true generosity, resulting in discovering a deep joy within, not dependent on external circumstances for its arising. This joy fuels confidence in our practice and our place in the world, making us more cheerful, helpful and attractive. Who doesn't want this?

Through the hard work of facing up to ourselves again and again, we learn how to recognize that it is our own tendency to preference and prejudice which obscures the deep joy inherent within. Connecting with that joy, we find ourselves spontaneously radiating love and compassion to all without exception, wishing all could share in that joy. We become the gift of ultimate generosity in which there is no giver, no gift and no receiver.

About the fellowship

Regarding COVID-19 protocols, masking continues to be optional and social distancing is encouraged; please note that tracking of the COVID-19 hospital admissions level in Archuleta County has returned to low.

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

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

If either the service or the meditation is canceled due to winter weather, a notification will be placed on pagosauu.org by 8:30 a.m. For more information about the fellowship, our services and the other activities, please see www.pagosauu.org or email info@pagosauu.org.

Center

■ **continued from previous page** live music every Sunday. We welcome local talents to share gifts, aptitudes and knowledge. Participate, learn or contribute your insights, beliefs, knowledge and skills.

New Thought events are held at 3505 W. U.S. 160, on the second

floor of the Pagosa Lodge (elevator available). Request prayer treatment or obtain information by joining us; emailing pagosacomunitynewthought@gmail.com; mailing P.O. Box 1052, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147; or calling (970) 510-0309.

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Senior Center to host bingo

By Rose Chavez
PREVIEW Columnist

We are excited to announce that the Pagosa Senior Center will be hosting bingo twice a month on Friday afternoons from 1:15 to 2:30 p.m.

Bingo will be on Jan. 12, Jan. 19, Feb. 9 and Feb. 23.

The price to participate is free and we ask you bring yourself and a friend for a few hours of joyful fellowship. We will provide prizes from local businesses for all winners and snacks will also be provided.

No RSVP is required; just show up. All ages are welcome, but we ask those 18 and younger to come with an adult chaperone.

We would like to give a shout out to our new volunteers who are helping Archuleta Seniors Inc. to provide this fun offering to the community.

For more information, contact us at (970) 264-2167.

New classes: Tai chi and mindfulness meditation

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, 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 effortless-ness 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 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-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, Jan. 4 — Vegetable lasagna with white sauce, garlic bread, garden salad, fruit and milk.

Friday, Jan. 5 — Chipotle lime tilapia, jasmine rice, sauteed kale, garden salad, fruit, milk and cookies.

Monday, Jan. 8 — New England clam chowder, oyster crackers, broccoli, garden salad, fruit and milk.

Tuesday, Jan. 9 — Beef Frito pie with cheese and sour cream, avocado, garden salad, fruit and milk.

Wednesday, Jan. 10 — King Ranch chicken casserole, charro beans, cherry crisp, garden salad, fruit and milk.

Thursday, Jan. 11 — Cannellini bean and artichoke goat cheese casserole, rainbow chard, garden salad, fruit and milk.

Friday, Jan. 12 — Beef meatloaf, roasted butternut squash, garden salad, fruit and milk.

Grab-N-Go meals

Dine-in and Grab-N-Go meal reservations and cancellations are required. Please call or text by 9 a.m. the morning of the day you want to pick up a meal. A suggested donation of \$10 helps to sustain our program. For ages 59

■ See Senior on next page



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DID YOU KNOW?

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Honor your faithful companion and cherish the memories left behind with our cremation and memorial services.

Microchips and Tags

Lost and stray pets with identification have the best chance for a speedy reunion with their owner.

Pet Financial Assistance

HSPS offers programs including a pet food bank in collaboration with our local food pantries, spay and neuter vouchers, emergency medical aid. We also help our community members to identify feral feline colonies to control the overpopulation of felines in our community.



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The Pagosa Springs SUN
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Senior

■ **continued from previous page**
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.

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/>.

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Dr. Morgan Lopez

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Dr. Kitzel Farrah

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



Dr. Cara Finstad

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

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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.

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For town boundaries, eligibility, or more info call 264-4151 or visit www.pagosasprings.co.gov

Preview Calendar

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

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.

Pagosa Peak Genealogical Society Meeting. 10 a.m., Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St. The featured speaker will be

Katherine Scott Sturdevant. If you wish to take part by Zoom, contact Dan Senjem at (970) 398-0214 or desenjem@yahoo.com.

LEGO Club. 11 a.m.-noon, Sisson Library. For ages 6-11. Bring your own or use our LEGOs to free build.

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.

Learn to Knit or Crochet. 2-3:15 p.m., Sisson Library. Come learn to knit or crochet. For ages 8 and up. Supplies are provided.

Healthy Aging and Yoga Therapy Class. 2:30-3:30 p.m., Senior Center.

Shakespeare Read-Aloud Club. 3:30-5 p.m., Sisson Library. Call Jenny at (240) 426-7887 for more information.

