



PAGOSA SPRINGS, ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO 81147

www.PagosaSUN.com VOLUME 116 — NO. 17, THURSDAY, JANUARY 25, 2024

County certifies mill levies and revenues

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

The Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) approved a resolution certifying mill levies and revenues for 2024 at its Jan. 16 meeting.

The resolution was presented by Archuleta County Finance Director Chad Eaton, who explained that the certification includes one county, one town, three school districts and 18 special districts.

He stated that the local governments had until Jan. 10 to submit a certification of their tax levies to the BoCC and that 22 of 23 entities did so by the due date.

According to the documentation for the item, the assessed valuation for all districts combined was \$5,434,684,510 and local governments are projected to receive \$51,404,297 in total tax revenues from mill levies in the 2024 budget year.

For school districts, Archuleta District 50 Jt. is valued at \$564,498,330 and will receive \$564,498,330 in property tax revenues at a rate of 27.085 mills. Ignacio School District 11 Jt. is valued at \$351,976,130 and will receive \$6,125,793 in property tax revenues at a rate of 17.404 mills. Bayfield School District 10 Jt. is valued at \$267,440,460 and will receive \$8,444,967 in property tax revenues at a rate of 31.577 mills.

■ See County A8



Rendering courtesy Reynolds Ash + Associates

The approved final design plans for Eagle Mountain development show significant changes to the building's front facade since it was first proposed. The project's final major design review was approved by the Pagosa Springs Planning Commission on Tuesday, Jan. 23.

Final design approved for Eagle Mountain development

By Derek Kutzer
Staff Writer

On Jan. 23, the Pagosa Springs Planning Commission, which also sits as the Design Review Board, approved the final design review application for a three-story building at 232 Pagosa St. known as the Eagle Mountain mixed-use development.

The design would place the building between the Pagosa Baking Company and

Alley House Grille and "includes 3 stories of residential, office and restaurant space over a single level underground parking garage," the application states.

The space would also include "7 condominiums, 3,000 SF of commercial space, 2,100 SF of restaurant, 10,020 SF of underground garage, and more than 4,000 SF of landscaped patios and outdoor dining and gathering spaces," the application states.

The final design shows significant

changes since the board originally approved the project's sketch plan last year, with new design features that reflect some of the conditions set by the board, particularly on the main street frontage of the building.

Major changes in the final design include changes to the design of the facade facing the main street frontage, a reduced number of residential units (reduced from eight to seven) and changes to the

overall massing of and setbacks around the building.

The application states that additional refinements include adjustments to the color and material palette of the building, landscaping changes, reduced number of parking spots and a paved alleyway on the backside of the building "all the way to 2nd street."

Even with these significant changes, ■ See Development A8

Citizens for Fair Fuel Prices holds meeting on gas prices

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

The Citizens for Fair Fuel Prices group held a public meeting on Jan. 18 at the Ruby M. Sisson Memorial Library, with the meeting including an update from Archuleta County Commissioner Warren Brown and discussion of the group's next steps.

The meeting was intended to center on a discussion with local gas station owners and operators, but no operators expressed their intentions to appear nor appeared at the meeting.

The meeting opened with Brown's update.

He explained that he submitted a letter on Jan. 17 to Colorado Attorney General Phil Weiser outlining his concerns about potential price fixing and antitrust violations by area gas stations.

The letter opens with Brown noting that area residents have frequently paid higher fuel prices than those in surrounding communities and that he is concerned that these

■ See Prices A8

On to state!



Photo courtesy Torry Hessman

The Pagosa Springs High School SkillsUSA team poses for a photo. The team's competitors fared well during regional competition Friday in Durango, with several earning their way to the state competition in April. Halle Munnyon took first in Welding Sculpture. Logan Beach, Ethan Chavez-Skok, Tristan Frame and Sofia Talamante took first in Teamworks. Brodie Norton took second in Carpentry.

Town council considers property purchase

By Derek Kutzer
Staff Writer

At a Jan. 9 special meeting, the Pagosa Springs Town Council considered purchasing a property located at 229 U.S. 84 #A, adjacent to Tractor Supply and bordering town-owned park land on Reservoir Hill.

Agenda documentation on the matter states that the property is known as the Robert Goodman property and is approximately 11.85 acres in size.

The town had previously sought an extension to consider "the offer that the property owner had provided to the town council," said Community Development Director James Dickhoff.

The town has "until the end of the month" to decide, he added.

He explained that the extension was to allow the council some time to think about if the town is seriously "interested in the property or not," and that if the town is indeed interested, then town staff could work on drafting a contract with the seller.

The contract would need to come

back before the council in ordinance form for two readings and would need to be approved by the council at both readings to "formalize the contract," Dickhoff explained, adding that there was "some sensitive information on this property that could dictate an executive session," but it was totally up to the council if it wanted to enter into an executive session or not.

Mayor Shari Pierce wanted to take the temperature of the council to see if the majority wanted to talk about the property in public or enter into an executive session to discuss it.

Council member Mat deGraaf wanted clarification on if there were any changes "to the terms of what was initially presented."

Dickhoff said, "There was some new information to share, but it's ... nothing that would increase the price" of the land.

"I feel like if we are gonna talk numbers and acquisition prices, that that's sensitive enough that we should go into executive session over that," deGraaf replied.

■ See Purchase A8

Commissioners award janitorial contract following more debate

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

Debates about bids for janitorial services continued at the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) work session on Jan. 9, where the board heard and discussed updated bids.

The BoCC then selected a bidder at its Jan. 16 meeting.

The Jan. 9 discussion followed a discussion at the Dec. 5, 2023, BoCC work session where the board debated the proper approach for janitorial services and decided to request updated bids for cleaning services.

Buildings and Grounds Maintenance

Technician Daniel Matyniak explained that the county received two bids on the updated request for proposals, including one from the county's current janitorial services contractor, Val's VIP Cleaning, for \$234,000 and one from Tempo Inc. for \$154,050.

He explained that Val's VIP Clean-

ing has been a local cleaning business for five plus years and has served the county since October 2019, while Tempo is a local business that has existed for more than 20 years and provides cleaning services for southern Colorado and New Mexico.

He stated that the cleaning con-

■ See Contract A7

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Opinion

The Pagosa Springs
SUN

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

(970) 264-2100 • PagosaSUN.com
Physical address: 457 Lewis Street
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1/20	46	17	NA	NA
1/21	39	27	NA	NA
1/22	40	28	NA	NA
1/23	42	20	NA	NA

Pagosa Springs
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OUR VIEW

'You just strengthened our resolve'

We were shocked to see the lead headline for the Ouray County Plaindealer last week: "Girl: Rapes occurred at chief's house." The article concerns allegations that a trio of teenagers sexually assaulted a 17-year-old girl multiple times during a late-night party while the chief of police and other family members were asleep elsewhere in the house.

We were further shocked when we later heard that someone had gone overnight, shortly after the papers were put out, to all the Plaindealer's newspaper racks in Ouray and all but one in Ridgeway and stolen the papers, leaving the 12 racks empty.

The Plaindealer's staff reported the thefts to law enforcement and put out a notice asking for anyone with information to call the local nonemergent dispatch number.

"It's pretty clear that someone didn't want the community to read the news this week," a newsletter from the Plaindealer reads, adding, "I'll leave it up to you to draw your own conclusions on which story they didn't want you to read."

"Whoever did this took the time to steal hundreds of newspapers around the county, to prevent you from reading the news."

But that isn't where it ended, as perhaps the person responsible for the thefts had hoped it would.

Several suggested the Plaindealer work to collect donations to have the issue reprinted.

And the Plaindealer did reprint, and more.

The newspaper worked with the Montrose Daily Press to run more copies of the issue, and placed the front-page article on its website, www.ouraynews.com, for free.

"Whoever did this does not under-

stand that strengthening newspapers doesn't stop a story," the newsletter states, vowing that the Plaindealer will not stop doing its job to shine light on the community's important issues. "This person is not going to shut down the freedom of the press by stealing a few hundred newspapers. Our community won't stand for it and we won't, either."

"If you meant to intimidate us, you just strengthened our resolve."

The thefts also made TV and print news across the state and country. On Jan. 20, the Plaindealer reported that a Ridgeway man, Paul Choate, was cited on suspicion of petty theft in connection with the theft after Choate returned the papers to the Plaindealer and apologized.

The Plaindealer did not disclose Choate's relationship to the sexual assault case, but notes, "The theft was not connected in any way to the three defendants in the case, their families or the Ouray Police Department."

The Plaindealer also later responded to comments regarding its coverage of the alleged sexual assaults after the story's reporting was met with mixed reviews.

"We want to be transparent with you about how and why we reported this story, even if you disagree with our decision to do so," a separate newsletter explains, adding, "We reported this story because it's important for the community to understand the severity of the allegations of this crime."

The newsletter further suggests the case is a matter of public interest.

"This case is a matter of public interest for several reasons — it involves a young woman who says she was raped by more than one suspect in the police chief's house while he was sleeping upstairs.

"It involves alleged underage drinking and drug use, in the police chief's house. The victim in this case was reluctant to move forward with the investigation and charges because she told investigators she was afraid no one would believe her, citing the people involved, and the potential repercussions.

"We included details showing she told investigators this wasn't the first time she was sexually assaulted by two of the suspects, which is important to know. We obtained these details from public documents filed with the court.

"In reporting thoroughly on this story, we needed to convey how serious the allegations were in this case — and the brutality of what was recounted for the investigators."

The newspaper staff also explains that others in the community need to be aware, including other potential future victims of sexual assault.

It further notes that, prior to publishing the stories on the case, newspaper staff communicated with the victim through another individual to make her aware of the article, but did not hear back.

Throughout the ordeal, we wondered what we would do if we were in their shoes and discussed the matter with colleagues.