Pagosa Unplugged. 4-6 p.m., Sisson Library. Musicians of all abilities are invited to jam and sing with others. Call Susan at (970) 946-3396 for details.

Tuesday, 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 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.

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. 8:30-10:30 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.

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

Friends of the Library Special Event. 5 p.m., Sisson Library. Friends of the Library are invited to enjoy pizza and sodas while getting to know each other and learning about plans for 2024. Please RSVP to cindi@pagosalibrary.org by Jan. 8.

Spanish Fiesta Committee Meeting. 5:30 p.m., dining room, Community Center, 451 Hot Springs Blvd. All are welcome to attend.

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>.

■ See Calendar on next page

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Preview Calendar

■ continued from previous page
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.

Teen/Tween Escape Room. 4-5:30 p.m., Sisson Library. Solve puzzles and find clues quickly to be sure you can get out of the room before the deadline.

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.

San Juan Stargazers Astronomy Club Monthly Meeting. 7 p.m., Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St. There will be a social hour starting at 6 p.m. At 7:10 p.m., Barbara Sanborn will present on eclipses.

Friday, Jan. 12

Pickleball. 8-11:30 a.m., Community Center. Loaner paddles are available.

Bingo. 1:15-2:30 p.m., Senior Center. Free. Those under 18 must have an adult chaperone. For more information, contact (970) 264-2167.

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.

Submit your calendar items to editor@pagosasun.com; mail them to The Pagosa Springs SUN, P.O. Box 9, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147; or deliver them to The SUN office by noon Monday.

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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 house finch.

As its name suggests, this is a bird that you don't need to travel far from home to find. Originally living in the hot deserts and dry, open areas of the southwest, it has adapted to life in human-created habitats and is now found in towns and rural areas as well as its more natural open woodland, streamside and brushy landscapes.

In the early 1900s, caged birds were shipped to pet shops in the east, where they were sold for the colorful appearance and cheerful song of the male. When protections afforded by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act threatened these shops with fines in 1940, some of the birds were released on Long Island. From this small beginning, within 50 years populations had spread across the eastern United States and southern Canada, where they are now common.

Outside of breeding season, these social birds are rarely seen alone and can form very large flocks. Using stout, conical bills, they feed on the ground, in the brush or on trees for a wide variety of weed seeds, buds and fruits. Like the goldfinches, they rarely eat insects and even feed nestlings crushed plant materials. They will readily visit feeders to consume black-oil sunflower and nyjer thistle seeds.

The house finch is a small finch with a brown-streaked back, wings and belly. Males are rosy red around the face, breast and rump, and wear a brown cap on their rounded heads. These color patterns are also seen in the male Cassin's finch, whose head feathers form a bright red peaked crown and who has less streaking on his flanks.

The intensity of red is a product of the carotenoids in the food the male house finch consumes when feathers are forming during spring molt, and some males are orange or yellowish instead. Males may sing at any time of year and females in spring. Brown-streaked females prefer the reddish males as partners.

A contagious bacterial infection known as mycoplasmal conjunctivitis has caused steep declines in some house finch populations. It causes respiratory problems and often displays as birds with red, runny, crusty eyes which can become swollen shut. If you see finches with these symptoms at your feeder, it is recommended that you take the feeder down for several days to disperse the sick birds before others are affected. Disinfect your feeders before putting them back out.

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

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SUDOKU

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

Level: Beginner

Fun By The Numbers

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

Here's How It Works:

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

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

ANSWER:

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The Pagosa Springs **SUN**

What we learned about Alzheimer's in 2023

By Jim Herlihy
Alzheimer's Association

2023 was a landmark year for Alzheimer's disease research, including advancements in treatment, risk factors and diagnosis of Alzheimer's and other dementias.

In this new era of Alzheimer's treatments, here are seven significant discoveries from this year regarding the seventh-leading cause of death:

1. There are now three newly approved treatments for Alzheimer's, with a fourth on the way.

In July 2023, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) granted traditional approval for Leqembi for treatment of mild cognitive impairment due to Alzheimer's and mild Alzheimer's dementia. While not a cure, this treatment slows cognitive decline and can give people with early Alzheimer's more time to maintain their independence.

Back in June 2021, the FDA granted accelerated approval to Aduhelm for the same purpose. At the Alzheimer's Association International Conference in July 2023, Eli Lilly reported positive results for a third treatment: donanemab. Phase 3 trial data for donanemab (monoclonal antibody that targets amyloid — a sticky, neuron-damaging protein in the brain) among patients in the early stages of Alzheimer's showed a 60 percent slowing of cognitive decline compared to patients on placebo. Nearly half (47 percent) of study participants at the earliest stage of the disease who received donanemab had no clinical pro-

gression at one year.

FDA action on donanemab is expected by the end of 2023.

In May, the FDA approved brexpiprazole for agitation in people with Alzheimer's disease. This is the first FDA-approved treatment for Alzheimer's-related agitation, which is experienced by about 45 percent of Alzheimer's patients. According to research published in May 2023, there are currently more than 140 therapies being tested that target multiple aspects of Alzheimer's.

2. Hearing aids slow cognitive decline.

Hearing loss is present in 65 percent of adults over age 60, according to researchers. This study looked at a subgroup of older adults with hearing loss who were at higher risk for cognitive decline (about one-quarter of the total study population). This study showed that those participants at highest risk for cognitive decline who utilized hearing aids and hearing counseling for three years cut their cognitive decline in half (48 percent).

3. Gut health and constipation: 16 percent of the world's population struggles with constipation — more among older adults due to fiber-deficient diets, lack of exercise and the use of certain medications.

Researchers found that bowel movements of every three days or less was associated with 73 percent higher odds of subjective cognitive decline and long-term health issues like inflammation, hormonal imbalances and anxiety/depression.

4. Advances in blood tests for Alzheimer's: A simple finger-prick blood test, similar to what people with diabetes do daily, shows promise in the ability to detect Alzheimer's disease.

Researchers in Sweden collected blood samples and shipped

■ See Alzheimer's on page 15



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TOP 10 HEALTH MISTAKES:

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

PART 8: SKIPPING BREAKFAST

Breakfast is the meal that people most often skip, yet it's the most important meal of the day. If you miss eating breakfast, you will likely experience a drop in your energy, endurance, and memory. You are also less likely to get the fiber, B-Group vitamins, and iron you need for the day.

Skipping breakfast can also be unkind to your waistline, as it will slow your metabolism, thus increasing hunger, reducing your willpower to make healthy choices, and increasing the likelihood that you will overeat later in the day and lead to eating the wrong foods.

What you can do: Get up in time to eat a good breakfast. Many traditional breakfast foods are healthy and easy to prepare. These include whole grain cereals, oatmeal, 100% whole grain toast, fruit, and skim milk or "nut" milks. Avoid sugary foods, highly processed foods, and anything fried. An easy and quick breakfast is to make a fruit smoothie. Start your day off right with the proper food and enjoy a day of health and vigor!!!

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

Fun Bible Facts: All but two of the 176 verses in Psalm 119 make reference to the Scriptures in some way. The famous explorer David Livingstone could quote this entire chapter at the age of 9 with only 3 mistakes.

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Math Blocks

Fill in the missing blocks with numbers between 0-10.
The numbers in each row add up to the totals on the right.
The numbers in each column add up to the totals on the bottom.

2	1		10
	6	4	10
9	3		20
11	10	19	

8	3	9
4	6	0
7	1	2

Solution

THIS DAY IN...



HISTORY

- **1911:** KAPPA ALPHA PSI, THE WORLD'S THIRD-OLDEST AND LARGEST BLACK FRATERNITY, IS FOUNDED.
- **1944:** THE DAILY MAIL BECOMES THE FIRST MAJOR LONDON NEWSPAPER TO BE PUBLISHED ON BOTH SIDES OF THE ATLANTIC OCEAN.
- **1972:** U.S. PRESIDENT RICHARD NIXON ANNOUNCES THE SPACE SHUTTLE PROGRAM.

THIS POPULAR FOOD MAY REDUCE INFLAMMATION (SWELLING) AND STUFFY NOSE WHEN SICK.

ANSWER: CHICKEN SOUP

Get Scrambled

Unscramble the words to determine the phrase.

TOH UPSO

Answer: Hot soup

New word

SIMMER

to keep food just below boiling when cooking or heating it

How they SAY that in...

ENGLISH: Soup

SPANISH: Sopa

ITALIAN: Minestra

FRENCH: Soupe

GERMAN: Suppe

Did you know?

SOUPS ARE BROKEN DOWN INTO TWO GROUPS: CLEAR SOUPS AND THICK, CREAMY SOUPS.

GET THE PICTURE?

Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: CHICKEN SOUP

Will they cry for me after I'm gone?

By Betty J. Slade
PREVIEW Columnist

We begin a new year and leave behind an old one. We lost friends in 2023. The thought makes me ponder as to what we're doing these last years of our lives. Are we leaving behind anything of value? Will my family cry for me after I'm gone?

We're leaving a house for them to sell. They can divide the proceeds. They'll have a little money in their pockets for a brief moment, soon to be forgotten. Money in the bank? Yes, they might take a family cruise, laugh, play and poke fun of my Sweet Al's stories. That's fine, too.

We will all leave something behind. We're not taking anything with us. A good name is valuable for people to remember us. It's our legacy.

Like the Harman name.

It's part of Pagosa's history, celebrated every Fourth of July. Harman Park is a subdivision for others to build in. Researching the Upper Blanco Basin for my Western book series, it brought up the Harman name. They homesteaded that land around 1900.

A superhero in our own backyard, his comic strips still entertain us. No, not Superman or Spider-

Artist's Lane

Man, but Red Ryder and Little Beaver. With his horse Thunder, Red lived on Painted Valley Ranch in the 1890s in the Blanco Basin of the San Juan mountain range. His Native American sidekick, Little Beaver, rode with Red on his horse, Papoose, and they fought the bad guys.