Coverage of alleged crimes in smaller communities is difficult, and we don't envy the position of the Plaindealer staff in determining if and how to present the information in a straight-forward, accurate and sensitive manner without sensationalizing it.

We at The SUN strive to do the same with our crime and public safety articles — be diligent in presenting information we believe is worthwhile to the community in a sensitive, but straight-forward manner.

Randi Pierce

LEGACIES

By Shari Pierce

100 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
January 25, 1924

Pagosa Springs is without a school building as a result of a disastrous fire Wednesday night, when the combined grade and high school building of District No. 1, situated on the high round hill near the center of the town, was completely destroyed by fire of an unknown origin. In addition, all equipment and contents went up in smoke and nothing remains except the four brick walls of the structure.

The cause of the fire is a matter of conjecture, the most plausible theory being that of spontaneous combustion from coal dust in the basement, though defective wiring might be the explanation.

The hose carts were rushed to the top of the hill in short order by the volunteers who played in extremely bad luck. Connection was made with the fire plug at the base of the hill on the north side and all was set to throw upon the fire when it was discovered that the plug was frozen. When the water did start the plug broke and had to be abandoned. Another string of hose was extended to the plug near the Jas. Carlin barn on the east side, but it likewise was frozen when all was ready for the water. A third and longer string of hose was run to the plug near the livery barn on the southwest side of the hill, and water was at last obtained.

75 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
January 28, 1949

In the past several days many residents of the below named districts as well as residents of District One have been discussing the proposed consolidation of these districts. Late last week it was decided by people from all the districts to get up a petition asking for an election in this matter. The advantages to all of the districts and particularly to District One are many.

A Proposal for Consolidation of Four School Districts, No's 4,14,9, and 16 With District No. 1 is Being Considered.

The consolidation of these districts would form one large Special School District, bringing the students to Pagosa Springs for their schooling. Previous to this proposal of consideration, plans have gone forward for the construction of a new gym in District one, Pagosa Springs this spring. The present gym would be altered and used for additional class rooms which would take care of the students from these proposed districts.

It is felt that this proposal is of vital importance to the people of Archuleta County, and worthy of careful consideration. The Pagosa Springs Schools would be appreciably increased in size; which would result in better educational opportunity for all concerned.

50 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
January 24, 1974

The Upper San Juan Regional Planning Commission met Monday of this week for its regular monthly meeting. At that time a preliminary plat was approved for a subdivision called Holiday Acres. It is located just west of U.S. 84 between town and Echo Lake and is comprised of 200 acres.

Mr. and Mrs. C.W. Bogert are the developers of the subdivision which is primarily a residential area. Most home sites are in the three acre size range and the project will have a central water and sewage system.

In other actions the commission refused to grant a variance which was requested for a home site sale in the Blanco Basin and decided not to renew the contract of Regional Planner Rod Hebbert.

25 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
January 28, 1999

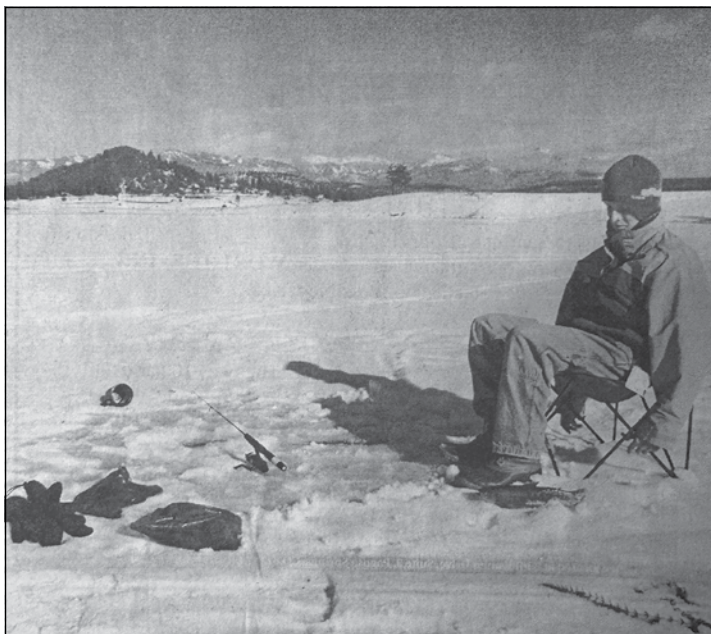
A routine tree cutting assignment designed to increase traffic safety has drawn the ire of several residents living along Piedra Road.

The cutting was carried out by county road and bridge crews along two stretches of the road where, according to Kevin Walters, county road and bridge administrator, a build up of ice following snow storms creates dangerous traffic conditions and has led to a number of accidents. Road and bridge officials hope removing the trees will let sunlight through to melt the ice.

On this occasion, county workers exceeded the limit by cutting trees on a greenbelt outside the 80-foot county right of way. As a result, Waynette Nell, Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Association general manager, appeared at the regular commissioner meeting.

Nell asked the county, in the future, to consider thinning trees instead of clear cutting, or to look for other solutions. She also asked that bushes cut from between Piedra Road and a cul-de-sac be replaced.

LOOKING BACK



From the Jan. 2, 2003, Pagosa SUN— He already has one good-sized fish on ice near his feet, but 17-year-old Brandon DeBates is confident another plump Echo Lake rainbow trout is bound to take the bait. DeBates, of Sisters, Ore., shared the ice with a few other anglers who ventured out Monday afternoon hoping to catch a trophy, or at least a few rays of early winter sunshine.

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Bally
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Letters

Letters to the Editor are printed as received and are not edited for grammar or punctuation, but may have been edited for content or style.

Letters to the Editor are opinions and information in them has not been verified for accuracy.

The opinions of letter writers do not necessarily represent those of the paper.

Iowa caucus

Dear Editor:
14 years ago, SCOTUS made the decision ('United') that money was free speech. You can almost see the decline of 'working class' Americans belief in democracy from that decision. It eroded the foundation of meritocracy as our personal guideline for achievement; gave rise to the GOP's power first mentality and the shift of the 'working class' to the Republican party.

But it's extremely important to note what they decided to give up. Tough to say but it's time we stopped making excuses for or calling Trump supporters confused good folk. They are supporting a criminal, civil fraud, thief, defamer, corrupt now demented total pile of crap who mistakes their GOP presidential candidate Nicki Haley for Nancy Pelosi! Why be nice to such apparent blind worshiping categorical fools who want Trump to be our President?

Listening and watching the Iowa caucus, I was blown away by their total subservience to a completely transparent, filthy mouthed, babbling strutting idiot. These folks must absolutely have missed the wisdom of fool me once shame on you...fool me twice shame on me!

Shame on those so willing to capitulate to an ego that will highly likely if elected trash our institutions, laws, nation and destroy the Western world at an extremely perilous time...no doubt they'll likely say thanks.

Dave Blake

PAWSD rates

Dear Editor:
This letter is to inform the general public, current users, owner builders, and builders that are in the district of Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation Departments of their intentions of raising the rates for existing customers and for

potential new customers, owner and builders of new construction connection fees and rates. I found out last week by word of mouth on the streets (although the Sun has been following it but had not reported the actual costs) that PAWSD intends on raising the rates of these categories. I was interested because being a builder these affect the cost of new construction connection fees increasing the amount to \$18,103.65 from last year fees of \$6,531.35 for water and sewer capital investment connection fees. Of which we have signed contracts last fall with owners quoting the old fees with a little increase knowing that each year the board seems to increase these connection fees. Owners-Builders were not allowed to pay last years old fees before this action would take place. I am representing my homeowners under contract for what was quoted to them at contract is now \$18,103.65 more from last year rates of which I quoted. Many of our clients are locked in with the cost for their construction loans. I am also an existing customer where the rate increases will affect our monthly water and sewer fees. These rate increases are scheduled to be voted on by the board at the February 15th at 5:00 pm location PAWSD office 100 Lynn Avenue. The general public is invited to attend and there will be public input allowed on the agenda. My concern is that hardly anyone one is aware of these new rates in particular builders and owner-builders of new homes. Most concerning is how this will affect our "workforce" housing costs in the future. You can find the posted new rates on the PAWSD web site under financial information.

What can be done at this meeting? I have been told that this is all because the State of Colorado regulations is requiring PAWSD to upgrade their existing plant and also build a new one. I also understand the state is not being sympathetic to their issues and are not giving any concessions. So.....? Maybe they could keep the water rates and connections fee the same and just increase the waste side of fees? I understand we are growing but surely PAWSD saw this coming sometime back.

Debra Brown

Editor's note: The SUN has covered PAWSD's rate study and proposed new rates, including specific amounts that were presented to the

board during the recent rate study, including in the Dec. 28, 2023, issue of The SUN.

Cultivated-meat research

Dear Editor:
Given the environmental, public health, and animal-welfare concerns associated with factory farms, our legislators should include more federal funding for cultivated-meat research in the upcoming farm bill. For those who don't know, cultivated-meat is grown from livestock cells, without slaughter.

The new protein is currently too expensive to mass produce. Further development of the nascent field of cellular agriculture will help bypass this hurdle and others. Any politician interested in reducing our greenhouse-gas emissions, pandemic risk and the suffering we inflict on animals should support the effort.

Jon Hochschartner
Granby, Conn.

Millions of migrants

Dear Editor:

Unless you are Native American, you either are or are descended from migrants. There are 9.7 million Native Americans. The population of the United States is 336 million, leaving 326 million Americans as migrants or descendants. My father migrated from Italy as a child. My mother was born in Chicago, but only two years after my grandparents arrived from Germany. Why did they choose to leave their home and make the arduous journey to America? They were fleeing religious, political, or economic oppression; war; violence; or disease, seeking a better life for themselves and their progeny. Today's migrants seek nothing more than did our own ancestors.