The longest-running and most popular comic character of the Western genre appeared in movies, was on the radio, in comic strips, comic books and was used in mass-market retailing. He had a launch date of Nov. 6, 1938, and originally ran until Sept. 30, 1965.

We know Fred Harman by what he did. He was born Feb. 9, 1902, and died Jan. 2, 1982. After reading what it took to launch his art career, I would call him persistent. We can learn from him. He didn't fall into success, he created success. He experienced many failures. He didn't give up. As I read his bio, I was taken by how many creative ideas he tried before he found his

niche in Red Ryder.

He was known as the finest brush and ink artist of the Western genre. Self-taught for dramatic perspective and authentic details, he was a pressman's helper at The Kansas City Star, was employed at the Kansas City Film Ad Company and worked as an animator with Walt Disney. He formed a company with Disney that went broke within a year.

Harman left a good name behind. Yes, we all leave behind who we are. I believe building relationships with family members is the most important thing we can do. I'm reminded of Elaine Hyde's funeral. Her grandchildren meant so much to her and she meant the world to them. All her grandchildren cried over her.

I said then to my Sweet Al at Elaine's funeral service, "I want to have touched my grandchildren's lives in a way they will cry when I'm gone. I don't remember crying for my grandparents. I didn't have a relationship with them. I don't remember laughing and enjoying them. They were important to me only because they were grandparents. Period."

At Janet Sorenson's funeral, I watched one of her grandchildren cry and cry. His mother consoled

■ See Lane on next page

Alzheimer's

■ continued from page 13

them overnight, without temperature control or cooling, and found the results for detecting warning signs of tau and other elements consistent with Alzheimer's risk to be comparable to standard blood collection.

The ability to collect blood samples remotely, without refrigeration, will significantly increase the accessibility of these tests, particularly to rural areas.

In a related Swedish study, primary care physicians correctly identified the presence of Alzheimer's-related changes in 55 percent of cases while the blood test did so in more than 85 percent of cases.

5. New use of opioids increases risk of death in older adults with dementia.

This study of the entire population in Denmark age 65 and older diagnosed with dementia between Jan. 1, 2008, and Dec. 31, 2018, found a fourfold increased excess mortality risk among participants within 180 days after their first opioid prescription.

Strong opioids (including morphine, oxycodone, ketobemidone, hydromorphone, pethidine, buprenorphine and fentanyl — used to relieve pain when milder medicines are not effective) were associated with a sixfold increased

mortality risk. Among those who used fentanyl patches as their first prescription, 64.4 percent died within the first 180 days compared with 6.4 percent in the unexposed group.

6. Cognitive benefits of volunteering: Volunteering in late life is associated with better cognitive function.

A University of California-Davis study found that volunteering was associated with better baseline scores on tests of executive function and verbal episodic memory.

A study by University of Colorado researchers of an adult population aged 70 to 79 showed that volunteering was related to 16 percent lower odds of developing dementia (24 percent lower among women). While there are benefits to remaining cognitively active through employment after

the traditional retirement age, researchers noted that volunteering may provide added benefits because volunteering "is mentally and emotionally rewarding."

7: First-ever county-level Alzheimer's prevalence statistics: The Alzheimer's Association released the first Alzheimer's prevalence statistics for all 3,142 counties in the United States. The average for the U.S. among adults 65 and older is 10.7 percent, but higher rates were found in numerous areas in the East and Southeast. Miami-Dade County was highest at 16.6 percent. Statewide, Colorado's rate is 10.4 percent. Age is the leading risk factor for Alzheimer's, but Blacks and Hispanics are at higher risk for developing the disease due in large part to factors including higher rates of heart disease and diabetes.

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Ski bum culture hits reality

By Heather Hansman
PREVIEW Columnist

Nearly two decades ago, I moved to the mountains to be a ski bum, chasing snow. I was a stereotype — an East Coast kid pulled west by the promise of bigger adventures and higher mountain ranges. I was also part of a counterculture that rejected social norms in favor of 100-day ski seasons.

In ski towns in western Colorado in 2005, risk was everywhere, but in a way that felt exciting. I liked the brag of drinking too much, and I was too naïve to notice harder drugs. Climate change seemed theoretical, and no one I knew had died in the mountains yet.

Corporate entities were just starting to binge-buy resorts while I somehow thought that living in my car was cool and I could exist like that forever.

But myths are complicated things to keep alive, and I eventually left ski towns to work as a writer, already seeing the ski-bum dream changing. I saw friends struggling to build careers, families and community while still chasing the fragile dream that a powder day topped almost everything.

So, recently, I went back to see what was going on, to try to track the evolution of what had been my own obsession. I looped through mountain towns across the West, from Aspen, Colorado to Victor, Idaho, and Big Sky, Mont., to assess

Opinion: Writers on the Range

the current state of ski bums.

What I found was that everyone trying to build a life in those towns was struggling, from my old colleagues who had stuck around and wished they'd bought real estate to "lifties" fresh out of school.

"A lot of people here are living a fantasy I can't obtain," said Malachi Artice, a 20-something skier working multiple jobs in Jackson, Wyo.

At the most basic level, the math just didn't work. In most mountain towns, it's now nearly impossible to work a single full-time service job, the kind that resort towns depend on, and afford rent. The pressure shows up in nearly everything, including abysmal mental health outcomes like anxiety and depression.

Ski towns have some of the highest suicide rates in the country, and social services haven't expanded to meet demand. Racial gaps are also widening in an industry that often depends on undocumented immigrants to fill the poorly paid, but necessary, jobs it takes to keep a tourist town running.

On top of all that, abundant

■ See Writers on page 19

Lane

■ continued from previous page him through the whole service. Janet built relationships with her children. She meant so much to her family. Even today, when we meet her children in the store, they have tears on their heart.

What are we doing to develop relationships with our own family members? We are all getting older. I don't want them to see us as a burden where they feel like they have to spend time with us, and endure the hardship when they have to take care of us.

I don't want them to cope with me. I want them to enjoy me. Is that too much to ask? I want them to find wisdom in my words, an ear that will listen and understand what they're going through. Have I built that safe meeting place where they eagerly run to me and know they can be themselves?

My grandson called this week and said, "You and I read the book and talked about the 'Boys in the Boat.' My wife and I would like to take you to Durango to see the

movie."

Wow! They really want to be with me? I felt like Sally Fields at the Oscars with her unforgettable speech. Surprised, she cried out, "They like me. They really, really like me."

I jumped at the chance to be with my grandson. I know we'll discuss the movie in a deeper way. He and I have built a strong relationship over the years. We talk to each other from a deep place in our hearts.

Final brushstroke: I want to be enjoyable to my children so they don't see my Sweet Al and me as a burden. I want them to know more about us, listen to our stories, glean from our faith in God and find us fun to be with. A strong relationship with each of my family members is what I want to leave behind. I believe it will give them an anchor to hold firm and know who they are and where they come from.

Send your comment to betty-lade.author@gmail.com.

Views expressed do not necessarily represent those of The SUN.

The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

- 1 Cave critters
- 5 Greenland sight
- 10 SpaceX CEO
- 14 Style
- 15 Variety show
- 16 Pro's opposite
- 17 Take it from the top?
- 19 Will's "Spirited" co-star
- 20 Agree out of court
- 21 Prospering
- 23 Wales pooch
- 25 Must-haves
- 26 Tourist stop
- 29 UFO museum city
- 32 Not busy
- 33 Playful chitchat
- 34 "A little ___'ll do ya..."
- 37 Shine
- 39 Rope ladder rung
- 41 Big Apple paper: Abbr.
- 42 Tire type
- 44 Neat anagram
- 45 Chewing gum brand
- 47 Jamaican export
- 48 Kind of guitar
- 50 Perp zapper
- 52 1980 parody film
- 55 Start a round of golf
- 59 Vivacity
- 60 Quantitative
- 62 Camera part
- 63 Blew it
- 64 "Grease" extra
- 65 Advantage
- 66 Curious to a fault
- 67 Ogled

DOWN

- 1 Hospital count

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13	
14					15						16				
17					18						19				
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48	49						50		51						
52						53	54			55			56	57	58
59						60			61						
62						63						64			
65						66						67			

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- 2 Nautical direction
- 3 Mediator's skill
- 4 Grabs
- 5 Fast-food cooker
- 6 Boeing 747, e.g.
- 7 Round of applause
- 8 The Sultan of Swat
- 9 Does and bucks
- 10 Comics company
- 11 Relentless
- 12 Blackjack option
- 13 Sacramento team
- 18 Scheme
- 22 Still
- 24 Singer Ariana
- 26 Endorse
- 27 Without purpose
- 28 Sparkling
- 30 Layers of rock
- 31 Raised mark on skin
- 33 Abacus piece
- 35 Theater org.
- 36 "Cold one"
- 38 Songbird sound
- 40 Honored poet
- 43 Crying
- 46 Restful state
- 47 Crystal ball gazer
- 48 Expensive fur
- 49 Done in
- 51 Hit the books
- 53 Prayer ender
- 54 Claudius's successor
- 56 Mind
- 57 Head for the hills
- 58 Ward (off)
- 61 Go out with

Answers to Previous Crossword:

T	R	A	P		M	A	J	O	R		L	O	S	S
Y	O	D	A		E	D	E	M	A		A	N	T	E
R	A	M	S		D	I	A	G	N	O	S	T	I	C
O	M	I	S	S	I	O	N		C	A	V	O	R	T
				N	I	N	E	S		C	O	K	E	
A	S	I	M	O	V		S	H	R	U	G	O	F	F
U	P	S		B	A	S	T	E		M	A	R	I	O
D	A	T	E		L	A	R	C	H		S	I	L	L
I	D	E	A	S		L	A	K	E	S		G	E	L
T	E	R	R	I	B	L	Y		R	A	R	I	T	Y
				P	R	A	Y		S	O	L	O	N	
I	N	C	H	E	S		S	P	I	T	B	A	L	L
C	O	R	O	N	A	T	I	O	N		B	L	U	E
E	V	A	N		L	A	T	T	E		E	L	B	A
D	A	M	E		T	R	E	S	S		D	Y	E	D

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

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

WORDS

APPLE
 APPLICATION
 BACKUP
 COMPUTER
 DESKTOP
 EJECT
 FILES
 HARD DRIVE
 INPUT
 INTELLIGENCE
 KEYBOARD
 LAPTOP
 MEMORY
 MOTHERBOARD
 OFFICE
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 PERSONAL
 PREFERENCES
 REBOOT
 SLUGGISH
 SOFTWARE
 SPAM
 STARTUP
 TRASH

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How to prepare and serve charcuterie

By Melina Bricker and Robin Young
PREVIEW Columnists

Extension Viewpoints

A cutting board topped with jams, sliced cheese, nuts, raspberries, grapes and rolled meat slices — if you paused for a moment trying to determine the best pronunciation for “charcuterie,” you’re not alone.

It is pronounced “shaar-koo-tree.”

Outside of saying it correctly, you may also be wondering how to best select ingredients, arrange and present. Or, you might be wondering how long you should leave it out for guests (or yourself).

The good news is, unlike remembering how to say it, charcuterie is incredibly easy to do well. During the holidays especially, having attractive foods to meet every palate and walk-by muncher at the dinner table is important.

What is charcuterie?

Charcuterie is most commonly traced back to France in the 15th century. Translated, it roughly mean chair or char (meat) and quite (cooked).

Funnily enough, the modern use of charcuterie actually translates to “cold cuts.”

For the most part, the meat historically used was different cuts of cured pork, which meant pork that had been salted to remove bacteria-loving moisture. Some cured meats, like bacon, need to still be cooked for safe consumption, and meats like prosciutto that are cured well don’t need to be.

Charcuterie was a delicious way to use fermentation to slow or alter bacterial growth in meats and cheeses, elongating the protein life and use far beyond that of fresh cuts.

Presentation

Charcuterie is typically presented on a wooden base or board. Often, a simple wooden cutting board is a simple and elegant way to arrange your bite-size morsels.

There are a few tips and tricks to creating a visually appealing and healthy spread, whether it’s only for one or two or scaled up for many.

For the holidays, consider including culturally and/or diet-specific elements. For example, swapping out pork cuts for other cured meats, including seasonal varieties of fruit, or even making a fully vegetarian board are all doable.

How-to tips

• Preparations: Food safety when serving others includes many considerations, but hand-washing is the most important. Wash food-contact surfaces with soap and water before preparing,

Clean, sanitize and air dry the board prior to preparation. Gather all your foods and board or display trays prior to assembling the charcuterie board.

• Board: Choose your board. For one to two people, 6 inch-by-17-inch boards (or close to that) work well. For larger groups, consider increasing the board size commensurately. Remember that if you’re serving more than six to seven people, you may need to increase the variety of options on the board.

• Proportions: Typically, you can follow a 3-3-3-3 rule. That means three kinds of cheeses, three types of meat, three starches, and three accompaniments. This could look like cheddar, brie and asiago; prosciutto, hard salami and pancetta; mini toast crackers, pita and sliced baguette; and marmalade, olives and nuts.

• Cheese: When selecting cheeses, remember that texture plays a big role. Choose a combination of soft, hard and medium cheeses that can be cut differently. Brie and Gouda often come in rounds with rinds or wax, so cutting these into attractive triangular pieces creates a stunning look.

Cheese has a long history and enormous variety. You can learn a lot by looking at the Colorado State University (CSU) Food Source Info page that’s all about its consumption, creation and food safe practices.

• Meats: Roll your salami or larger, thinner meat cuts into attractive shapes. A short tutorial of creating fancy charcuterie meat displays can be helpful in really increasing the beauty of your display. They are simple and create a huge wow factor. Place them near your cheeses in a way that makes them easy to grab with hungry fingers.

• Arrangement: When arranging items on the board, start with height first. This means selecting a few small dishes, like ramekins or even dipping sauce bowls. You don’t have to get crazy fancy. Small dishes and interesting little containers create dimension and height on your board.

After you’ve placed your ramekins/small dishes and filled them with your choice of olives (or tapenade), marmalade or preserves, slice and arrange your cheeses around the board.

Group a single type of cheese in either cubes or triangular “pie” slices around the board. There will be gaps — that’s good. You’ll fill them in later.

• Accessories: Add charcuterie “accessories” to fill in the gaps and create visual appeal. These are your nuts (walnuts, almonds and pecans are wonderful choices), as well as dried fruits or even fresh ones — as long as the moisture content doesn’t bleed over into your softer cheeses.