America is great because of our unique fusion of cultures from every corner of the world, the proverbial "melting pot."

This brings us to the migrant-hating Donald Trump. Ironically, all four of Trump's grandparents and his own mother were born overseas. His father's parents migrated from Germany, fleeing military service (sound familiar?).

For years Trump claimed that those grandparents came from "Scandinavia." Apparently, ancestors from Germany weren't worthy of pride.

Ignoring his own history, on December 16, Trump declared that migrants are "poisoning the blood of our country. ... They're coming into our country, from Africa, from Asia, all over the world." Note that he doesn't mind white migrants, only migrants of color from "s***hole countries," as he once termed them. Adolph Hitler said, "All great cultures of the past perished only because the originally creative race died out from blood poisoning." Hitler also argued that Germanic people were successful because they kept "racial stock pure and did not mix it with any other racial stock." The dominance of Germanic people would continue, Hitler argued, "as long as that element does not fall a victim to the habit of adulterating its blood."

Trump responded that he knows nothing about Hitler. He says that his use of the phrase "blood poisoning" is "very different" from Hitler's because Trump is talking about "people coming into our country [and]... destroying our country." This is, of course, exactly how Hitler used the phrase. Trump's rhetoric is not just idle conversation. Rather, Trump is dehumanizing migrants to get Americans to accept the idea that they should be persecuted. This same tactic has been used to discriminate against every new group of migrants ("Irish need not apply").

Recently, Trump claimed that Nikki Haley is ineligible to be President because her migrant parents weren't citizens, a lie. He mocks her 'foreign' sounding name. In 2016, he did the same with Ted Cruz and "little" Marco Rubio, both first generation citizens. He even derided his own Transportation Secretary, Elaine Chao, who is Chinese.

Although not religious, I do recall that Jesus exhorted us to welcome foreigners. So, I ask Trump's disciples, is this ungodly tyrant really the person you want to lead our wonderful (and welcoming) Nation? How do you rationalize your religious beliefs with his repulsive viewpoints?

How can you forget your own ancestors and their struggles?
John Porco

School resource officer to teach L.E.A.D. program to sixth-graders

By Ariel Kaplan
Archuleta County Sheriff's Office

On Jan. 22, the L.E.A.D. (Law Enforcement Against Drugs and Violence) program began for 70 students in the sixth grade at Pagosa Springs Middle School.

L.E.A.D. is a nationwide nonprofit that works with communities to help students understand the dangers of drugs and violence.

School Resource Officer (SRO) Dylaina Gauvey of the Archuleta County Sheriff's Office was trained by L.E.A.D. to teach the program's proven effective curriculum. Now, during the school day, she'll educate the sixth graders in Archuleta County about the risks of drugs and violence as well as how to set attainable goals, manage their emotions and make wise decisions.

"We know that SRO Gauvey of Archuleta County Sheriff's Office will do an excellent job helping us to continue accomplishing our goal of advancing police-community relationships. We're thrilled to welcome her into our family," said Nick DeMauro, CEO of L.E.A.D. "It's great knowing that by teaching the evidence-based curriculum implemented by our organization, SRO Gauvey has the opportunity to completely change young students' lives. We look forward to seeing the positive changes that will develop among the sixth-grade students throughout our program."

L.E.A.D. provides services "On The Street" and "In The Classroom" as it brings law enforcement and communities closer together.

The "In The Classroom" program is taught by 4,200 trained instructors in 44 states. L.E.A.D. has a proven effective, law enforcement-focused anti-drug, anti-violence curriculum for K-12 students in the U.S. The L.E.A.D. curriculum is taught over the course of a 10-week program to educate youth on how they can make smart decisions without the involvement of drugs or violence.

Gauvey looks forward to increasing the amount of daily interaction that she has with the students by having the opportunity to connect with them in a close setting and serve as their teacher.

"I'm excited to have more time to bond with the children and get to know them on a more personal level," she said. "By getting to be the kids' educator for 10 weeks as I teach them a subject matter powerful enough to prevent them from going down a

See L.E.A.D. A5

Letters

The SUN welcomes letters from readers.

Please submit to:
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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.

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Medina, Maez elected BoCC chair, vice chair

Commissioners make committee appointments

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

At its Jan. 16 meeting, the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) appointed members to various boards and committees, and voted in a new chair and vice chair.

The meeting opened with the BoCC voting in a chair and vice chair.

Commissioner Veronica Medina made a motion to nominate Commissioner Ronnie Maez, who was currently serving as the chair, as chair again.

Maez declined the nomination,

stating that he "enjoyed" being chair, "but it's time for somebody else to take this seat" due to this being the last year of his term.

Commissioner Warren Brown moved to nominate himself as chair, noting that he has served on the BoCC for four years and previously served as vice chair.

He added that he has performed "any function that's been asked of me" on the board and that he felt the appointment would be "appropriate and timely."

The motion failed for a lack of a second.

Medina then nominated herself, noting that she served as vice chair in 2023.

Maez seconded the motion and the appointment was approved, with Maez and Medina voting in support and Brown voting against.

Maez then nominated Brown to be vice chair, who declined the

nomination.

Medina then nominated Maez, who commented, "I really wish it would be you, Warren."

"Well, I appreciate that, Mr. chair," Brown responded.

"Nonetheless," Maez said.

"I think that's pointless, but I appreciate it, I truly do," Brown replied.

The board then initially approved Maez's appointment unanimously.

However, following Maez asking County Attorney Todd Weaver if he could change his vote and Weaver stating he could, Maez changed his vote to oppose his appointment, making it a 2-1 vote.

Later in the meeting, the board approved several motions appointing commissioners, county staff and representatives to various boards, committees and organizations the county participates in.

With some limited changes, the board and committee appointments were similar to those for 2023.

Medina was appointed to serve as the county representative for Archuleta Seniors Inc., the Combined Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, the San Juan Headwaters Forest Health Partnership and the Southwest Council of Governments.

She was also appointed as an alternate for the Region 9 Economic Development District of Southwest Colorado, Club 20 and the Southwest Transportation Planning Region.

Maez was appointed as the county representative for the Archuleta County Housing Authority, the Community Marijuana Offset Impact Fund, the Growing Water Smart group, the Pagosa ■ See BoCC A5

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Obituaries

James Daniel Avery

James Daniel Avery, from Tuscaloosa, Ala., went home to his Savior on Jan. 13, 2024. He was born in Memphis, Tenn., and grew up in Tuscaloosa, where he was a 1986 graduate of West End Christian School. He served in the United States Marine Corps. While in Tuscaloosa, he was a member of Salem Baptist Church in Berry, Ala. He had been living in Pagosa Springs, Colo., for the past decade and attending Pagosa Springs Baptist Church. People who met Danny knew he was a good and loyal man who loved the Lord.



He was preceded in death by his father, Christopher Lester Avery IV, and his mother, Peggy McCoy Avery. He is survived by his siblings, Lynn LaFoy (Mike), Chris Avery (Gin) and Mary Avery Strong (Earl), as well as his nephews, Chris Avery and Caleb Toshihoff, and his niece, Camille Avery.

He was known as Danny to his family, but also Daniel and Danno to his friends. He was a loyal son, brother and friend who took care of his ailing father for many years before his father's death and was an important male figure for his nephew Caleb. He loved his mom's southern cooking and talked about missing it frequently. He loved following the University of Alabama Crimson Tide. He grew to love the beauty of Pagosa Springs, and his community of friends there but also talked of returning home to Alabama. He will be taken to Alabama for his final resting place.

A memorial service will be held on Friday, Jan. 26, at 4 p.m., at Pagosa Baptist Church, 10533 W. U.S. 160.

Walter Lynn Embry

Walter Lynn Embry, a cherished husband, father, grandfather and friend, passed away peacefully on Jan. 17, 2024, at the age of 71, in Alamosa, Colo.



Born on June 25, 1952, in Bakersfield, Calif., Lynn lived a life marked by education, love and faith, leaving behind a legacy that will be fondly remembered by all who had the

pleasure of knowing him.

Lynn's journey began in the warm, tight-knit community of Arvin, Calif., where he grew up and attended Arvin High School. Lynn's academic pursuits continued at Bakersfield College, and he went on to earn his bachelor's degree from Fresno State University, majoring in animal husbandry.

For 45 years, Lynn honed his craft as a welder at G & W Manufacturing in Arvin, working alongside his father, Walter Embry. With skilled hands and a meticulous eye, he contributed to projects ranging from heavy agricultural equipment to intricate hand-held objects. His reputation for excellence extended to collaborations with other manufacturing giants like Grimmway Farms and BoltHouse Manufacturing, where his expertise was highly valued.

Lynn accepted Jesus as his Lord and Savior as a young boy. As he matured, his passion for studying and teaching the Bible started when he was 27 and continued through the rest of his life. After retiring in June 2019 and moving to Pagosa Springs, Colo., he devoted more time to this calling, touching many lives with his wisdom and compassion, bringing that passion to the "fishing dock ministry," where he easily chatted with other fishermen about the Lord. Lynn's love for children was evident in every interaction, and his impact on the community will be felt for generations to come.

An avid fisherman and golfer, Lynn found joy in the simple pleasures of life. He was an exceptional woodcarver, with his shop serving as a sanctuary where he could bring his visions to life. His creativity and craftsmanship were evident in everything he touched, including the two houses he built and the continuous improvements he made to his own home.

Lynn's loving nature was a beacon of light for his family, who will miss him dearly. He is survived by his wife, Kathy Embry; his children: Trevor (Cara) Embry, of Anaheim, Calif.; Brea (Paul) Lambert, of Apison, Tenn.; sister Karen Jan Embry

Duncan, niece Stephanie Duncan and great niece Marley, of Bakersfield, Calif.; and stepson Jeffrey (Hanadi) Cackler, of San Diego, Calif. His legacy continues through his seven grandchildren and five step-grandchildren, and one great granddaughter, who will carry forward his teachings and love. Lynn was preceded in death by his parents, Walter Embry and Mildred Angle; stepdaughter Barbara Holm; and brother-in-law Michael Duncan, of Bakersfield, Calif.