Strawberries are delicious additions to the board, but when sliced are very moist. Try using smaller, whole strawberries, or switching to a less “wet” fruit like blueberries, grapes or apple slices (brushed with lemon juice).

• Healthy upgrades: For a healthier take on the charcuterie board, consider swapping out two starches for more varieties of nuts. You could reduce sugar by switching the marmalade for fresh fruit. This provides a burst of color on the board while still providing natural sweetness.

• Food Safety: While your cured meats remain good longer than fresh cuts, almost all food is in the danger zone if not kept below 40 degrees Fahrenheit. Wrap and refrigerate any unconsumed char-

■ See Viewpoints on next page



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Health insurance open enrollment: Sign up before Jan. 15

By Karen Evans
Archuleta County Public Health Department

There is still time to sign up for open enrollment for 2024 until Jan. 15.

The Archuleta County Public Health Department opened at 502 S. 8th St on Jan. 2. We are now available Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. to assist you with your health insurance needs on the Connect for Health Colorado exchange. If you sign up by Jan. 15,

you can have a start date as soon as Feb. 1.

Depending on income you may qualify for tax credits to help with your monthly premium. It is possible to have zero premium with low co-pays and deductibles, or more affordable coverage.

If you would like more information, you can make an appointment to come in person to talk about your health insurance needs or you can give us a call for information based on your individual

or household situation.

Please call (970) 264-2409 and ask for Karen Evans if you would like some help enrolling in health insurance for the new year.

If you need help with Medicaid renewal or CHP+ we are happy to help you with that as well.

Let's make this a healthy new year.

After Jan. 15, if you have life-changing circumstances (birth, divorce, loss of insurance), Evans can also help you enroll in health insurance throughout the year.

Writers

■ continued from page 16

snowfall, the basis of a ski resort's economy, is getting cooked by climate change.

And sure, you can argue skiing is superficial and unimportant, but ski towns — some of the most elite and economically unequal places in the country — are microcosms for the way our social fabric is splitting.

Ski towns face crucial, complicated questions: Can they build affordable housing and also preserve open space? What happens when health care workers or teachers won't take jobs because they can't find a way to live in the community

they serve? Will a town willingly curb growth when that's what supports the tax base?

There are no easy answers because the problems are entrenched in both that slow-moving nostalgia that stymies change, and in the downhill rush of capitalism, which gives power to whoever pays the most: The housing market always tilts toward high-end real estate instead of modestly priced homes for essential workers.

What we value shapes our lives, and so I think we must hold the ski industry to higher standards. If these rarefied places can find ways to support working as well as

leisure-based communities, they could serve as lessons for change elsewhere.

During my tour, I saw necessary workers in the ski industry facing hard economic choices, but I also saw positive, community-scale change. In Alta, Utah, for instance, the arts nonprofit Alta Community Enrichment added mental health support when its employees reported an urgent need.

If ski-resort towns are going to survive, the lives of their workers need to matter, and that means caring about them — from affordable housing to accessible mental health support.

Heather Hansman is a contributor to Writers on the Range, writer-sontherange.org, an independent nonprofit dedicated to spurring lively conversation about the West. She is the author of "Powder Days: Ski Bums, Ski Towns and the Future of Chasing Snow," and lives in Durango. Views expressed do not necessarily represent those of The SUN.

Viewpoints

■ continued from previous page

cuterie before the two-hour mark. To learn more about food safety, visit CSU Extension's nutrition, food safety and health website to read publications, recent updates to food safety practices and other nutritional information.

Charcuterie is a wonderful (and fancy) way to put a lot of excellent protein into events and holidays. Your ability to augment each board to your own dietary wants and needs provides ample opportunity to create nutritious and even unusual combinations to celebrate what we all know and love: being together for the holidays and sharing delicious food.

R5efrigerator needed for Extension office

The Extension office is looking for a commercial refrigerator to replace the one in the Exhibit Hall that finally went kaput after many years. If you have a working commercial refrigerator that you are looking to get rid of, please let us know. We will come remove it for you.

Save the dates

Jan. 23-March 12: Colorado Building Farmers and Ranchers Business Development Program. Go to <https://www.facebook.com/CSUARCHCTY> for more information and to sign up.

Feb. 20, 22: Livestock and Forage Growers Updates. More information will be coming soon.

Save the dates for Tuesday evenings in April.

Do you own property in Archuleta County? Would you like to know more about your land?

The CSU Extension office and the San Juan Conservation District are hosting an in-depth landowner series on stewardship practices on your land.

CPR and first aid classes

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

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

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PAGOSA AA: M-W-F 5:30P.M.; Sunday 10a.m, Tuesday and Thursday at noon, Saturday at 10a.m.. Zoom Sunday 10a.m., ID 858 319 763, password 754 234, 315 N. 2nd St., County Road 200 (.2 miles off 160). Information, call Kathi (970)946-1482, or Central Office (888)333-9649.