Per Lynn and his family's wishes, cremation rites have been accorded, and a celebration of life will be held at a later date. Memorial contributions may be directed to Send Relief, 4200 North Point Parkway, Alpharetta, GA 30022.

Rogers Family Mortuary is in the care of arrangements. To leave online words of comfort, remembrances and condolences for Lynn's family, please visit www.RogersFunerals.com.

David Jeremy Smith

David Smith passed away unexpectedly on Jan. 13, 2024, in the home that he shared with his family.

David was a devoted husband and father who worked hard to provide for his family. He met his wife, Desire, at a young age while living in Pagosa Springs, Colo., and has spent the last 20 years as her partner in crime. Together they have worked hard to build a great life that included their two children: Zoe (17) and Eli (16) along with their rescue cat, Clark. They decided over a decade ago to leave Pagosa and sell the house that they had built together so that they could continue to pursue their dreams in the Denver area. One dream of David's that was able to come to fruition was to share the passion of riding motorcycles with



In Memoriam

David Bell

In remembrance of David Bell, who passed in January 2023.

David served our country with the Navy during the Korean War.

Dad, You were the guiding light in my life and today I am reminded how lucky I was to have you for as long as I did.

Love,
Christine



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Business

Chamber Community Awards set for Feb. 9

By Mary Jo Coulehan
Pagosa Springs Area Chamber of Commerce

The Pagosa Springs Area Chamber of Commerce's annual celebration will be held on Friday, Feb. 9, at the Tennyson Building Event Center from 5 to 7 p.m.

As in the past few years, the first part of the event will be dedicated to a Community Conversation where noteworthy projects and plans from the community will be discussed. This year, we will celebrate "The New."

The speakers will be David Harris, new town administrator for the Town of Pagosa Springs, and Ashley Wilson, director of the Archuleta County Public Health Department.

In being in and around the com-

munity, it is disheartening listening to the comments that nothing is being done in town. Now is your time to hear what is actually happening in the Town of Pagosa Springs in regards to housing, important projects the town is committed to in 2024 and other issues. In addition, it is your time to meet the new administrator, ask questions or find out information on topics that may not have been discussed.

Wilson is molding a new department that is Archuleta County specific while keeping some aspects of the former health agency and developing new programs. This department is critical for employees of many of our businesses and for our businesses in general with inspections and licensing.

Do you know the new rules and

regulations or timelines? Do you know how to refer your employees to programs the Archuleta County Public Health Department offers? Do you know what its new services are?

The Chamber and the Archuleta County Public Health Department would like to make our businesses healthier in many ways. It's not just about health care coverage. We would love to hear your voice on what some of those "healthy" ideas might be. Therefore, we need our business community to be a part of this conversation.

The second part of the event will be celebrating those individuals and organizations that are critical to the workings of our community through our nonprofit agencies, small businesses and people. We will be awarding the 2023 Citizen,

Volunteer, Small Business and Non-Profit of the Year. As every year, we have some great nominees and we would like our community to come out and honor not only the winners, but all the nominees as well.

Tickets for the event are available online at www.pagosachamber.com. The cost to attend is only \$25 and includes delicious food and both parts of the celebration.

Gather friends or your business and reserve a whole table of eight. Give us a call at the Chamber to reserve your table. Be a part of the community conversation and celebration. We look forward to a festive evening. The Tennyson Center will be decorated for its Mardi Gras celebration, so come decked out in Mardi Gras attire and ready for some fun.

County unemployment rate falls, state rate rises

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

According to a Jan. 19 press release from the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment, Archuleta County's unemployment rate fell from 3.1 percent in November 2023 to 3 percent in December.

County unemployment previously rose from 2.9 percent in October 2023 to 3.1 percent in November 2023.

From November 2023 to December 2023, Archuleta County's labor force grew from 7,067 to 7,081.

For the month of December 2023 there were 6,872 individuals employed in Archuleta County, according to the press release. This figure is up from November 2023's report of 6,849 individuals employed in Archuleta County.

County-level unemployment rates are not seasonally adjusted.

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

ployment rate for December 2023 is Huerfano County with 5.6 percent unemployment, followed by Las Animas County at 5.1 percent and Fremont County at 5 percent.

Rio Grande County is next at 4.7 percent, with Pueblo County and Costilla County following at 4.5 percent.

The state's unemployment rate rose from 3.3 percent in November 2023 to 3.4 percent in December 2023.

The state's labor force fell by 400 from 3,249,700 in November 2023 to 3,249,300 in December 2023.

The press release notes, "Colorado's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased one-tenth of a percentage point from November to December to 3.4 percent. The number of unemployed individuals grew by 1,700 over the same time period to 109,600. The national unemployment rate was unchanged in December at 3.7 percent."

Employers in Colorado added 300 nonfarm payroll jobs from November 2023 to December 2023, bringing the total number of jobs in Colorado to 2,914,000.

Nonfarm payroll jobs measure the number of workers excluding farmers.

The private sector lost 1,700 nonfarm payroll jobs and the government sector gained 2,000 jobs.

No private-industry sector had significant job gains in December 2023.

The professional and business services private-industry sector lost 1,400 jobs in December 2023 while the manufacturing sector lost 1,300 jobs.

"Since December 2022, nonfarm payroll jobs have increased 24,100, with the private sector growing by 1,100 and government adding 23,000 jobs," the press release notes.

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

- Leisure and hospitality at about 11,900.
- Educational and health services at about 9,800.
- Professional and business services at about 4,900.
- Trade, transportation and utilities at about 10,400.
- Financial activities at about 8,500.
- Construction at about 4,400.
- Manufacturing at about 2,400.
- Information at about 1,800.

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 \$35.16 to \$36.97. Colorado average hourly earnings are two dollars and seventy cents higher than national average hourly earnings of \$34.27."

josh@pagosasun.com

Funds available for outreach to Colorado residents in high wildfire hazard areas

By Kristy Burnett
Colorado State Forest Service

The Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS) is now accepting applications for the new Wildfire Mitigation Outreach grant program.

Local governments, tribal agencies or programs, or nonprofit organizations may apply for a grant to support outreach among landowners in high wildfire hazard areas.

Applications will be accepted through Feb. 29 and \$300,000 is available in the funding pool for this round of grants.

Qualifying projects will have the primary goal of helping Colorado residents, especially those in high wildfire hazard areas, understand their risk of wildfire and steps they can take to reduce their risk

of wildfire. All outreach messages and materials created using these grant funds must align with the guidance in the CSFS Home Ignition Zone guide.

The CSFS encourages applicants to use the State's Live Wildfire Ready campaign resources, and CSFS staff may be available to customize items in the Live Wildfire Ready Partner Toolkit.

All applicants must contribute matching funds in an amount of at least 10 percent of the total project cost.

Applications must be submitted by email no later than 5 p.m. on Feb. 29 to CSFS_WMO_Grant@colostate.edu. Awards will be announced March 29. Projects must be completed by March 29, 2027.

This new grant program was

created when the Colorado General Assembly passed House Bill 22-1007. Learn more about the grant program and download the application at <https://csfs.colostate.edu/grants/wildfire-mitigation-outreach/>.

The CSFS provides professional forestry assistance, wildfire mitigation expertise, and outreach and education to help landowners and communities achieve their forest management goals.

The CSFS is a service and outreach agency of the Warner College of Natural Resources at Colorado State University and provides staffing for the Division of Forestry within the Colorado Department of Natural Resources. For more information, visit csfs.colostate.edu.

BOCC

Continued from A4
Springs Area Tourism Board and the Southwest Opioid Response District (SWORD).

Brown was appointed as the county representative for the Pagosa Springs Community Development Corporation (PSCDC).

Brown and Medina were appointed to serve on the Archuleta County Board of Health.

County Manager Derek Woodman was appointed as an alternate county representative for the PSCDC and SWORD.

Pagosa Springs Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Mary Jo Coulehan was appointed

as the primary county representative to Club 20, while county Transportation Coordinator Kevin Bruce was appointed as the primary county representative to the Southwest Transportation Planning Region and Assessor Johanna Tully-Elliott was appointed to represent the county on the Pagosa Springs Urban Renewal Authority.

Colorado State University Extension Director Robin Young was appointed to represent the county on the San Juan/Dolores/San Miguel River Basins Roundtable and JR Ford was appointed to the Southwest Water Conservation Board as the county representative.

All commissioners were appointed to several Colorado Counties Inc. (CCI) steering committees, including Tourism, Resorts and Economic Development, General Government, Taxation and Finance, Transportation and Telecommunications, Public Lands, Agriculture, Wildlife and Rural Affairs, Land Use and Natural Resources, CCI Legislative and Underfunded Courthouse.

Archuleta County Department of Human Services Director Isabel Vita was appointed to represent the county on the Health and Human Services CCI steering committee.

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L.E.A.D.

Continued from A3
path that could substantially detriment their lives, I believe that the relationship I'll build with them will be unbreakable."

Learning how to make good decisions and gaining a basic understanding of the peer pressure that they may undergo in the coming years are aspects about the L.E.A.D. curriculum that Gauvey thinks will be

a great benefit to the students.

"Since the children that I'll be teaching are in the sixth grade, they're at the age where they may begin or have already begun to be influenced by their peers to try things such as drugs or alcohol," said Gauvey. "Therefore, the L.E.A.D. program will serve as a great resource to them as it'll teach them how to use a logical decision-making process in times

like these, which will ultimately help them to make the right choice."