THERE IS A SOLUTION GROUP of Alcoholics Anonymous meets Tuesdays and Thursdays, 5:30-6:30p.m. at the Restoration Fellowship Church, 264 Village Drive. Questions? Contact Richard at (970)903-1456 or Diamond at (970)264-1073. More resources at www.aa.org, www.aa-westerncolorado.com, (970)245-9649, or (888)333-9649 (24 hours).

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 Opportunity for advancement and career growth within the company.

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O'Rourke Media Group is a fast-growing company that owns and operates hyper-local, community newspapers, websites, niche publications and a full-service digital agency. We are family-owned and mission-driven to save newspapers and local media companies by investing in the people, resources and technology needed to thrive for many years to come.
 O'Rourke Media Group now operates in eight states and 28 markets with 41 publications and hyper-local websites.

Send your email or letter of interest directly to
 CEO Jim O'Rourke at jorourke@orourkemediagroup.com

The Pagosa Springs SUN

an O'Rourke Media Group company

Dental insurance for full-time employees. Please apply in person at 2435 Eagle Drive in Pagosa Springs.

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Ponderosa Lumber

2435 Eagle Drive or call (970) 731-4111



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264-2100

Classifieds

264-2100

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HOMES FOR SALE

HOMES FOR SALE

HOMES FOR SALE

HOMES FOR SALE

HOMES FOR SALE

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HOMES FOR RENT

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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.

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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.

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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.

HOMES FOR RENT

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COMMERCIAL

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HOMES FOR SALE

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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

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LAND/ BUILDING SITES

1.2 ACRES CLOSE to Navajo Lake. Utilities available. \$75,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

LAND/ BUILDING SITES



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.

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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.

The ultimate compliment

By Daris Howard
Special to The SUN

My assignment in our church congregation had changed from teaching children music to scouting, and I had been a scout leader for about six months. My wife, Donna, was the new leader of the children's organization. One Sunday, she asked me to assist her.

"I want you to come help me with something I am trying to teach the children," she said.

When I asked her what my assignment would be, she was vague about it, telling me she would let me know when the time came. I was always happy to help with the children, so I readily agreed, even though I didn't know what I would be doing.

When I walked into the primary, the children got excited. They thought I was there to teach music. I had substituted for their current music teacher whenever she needed a replacement, but Donna quickly told the children that I was there for a different purpose. That made the children curious, but no more curious than I was.

When it came time for Donna to do her learning activity, she asked for a volunteer and chose Katie, one of the oldest girls. She then had someone take Katie out into the hall and blindfold her.

While Katie was in the hall, of the other 45 people left in the room, Donna chose three — two children and an adult — to play the part of

good people. She then told the other 42 that they were to play the part of evil people. She marked a place in the room and said that was heaven, and those chosen to play good people were to help lead Katie there. Those chosen to play evil people were to lead her anywhere else. But no one could touch her.

Katie was brought in and, soon, the overwhelming noise from those chosen for the evil part had her bumping into walls and tripping over things. I felt bad for her, but still didn't know my assignment. Finally, when Katie was about as far away from the designated heaven spot as possible, my wife said I could stand in that spot and direct Katie there, but only in a whisper.

I thought, "This is impossible. There is no way she will hear me through all the noise from the opposite end of the room."

But I had an advantage I had forgotten about. When the children would have a lesson like this where they were all excited, and then time was turned to me to teach music, sometimes it was impossible to get them to calm down for singing practice. A suggestion people gave me was to do a "wiggle song," which was an active one like "Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes." They said it would take out the wiggles. But that never worked for me. They just grew wigglier.

But one day, as the leaders did their learning activity, I thought of a story that would blend with it. As I tried to get the children calmed

down to sing, I said, "Let me tell you a story." Most of the children hurried to their seats. I continued to use this technique, but I found if I whispered, every child rushed to their seats and sat quietly so they could hear the story.

So, I no sooner had whispered, "Katie, listen to me," then Katie spun around to face me. All the other children also rushed to their seats, ready for a story. It took a second for Donna to get them back to their exuberance in trying to influence Katie's direction, but it was to no avail. In all that noise, once Katie locked onto my voice, she followed my directions no matter how softly I spoke or how loudly everyone else did.

After Katie was safely at the heaven spot and the blindfold was removed, Donna asked her, "Why did you pick Daris' voice out from all the others, especially when he was so quiet?" Before Katie could answer, another girl did. "Because we trust him, duh," the girl said.

Donna then taught the children that God tries to reach out to us, but his voice is like a whisper compared to the noise and influence of the world around us.

"We need to learn to hear his promptings and trust Him," she said.

As I left that day, I felt I had also learned something else. It is a wonderful thing to know that children trust you.

Views expressed do not necessarily represent those of The SUN.

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Huge Navajo Lake and La Plata Mountain views from this 3 bedroom, 2 bath on 1 acre lot. Includes 40x30 shop, convenient to Navajo Lake.
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6 Laurel Drive
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