She added, "I believe that the kids will remember the special time that I spent with them in the classroom for many years following the program, which will lead to a stronger bond between our sheriff's office and the community in Archuleta County."

For more information, visit <https://www.leadrugs.org/>.

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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 September and October.

September

Sen. Cleave Simpson and Rep. Barbara McLachlan, along with Sen. Jeff Bridges, visited Region 9 in southwest Colorado on Aug. 31 and Sept. 1 as part of their ongoing efforts to engage with constituents and elected officials in the southwest region.

The trio held a community meeting in Pagosa Springs on Sept. 1.

Their visit was to listen to the concerns, experiences and ideas of the residents and elected representatives in relation to more affordable housing in Colorado.

The majority of Archuleta School District students returned to classrooms on Sept. 5.

The district began the school year with a shortage of bus drivers, limiting the number of available routes.

The Pagosa Springs High School (PSHS) Pirate golf team took on three tournaments over the course of eight days, with Pagosa's Johnathon Smith culminating the week with a first-place finish in Gunnison on Sept. 5.

On Sept. 5, the Pagosa Springs Town Council approved, in a 4-3 vote, a resolution to move \$500,000 from the Lodging Tax Fund to a restricted account for the purpose of funding a future indoor event venue.

The specifics of the future event venue — the location, design, scope and cost — are yet to be determined.

Discussion of the Archuleta County Road and Bridge Department budget and unauthorized expenditures on road projects continued at a Sept. 6 Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) work session.

County Manager Derek Woodman explained that the projects the BoCC approved were within budget and that several change orders had occurred — for amounts as large as \$332,000 — driving the budget up.

County Attorney Todd Weaver noted that many of the change orders exceeded the financial authority of the person signing them — a violation of the procurement policy, which states that any spending above \$50,000 must be approved by the BoCC.

On Sept. 6, Chance Ryan Remlinger, 25, of Pagosa Springs, was formally sentenced to 22 years in the Colorado Department of Corrections with a term of parole to follow for his role in a 2021 homicide.

Remlinger's guilty plea to murder in the second degree related to the 2021 death of Daniel Fitzpatrick, 52, was accepted by Sixth Judicial District Chief Judge Jeffrey Wilson on July 17.

As part of the plea deal, three other misdemeanor cases were dismissed.

Ten PSHS Pirate cross-country runners set personal records at the Joe I. Vigil XC Invitational on Sept. 9 in Alamosa.

On Sept. 11, U.S. District Judge Christopher R. Cooper ruled that the U.S. Forest Service's policies violated the Freedom of Information Act "by imposing additional restrictions that go above and beyond the statutory exemptions."

The ruling came in a case filed by Colorado Wild Public Lands against the Forest Service relating to the Valle Seco land exchange.

The Valle Seco land exchange, which was approved on June 29, 2022, allowed the transfer of 380 acres in the national forest adjacent to South San Juan Wilderness into private ownership for 880 acres of private land near Chromo.

The PSHS boys' soccer team fought its way to an even 3-3 season record with three consecutive victories over Montezuma-Cortez on Sept. 8, Aztec, N.M., on Sept. 9 and Alamosa on Sept. 12.

Increased moisture led to the lifting of fire restrictions within the Town of Pagosa Springs (following action taken by other agencies) and helped minimize fire activity on the Quartz Ridge and Bear Creek fires in September.

On Tuesday, Sept. 12, Interim Town Manager Greg Schulte announced that the town's Stage 1 fire restrictions would be rescinded effective that day "in consideration of the recent and forecast rain and due to the fact that the County has also lifted their fire restrictions..."

On Sept. 17, Archuleta School District Transportation Director Lori Manzanares sent a message to district families announcing expanded bus service to several areas of the com-

munity.

The PSHS Pirate cross-country teams both placed first at the Bayfield XC Invitational on Sept. 16 in Bayfield.

Miles Baker and Sienna Rose also earned trophies at the meet. Rose finished first in the girls' race with a time of 23 minutes and 37.56 seconds while Baker finished first in the boys' race with a time of 19:22.43.

The BoCC discussed issues with the allocation of Pagosa Springs Area Tourism Board funding and a potential withdrawal from the organization at its Sept. 19 work session.

Later that day, the tourism board also discussed the potential withdrawal and the reasons behind it.

Commissioner Ronnie Maez opened the BoCC's discussion by noting that he read an article in the Sept. 14 issue of The SUN concerning the Pagosa Springs Town Council voting on a request by the tourism board to place \$500,000 in a restricted fund to support the creation of an event center.

He added that he also read the language of the county ballot question that authorized the tourism board and that he wanted to discuss the issues and "see what we can do or what is the future of tourism."

Maez commented that he was "not sure" about the town council's direction of utilizing the funds for "something other than tourism" that would be outside of the county ballot question.

He questioned if the county wants to have negotiations with the town council concerning the tourism board, which is funded by lodging taxes collected by both entities, and suggested that a notice of intent to withdraw from the tourism board would have to be submitted by Oct. 2.

The BoCC voted to accept bids on four county-owned properties and donate 35 properties to Habitat for Humanity of Archuleta County or the Pagosa Springs Community Development Corporation (PSCDC) for affordable housing at its Sept. 19 meeting.

The next week, at the Sept. 26 BoCC work session, the board discussed a plan for using the donated parcels to construct housing with representatives of the PSCDC and Habitat for Humanity.

On Sept. 19, it was determined Smith would represent PSHS at the 3A state golf tournament Oct. 2 and 3, with Cedar Liverett slated to be the first alternate should someone not be able to participate in the tournament.

The state placements were determined at the Sept. 19 Region 1 qualifier at Cattails Golf Club in Alamosa.

The Pirates placed fifth as a team with a 255 at regionals.

Smith took first place in individual play at regionals by finishing two under par with a 69.

At a Sept. 25 special meeting, the BoCC approved the appropriation of \$2 million from the road and bridge fund balance to the department to cover unauthorized change orders on road projects and other unanticipated costs.

County Attorney Todd Weaver explained that, in the case of emergencies that could not have been foreseen when the annual budget is adopted, the BoCC is allowed to authorize the expenditure of funds in excess of appropriations if money

is available.

He added that, in this situation, a former county employee violated county policy by verbally approving change orders above his authority and that exceeded the funds appropriated for the road and bridge maintenance fund.

At the same meeting, the BoCC approved a letter to the Town of Pagosa Springs notifying it of the county's intent to withdraw from the tourism board by not renewing the memorandum of understanding between the town and county in 2024.

The town moved a step closer to having a new town manager on Sept. 21, narrowing a set of applications down to two final candidates for the position.

In total, the town received 24 applications for the position.

In September, it was announced that results from state assessments taken the previous spring showed that students made gradual improvements in many grades and subject areas over the previous year and a few even performed better than the pre-pandemic results; however, the scores also revealed continued deficits in many areas and for many student groups, according to information released by the Colorado Department of Education.

Locally, Superintendent Rick Holt indicated the elementary school experienced high growth in English language arts and math across all grade levels, while the middle school saw "small bumps" and a wider range of growth values.

In late September, San Juan Basin Public Health (SJBPH) announced that laboratory testing confirmed a case of plague (Yersinia pestis) associated with a recent death of an Archuleta County resident.

At its Sept. 28 meeting, the SJBPH Board of Health voted to move forward with appointing Brian Devine as interim executive director in response to the departure of former interim executive director Tiffany Switzer.

Staff and board members of the Archuleta County Housing Authority, as well as local and state dignitaries and guests, celebrated the grand opening of the Rose Mountain Townhomes on Sept. 29.

The Pagosa Pickleball Club hosted the Fall Grand Opening Tournament on Sept. 29, 30 and Oct. 1 at the new pickleball courts at Yamaguchi Park.

October

Natural gas bills were projected to go down 26.25 percent in Archuleta County starting Oct. 1, according to a press release from Black Hills Energy.

According to the company, the average monthly bill was projected to go from \$117.09 to \$86.35, for a monthly change of \$30.74.

The town council picked a new town manager at its Oct. 3 special meeting.

At the meeting, two finalists appeared before the council for interviews, with the council choosing David Harris for the position.

Harris replaced outgoing Interim Town Manager Greg Schulte, who took over in the role temporarily after the departure of the previous town manager, Andrea Phillips.

The two final candidates — Harris and Dawn Collins — went through an interview process in a public format where the council interviewed each candidate separately for about 20 minutes, asking the same set of questions to each candidate, which was in accordance with a predetermined format for the procedure.

Smith tied for 10th at the 3A state golf championships on Oct. 2 and 3, making him an all-state golfer.

The two-day championship was held in Windsor and included the classification's top 84 golfers.

The Oct. 6 PSHS homecoming football game included the traditional recognition of the homecoming court, including queen Annie

O'Donnell and king Harley Armijo.

The Pirate football team picked up a 46-6 homecoming win.

In October, it was announced that Axis Health System's integrated clinics in Pagosa Springs, Cortez, Durango and Dove Creek had been recognized by the American Heart Association and American Medical Association for their commitment to improving blood pressure control rates, earning Silver-level recognition as part of Target: BP™.

The Silver Award recognizes practices that have demonstrated a commitment to improving blood pressure control for adult patients through measurement accuracy.

Pagosa Springs Elementary School students were visited by a Colorado National Guard helicopter on Oct. 11 for Red Ribbon Week.

The week centers on the importance of drug-free living and making positive choices.

The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) continued culvert replacement work on Colo. 151 in October, with a 24/7 full closure beginning Oct. 13.

The road closure was anticipated to last a week.

A single-vehicle rollover the afternoon of Oct. 15 killed a Pagosa Springs woman.

According to Capt. John Trentini of the Colorado State Patrol, the rollover took place the afternoon of Oct. 15 at about mile post 14 on Forest Service Road 631.

The cause was suspected to be excessive speed and it was suspected that the driver was unrestrained.

He explained the driver was deceased at the scene.

Archuleta County Coroner Brad Hunt identified the driver as Cheri Lee Cheatham, 57, of Pagosa Springs.

On Thursday, Oct. 19, ski-racing legend Bode Miller visited Pagosa Springs to take part in conversations about the mental health crisis affecting Rocky Mountain ski towns.

Miller's stop in Pagosa was part of the Community Foundation's 2023 Making a Difference Speaker Series and included two events — a panel discussion with local mental health professionals and the screening of "Paradise Paradox," which Miller served as executive producer on.

Lady Pirate Sienna Rose finished 15th the 3A Region 2 cross-country meet following the race on Oct. 20 in Colorado Springs, securing a place at the state championships on Oct. 28 in Colorado Springs.

The PSHS Pirate boys' soccer team played its last game of the season on Oct. 20, being beaten 4-0 by the Bayfield Wolverines in Bayfield and falling short of the playoffs.

The PSHS Pirate football team marooned the Salda Spartans 42-12 Oct. 20 in Salida, giving the team a three-game win streak heading into its final regular-season game.

A Pagosa Springs man was arrested for multiple counts of arson the evening of Oct. 23.

Pagosa Springs Police Chief William Rockensock and Archuleta County Undersheriff Robert Hill indicated multiple fires were set in the area on the evening of Oct. 20.

A pair of fires started on the San Juan National Forest in October: the

See Review A7

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Contract

Continued from front

tractor would provide all cleaning supplies and equipment, while the county will provide consumable items such as paper towels and garbage bags.

Matyniak recommended, due to the \$79,950 difference between the bids and the longer period Tempo has been in business, that the county award the contract to Tempo.

Commissioner Veronica Medina asked if Tempo has any local contracts.

She added that she is concerned about who Tempo is and noted that the Val's VIP Cleaning bid included information on other local clients and letters of reference, which the Tempo bid did not include.

Medina noted the difference in cost, although she noted that "staff has not paid attention previously to what that budget amount was previously" and explained that the county budgeted \$140,000 for cleaning in 2023 compared to the more than \$200,000 spent.

"So, while I agree that we should definitely pay attention to the dollars, but we also need to look at who is this company? Do we have any reference letters? Do they clean for anybody locally?" she said. "That would be my first concern."

Commissioner Ronnie Maez asked how many staff Tempo would have for cleaning the county buildings.

Matyniak stated that he was told the company would have between four and six employees.

Maez asked if this meant that Tempo would need to hire more staff beyond what they have currently, to which Matyniak responded that he was unsure.

Maez noted that Val's VIP Cleaning employs staff who live locally.

"A lot of times I look at, for performance, ... what you pay for, a lot of times," Maez said. "And I think that we have a track record here, with the current one we are working with and this one doesn't have any other background or any other, like Commissioner Medina referred to, references to this company. You know, in my own opinion, I think we'd be better off sticking with the ones we do know than the ones we don't."

He added that Val's VIP Cleaning staff have already completed the background checks required to do cleaning work at the county jail and other secure facilities and that this would reduce delays.

Commissioner Warren Brown proposed that the county check into what local clients and staff Tempo

possesses.

"I think that, for the \$80,000 in difference, that is a pretty small effort to try to vet these folks and to see if they would be viable or not," Brown said.

Matyniak stated that he could look into this information.

Maez pointed out to Brown that the county is "going into the next year already" and that the county budget is already set.

"In my own opinion, I think we need to fish or cut bait," he added.

Brown responded that \$80,000 is a "substantial amount of money," but he added that "this may be the frying pan talking to the fire here" due to Maez's high interest in fiscal responsibility.

Maez noted that the county spent \$50,000 on Rippling human resources and payroll software — software the county eventually decided to not implement due to persistent problems but was unable to recoup the costs for.

Maez voted against the initial decision to select Rippling as the county's human resources software provider in December 2022 and was a vocal opponent of the software, including raising concerns about Rippling not serving local governments and staff not performing research on Rippling that he requested.

"I know what we have here with Val's cleaning service," Maez said. "They've been dependable, they're here, they've not let us down yet that I know of. I know there's some corrections that need to be done, but I think it's money that's been well invested."

Brown commented that he was "certainly not discounting their service to the county over the years" and that he appreciated their work and contributions to the community, but that he felt that a week's difference would make an impact on the county, particularly since the BoCC could not make a decision on the issue until the next week's meeting.

"I think it's worth the effort," Brown said.

Maez pointed out that all bidders went through the application process and Tempo did not choose to provide references before questioning, "Is it fair?"

Brown commented that the county has requested bids for cleaning contractors multiple times and that, if this was the first time the county requested bids for cleaning contractors, he would give "more weight" to Maez's statements "in my mind."

"But, it's just ... \$80,000 is quite a bit of money and I think it's worth the extra week," Brown added.

Maez stated that the previous ap-

plications included one incomplete application that should not have been considered, which Brown expressed agreement with.

Maez continued that the county then only had one application in the first round — from Val's VIP Cleaning.

"But then we went out looking for more because the cost," he said. "But none of us — until we looked into it, until I looked into it — knew how much we were paying on cleaning."

Brown responded that the county has "nothing to lose" by getting the additional information and making a "very strong decision one way or another on that."

Maez stated that he could "understand that a bit," but "one thing I asked for, too, and I know you were part of the decision on it, was when Rippling, I asked that we go back out and get more information and find it, but we didn't and then we ended up losing \$50,000."

Following a silence, Maez added, "Wow, I can hear a pin drop."

Medina commented that she did not think it would "hurt" to find out if Tempo has reference letters, but that the company "had their opportunity" to submit them in the bidding process.

She added that \$80,000 is "quite a bit of money, but nobody on staff previously paid attention to how much was being spent. Now we're worried about the numbers. I think quality over a minimal savings is ... and we're employing local people. I don't feel the need for any other information. Maybe if they bid out for next year then they supply all the information."

Brown commented that \$80,000 is not "minimal" and reiterated that the county does not lose anything by inquiring about other Tempo clients.

He then asked if the bid from Val's VIP Cleaning decreased from the first round of bidding.

Matyniak responded that the initial bid by Val's VIP Cleaning was \$261,000 and the current bid is \$234,000.

Brown commented that the second bid was "more appetizing to me," but that spending an extra week checking about Tempo clients would not cost the county "anything."

Maez concluded the discussion by stating that the item would be up for decision at the Jan. 16 BoCC meeting.

At the Jan. 16 BoCC meeting, Matyniak introduced the issue by summarizing the bids and stated, in response to a question from Brown, that he received two reference letters from Tempo and the company stated they would have between four

and six employees cleaning county buildings.

Maez then opened a discussion about whether Tempo has a registered business license with the Colorado secretary of state, with the commissioners and county staff concluding after a search that they could not find evidence that the company has a license.

County Attorney Todd Weaver pointed out that lacking such a license in Colorado means that a company is not allowed to do business in the state.

Medina stated that Val's VIP Cleaning has a registered license with the secretary of state.

Matyniak also explained, in response to a question from Medina, that Tempo currently has four employees and that, to his understanding, the company would hire additional staff locally if awarded the contract.

Maez commented that the cost difference between the two bidders is "big, but we do know what we get with the one we have and it's met all its requirements."

He continued that Tempo appeared to not have met those requirements and the county has to abide by state statute.

"And I find it hard to see that all these buildings with that many employees is going to get done for \$154,000 while we're currently right now over that in the budget already," Maez said. "And, if I'm a bettin' man, I'm gonna bet on the horse that I have, that I know what it's gonna do for me."

Brown commented that he has "no issue" with the county's current cleaning service, but that the cost difference is large.

"And to lean on the local preference at \$80,000-almost dollar difference is beyond the 10 percent allowable difference that's within our procurement policy," Brown said, adding that a clause in the procurement policy that requires 50 percent of employees to be local could be avoided if the employees are contracted.

"But, it appears as though Tempo does not have a registered business license with the state of Colorado, at least in the discussion here and I couldn't find anything myself," he continued. "To me, that shows that there is one qualified bidder that we have to consider at the moment."

Medina commented that the contract is for a year and that Tempo could potentially submit a "more complete" bid in the future.

"This is just a lesson learned of how to do it and without staff having to chase every document down," she said. "It's definitely on the bidder to provide all the documents that is required. And to know that they are currently doing business without a license is just a note."

Maez concluded that he agreed with Brown's comments on the issue. The board then unanimously voted to select Val's VIP Cleaning to provide cleaning services for the county in 2024 for an amount not to exceed \$234,000.

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Review

Continued from A6

Trail Springs Fire and the Mill Creek 2 Fire.

The largest of the two fires, located 12 miles northwest of Pagosa Springs, began the afternoon of Oct. 19 and was caused by lightning, according to the Forest Service.

It burned upward of 700 acres.

The Mill Creek 2 Fire, burning more than 100 acres, was located 12 miles northeast of Pagosa Springs.

It began Oct. 19, with the cause initially under investigation.

• The Pirate football team capped off its regular season by extending its win streak to four games and becoming the No. 10 seed in the 2A playoffs.

The Pirates finished the regular season in Bayfield on Oct. 26, where they defeated the Wolverines 40-7.

• The PSHS Lady Pirate volleyball team advanced to the postseason as the 3A classification's No. 33 team, which meant the team would be traveling to Delta for Region 4 action against No. 4 Delta and No. 21 St. Mary's Academy on Nov. 4.

The postseason play followed the team going 2-2 in its final regular season tournament.

• Five PSHS boys' soccer players were named to the first and second Intermountain League (IML) all-conference teams for the fall season. Christopher Young-Martinez, Chance Ramirez, Gavin Carter and Alex Pham garnered first-team honors. Ryder King earned second-team honors. Young-Martinez was also named goalkeeper of the year for the IML.

• Rose took 60th place out of 151 runners in the girls' race at the 3A Colorado State Cross Country Cham-

pionships in Colorado Springs on Oct. 28.

Rose finished the race in 21:11.60 seconds.

Rose set a new personal record during the race, beating her record from the Oct. 20 regional meet by six seconds.

• A Pagosa Springs man and his dog who went hiking on Aug. 19 were found in late October, with the man found deceased and the dog found alive and with him.

Rich Moore, 70, went hiking on Aug. 19, with his dog, Finney, and the plan of summiting Blackhead Peak, according to Archuleta County Sheriff Mike Le Roux and an ad placed by Moore's wife shortly after he went missing.

According to a press release from

the Archuleta County Sheriff's Office (ACSO), on Oct. 30 at approximately 3 p.m., the ACSO received information from a local hunter in the lower Blanco drainage basin that he found a deceased male and a white dog.

It explains members of the ACSO, with the assistance of a flight crew working the fires in the San Juan National Forest, conducted a flight of the area for a suitable landing zone.

On Oct. 31, ACSO personnel, along with members of the Upper San Juan Search and Rescue, were flown to the designated landing zone by the Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control, to recover the pair.

Finney was checked out by a vet and reunited with family.



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Purchase

Continued from front

Council member Brooks Lindner then made a motion for the council to go into executive session and it was unanimously supported by the rest of the council.

The council entered into the executive session at 5:57 p.m. and returned to the regular meeting at 6:31 p.m. The full council participated in the executive session, joined by Dickhoff, Town Manager David Harris and Town Clerk April Hessman.

When opened to council's comments, Lindner stated, "I'm very much in favor of the purchase of this property. I think it addresses a number of our priorities," including workforce housing, traffic management, parking, road maintenance, parks and trails, and land acquisition.

"That's quite a handful of our priorities that this [property acquisition] could potentially address, and I think we're all aware of, you know, what a good opportunity this is," he said.

deGraaf revealed that the type of purchase being considered would be a lease-purchase agreement, which is a form of a rent-to-own contract between a tenant (the town) and a landlord (the seller), with the idea that the town will be purchasing the property.

"I feel like we should look into what our other options are, but I think the offer that was presented was very fair and that it should definitely be considered," deGraaf said.

Council member Gary Williams advocated for the council to have a vision that looks "20 years out" into the future, asking, "What do we want

this town to be like in 20 years?"

Williams expressed that in 20 years the council would look back and "be so glad that we bought 11.85 acres that helps us expand Reservoir Hill, provides parking, better trail access to the backside [of the park], camping for things like Four Corners Folk Festival, workforce housing, and parking for the East End."

He also discussed the offer.

"The terms of the offer are very attractive," he said, adding that he thought the owner was being "beneficial" in making this offer to the town.

Council member Leonard Martinez explained that he tended to agree with the sentiment of his colleagues and that what really "opened up" his eyes was the "strategic potential" of acquiring this property.

"Clearly it's something that puts it in a space where it's up to us to start thinking about what's gonna happen to us 20, 30, 40 years from now," Martinez said.

Council member Matt DeGuise also agreed, saying "the value and potential of this is borderline too good to pass up."

However, DeGuise expressed concern about "how we are going to pay for it in this year's budget and future budgets."

Council member Madeline Bergon also expressed concern about paying for it, saying, "We should pursue some discussions about some of our other assets that we could potentially offload if we are gonna make a move like this."

Bergon added she wanted to have

more discussion about "how we are going to pay for this," agreeing with DeGuise.

"While this is a fantastic opportunity, I just want to urge a little bit of caution ... I'm not totally opposed, I'm just cautious," she said.

Pierce stated that she agrees with the longer-term vision presented by some of the other council members, but "again, we are back at what cost to the community. We have nothing in this budget that we just approved that allows us to spend this money."

She added that it will also cost money to "clean and maintain it until we use it for something. We are gonna have to have our police patrol up there, that kind of stuff. So, it's not just the cost of the property, it's these other costs."

She also said that a lease-purchase agreement could be risky "if in two years the economy takes a downturn and our sales tax" revenues "are not so great."

She asked how future councils are going to pay for it if this scenario ends up being true.

She added that the current council had already obligated future councils to continue to pay for the pay increases for town staff in the most recently approved budget.

"I just don't see how we can afford to do this ... we just approved a budget on Jan. 9, and I don't want to bust that budget already," she said.

It was ultimately decided to continue negotiations with the seller, with Pierce opposed to the idea.

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Development

Continued from front

concerned residents and owners packed the public seats of the meeting to voice concern and opposition to the final design, reflecting the controversy surrounding the development since first proposed.

When the design plans first came before the board in July of 2022, the board decided to post-

pone its decision, voting to continue its decision because of various concerns about the mass, scale and overall design of the building.

When the site's developers (Dirty Rose LLC, Alley House LLC and Reynolds Ash + Associates) brought revised plans back before the board, the sketch design was then approved, but with several conditional requirements to be met

before a final design could be approved.

However, a group of concerned residents and business owners appealed this decision to the Pagosa Springs Town Council, where, after extensive public comment and discussion, the council upheld the board's decision, reiterating that certain conditions must be met to address any code-compliance

issues.

The council later denied a "density bonus" application submitted by the developers, who hoped to build eight residential units when the town's land use code only allows seven in that area, which is zoned as Mixed Use-Town Center (MU-TC) and East Village Overlay District (ODE).

Since then, the developers have revised their design plans in an attempt to comply with the conditional requirements laid out by the town.

Planning Manager Cindy Schultz described the most recent changes to the front facade as being broken into "vertical segments, more like townhomes," matching the aesthetics of the area, but she also said that it was a town staff recommendation to request further changes to the backside of the building, saying that it seemed like the "same level of attention" given to the front had "dropped off" in the back.

She explained that town staff also thought the "public space" in the front of the building, along the sidewalk, should be a "more inviting space" than the design plans showed.

Another area that Schultz noted might require a condition to be met before a building permit could be issued was better screening of mechanical equipment and trash receptacles.

When the two representatives of the development — Brad Ash and Lauren Davis — presented, they expressed that they believe they went "above and beyond" when trying to meet the required conditions laid out by the town.

However, many area residents and owners, who showed up to give public comment, saw things differently. While most expressed satisfaction with the changes to the front side of the building, they still expressed dissatisfaction with the design of the backside, facing the alleyway.

Resident Robert Nameth suggested that the design for the front of the building was "vastly improved," but he still took issue with the "mass of the building," saying that it "overwhelms" other buildings in the area, because "it's vastly larger."

He also thought that it violated the town's Land Use and Development Code (LUDC) since the backside of the building was not "terraced back" from the second floor, adding that he thought this point was the most crucial issue

that should be considered by the board.

Susan Houseworth agreed, saying that she also thought it violated the LUDC and indicated that she worries about the bad precedent it would set for future developers in the area.

She also worried about the building's potential to "change the charm and beauty" of the town, asking, "Do we really want to change the face of Pagosa?"

Kathy Keyes, owner of the Pagosa Baking Company, explained that she was happy with the changes to the front edifice and that it showed the "developer heard our concerns," but that the design of the back of the building is still not good enough and needs additional changes.

After public comment closed, board member Chad Hodges explained that he had listened carefully to all of the comments and he took the concerns of town staff and the public very seriously, but that he was also not sure if anything could be done about the back of the building that would "appease" opposition to the design.

He added that the code language on "mass and size" leaves a lot open to public "interpretation" and that he wasn't sure if the new design violated the zoning code.

Board member Chris Pitcher suggested that the conditional issue of "four-sided design," cited by Nameth during public comment, also left a lot open to public interpretation.

On this issue, he asked Schultz for clarification about Nameth's claim that, according to the code, the back of the building needs to be terraced like the front.

Here, Ash, the building's architect, chimed in, saying that the code language itself specifies that terracing "shall be terraced back from the street." He explained that the back of the building should not be subject to this requirement since it faces the alleyway, not the street.

Most on the board expressed satisfaction with Ash's explanation on the terracing requirements in the code.

Board member Mark Weiler stated that he understood the concerns expressed about the back of the building, but that the "alley and sides" are "not governed" by the part of the LUDC that requires terracing.

He said, "I'm at a good point. I've heard enough" to make a decision, adding that the latest design was "much better" than the original

sketch design.

Board member Julie Gurule wondered if this would be the final word on the design of the building, with Schultz explaining that, if approved, there would be a list of conditions that the developer must meet before a building permit would be issued and that as long as these requirements are met — and pending an appeal — the board "won't see this again."

"You are the final deciding board," she said.

A majority of the board appeared to agree with the assessment of town staff, that "the proposed project is generally consistent with the provisions of the LUDC" and should be approved with certain conditional requirements.

A motion was then made to approve the final major design review application with certain pending conditions to be met by the developer.

Some of the town's requirements include:

- All conditions, fees and applications, as required by the respective water and sewer districts, shall be completed and evidence provided with the building permit application.
- Details for trash/recyclable collection area and any required shielding/enclosure shall be provided for staff review.
- Alley improvement requires the applicant to provide design details and a construction plan for town approval prior to issuance of building permit; the curbs along the alley at the parking garage should be mountable to reduce possible damage.
- Details on the rooftop screening plan shall be provided to staff for review and written determination provided prior to building permit issuance.
- The lighting plan shall be reviewed by staff and written findings shall be provided prior to approval of the selected fixtures.
- The east-side accessible ramp extends into the property to the east, which will require a boundary line adjustment or other formal agreement
- Lighting shall comply with the lighting code once installed.

The motion was seconded and approved, with Pitcher, Hodges and Weiler voting in favor of the motion, and Gurule voting against it.

Board members Peter Adams and Kristen McCollam were absent from the meeting.

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Prices

Continued from front

prices originate "not from the lack of competition, but from alleged fuel price fixing among fuel retailers primarily within Pagosa Springs and the immediate adjacent areas where various fuel outlets conduct business."

It continues, "In my own experience, I have tried to reach out to various fuel station owners and managers in person to discuss the concerns over Archuleta County's high fuel prices. During one of my conversations with a local manager of a fueling station, they told me that the (fuel providers) in Pagosa Springs conduct a fuel survey every day to avoid being the highest, or lowest priced fueling provider. The implication I took away was that there was a daily effort to maintain the level of fuel pricing."

The letter also asks Weiser to confirm with Citizens for Fair Fuel Prices founder Jane Davison another anecdote concerning potential price fixing.

"Please verify with Ms. Davison that during her conversation with the three fueling centers, the owner stated that he regularly speaks to the management of the largest fuel outlet in Pagosa Springs to make sure they agree as to what the fuel prices should be. Between the two outlets, I understand that they control the pricing of just over 50% of all fuel stored within Pagosa Springs at any given time," the letter states.

The letter notes that, at one point in 2023, Archuleta County's fuel prices were second only to Pitkin County, which is home to Aspen.

It highlights a petition created

by Davison with more than 300 signatures and notes that, according to information on where citizens purchase fuel supplied as part of completing the petition, a large number of residents purchase fuel outside of the county, damaging the Highway User Tax Fund revenues for county government and other local districts.

"With the recent Colorado 2023 Antitrust law reform to expand and clarify the State Attorney General's investigative authority, I am asking that your office accept the task of investigating if some or all the fueling stations within Archuleta County have made a collective effort through regular communications among themselves to maintain artificially inflated fuel prices, thereby injuring those who have purchased fuel from the various fueling outlets," the letter concludes.

At the meeting, Brown explained that he received a response from the Attorney General's Office which indicated that the information would be passed on to attorneys with the office to investigate the issue further.

Davison also presented at the meeting, noting that, although fuel prices in the area have dropped from their prior levels, they are still higher than prices in neighboring communities.

She also noted a pattern of rapid decreases in fuel prices following meetings by Citizens for Fair Fuel Prices and articles about the group in The SUN or other local media.

Davison cited these decreases, which included a drop in average regular gas prices from \$3.88 on Dec. 12, 2023, to \$3.28 on Dec. 28,

2023, during which time an article about the group was published in The SUN and the group published an open letter to local gas station owners, as potential evidence that prices in the area were artificially high.

She noted that these steep decreases seemed unlikely to have been driven by changing fuel costs and could have been a response to public pressure.

Davison explained that the group has made progress on a range of action items from previous meetings, such as developing a petition, creating a central repository for research and meeting notes, and creating weekly reports on gas prices.

Following a question-and-answer session, the group agreed to hold its next meeting on March 4 at noon at the library, where the results of the letter to the attorney general and next steps will be discussed.

Davison stated that, in the meantime, the group would also continue publishing reports on local gas prices and taking actions to keep the community informed about their efforts and concerns.

According to the American Automotive Association Gas Prices website, the average gas price for regular in Archuleta County on Jan. 24 was \$3.114.

This price is the highest among neighboring counties for which data exists, although it is less than the average price in 14 other Colorado counties, particularly in the central western region of the state.

The average gas price in La Plata County is \$3.009.

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County

Continued from front

Archuleta County is valued at \$598,265,370 and will receive \$7,041,703 in property tax revenues for the general fund at a rate of 11.731 mills and \$389,949 each for the Road and Bridge and Public Welfare funds at rates of 0.652 mills each.

The county general fund collections incorporate a temporary tax credit of \$3,109,903 or 5.198 mills, which reduces the amount collected by that amount of the credit.

The Town of Pagosa Springs is valued at \$83,739,400 and will receive \$130,719 in property tax collections at a rate of 1.561 mills.

The Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD) District 1 is valued at \$225,639,760 and will receive \$859,462 in property tax collections at a rate of 3.809 mills, while PAWSD District 2 is valued at \$175,600,130 and will receive \$237,587 in property tax collections at a rate of 1.353 mills.

Both districts have temporary tax credits totaling \$619,342 in uncollected revenues.

Six metro districts will receive support from property taxes in the upcoming year.

These include the Alpha Rockridge Metro District, which is valued at \$10,790,490 and will receive

\$107,905 in property taxes at a rate of 10 mills; the Aspen Springs Metro District, which is valued at \$28,556,440 and will receive \$421,284 in property taxes at a rate of 14.753 mills; Colorado's Timber Ridge Metro District, which is valued at \$17,943,890 and will receive \$179,439 in property taxes at a rate of 10 mills; the Loma Linda Metro District which is valued at \$9,293,440 and will receive \$92,934 at a rate of 10 mills; the Piedra Park Metro Improvement District, which is valued at \$4,766,390 and will receive \$35,195 in property taxes at a rate of 7.384 mills; and the San Juan River Village Metro District, which is valued at \$10,651,440 and will receive \$94,478 in property taxes at a rate of 8.870 mills.

Colorado's Timber Ridge Metro District includes a 5 mill temporary tax credit resulting in \$89,719 in uncollected revenues.

Three additional water-related districts will be supported by property taxes in 2024.

The Pagosa Springs Sanitation General Improvement District is valued at \$63,844,960 and will receive \$57,588 in property tax revenues at a rate of 0.902 mills.

The San Juan Water Conservancy District is valued at \$436,229,830 and will receive \$137,849 in property taxes at a rate

of 0.316 mills.

The Southwestern Water Conservation District is valued at \$598,265,370 and will receive \$207,598 in property taxes at a rate of 0.347 mills.

This calculation includes a 0.060 mill (or \$35,896) temporary tax credit.

Three area fire districts will collect property tax revenues from parts of Archuleta County in 2024.

The Pagosa Fire Protection District is valued at \$498,689,490 and will collect \$4,170,539 in property taxes at a rate of 8.363 mills.

The Los Pinos Fire District is valued at \$35,215,960 and will collect \$334,552 at a rate of 9.500 mills.

The Upper Pine River Fire Protection District is valued at \$294,182,330 and will receive \$3,570,785 at a rate of 12.138 mills.

The Upper San Juan Health Service District, which operates Pagosa Springs Medical Center, is valued at \$561,936,790 and will receive \$2,187,058 in property taxes at a rate of 3.892 mills.

The Upper San Juan Library District, which operates the Ruby M. Sisson Memorial Library, is valued at \$597,158,110 and will receive \$897,529 in property tax revenues at a rate of 1.503 mills.

josh@pagosasun.com

Public Meetings

The following meetings are subject to change.

Thursday, Jan. 25

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

Sunday, Jan. 28

Community meeting. 2 p.m., Pagosa Lodge, 3505 W. U.S. 160. Current events at the local, state and federal level will be discussed. Meeting submitted by Wayne Bryant.

Tuesday, Jan. 30

Archuleta School District Board of Education special meeting. 5 p.m. via Google Meet. See www.mypagosa.com for more information.

Wednesday, Jan. 31

Pagosa Springs Community Development Corporation Workforce

Housing Project Finalist Presentations. 3-5 p.m., Tennyson Building Event Center, 197 Navajo Trail Drive. Join on Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89503963167?pwd=WC9zRVJlaFJvWkc3S1E5b0hhQ052dz09>, meeting ID: 89503963167, passcode: 011868.

Thursday, Feb. 1

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/>.

Tuesday, Feb. 6

Pagosa Fire Protection District Board of Directors meeting. 5:30 p.m., administration office, 165 N. Pagosa Blvd.

Thursday, Feb. 8

Main Street Advisory Board meeting. 4 p.m., Pagosa Senior Cen-

ter dining room, Ross Aragon Community Center, 451 Hot Springs Blvd. See town website for participation information: <https://pagosasprings.civicweb.net/portal/>.

Monday, Feb. 12

San Juan Water Conservancy District meeting. 4 p.m., 46 Eaton Drive, Suite 5. Visit <https://www.sjwcd.org/> for Zoom option.

Tuesday, Feb. 13

Main Street Advisory Board meeting with Colorado Department of Transportation. 5:30-7:30 p.m., South Conference Room, Ross Aragon Community Center, 451 Hot Springs Blvd. To join on Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88554742993?pwd=N0theitOZ0I3YzVQWgkzS2dzTWtHdz09>, meeting ID: 88554742993, passcode: 525329. A meeting to address needs prior to and during the downtown reconstruction project.

The Blotter

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

Archuleta County Sheriff's Office

Calls for service for two weeks: 469.

Dec. 31 — Agency assist, South Pagosa Boulevard.

Dec. 31 — Information only, missing person reports, Stevens Circle.

Jan. 1 — First-degree assault-aggravated-police official-weapon, obstructing peace officer/police animal/fireman, harassment-strikes/shoves/kicks, Harman Park Drive.

Jan. 1 — Criminal mischief, Bristlecone Drive.

Jan. 1 — Criminal mischief, information only, County Road 302.

Jan. 2 — Information only, Crooked Road.

Jan. 2 — Violation of a restraining order, Park Avenue.

Jan. 3 — Information only, Talisman Drive.

Jan. 3 — Failure to appear (bench warrants), Harman Park Drive.

Jan. 3 — Under investigation, no location listed.

Jan. 4 — Violation of a restraining order, Harman Park Drive.

Jan. 4 — Information only, Summit Trail.

Jan. 5 — Internet sexual exploitation of a child, Acorn Drive.

Jan. 5 — Information only, West U.S. 160/Oak Drive.

Jan. 5 — Vehicular eluding, second-degree aggravated motor vehicle theft, first-degree criminal trespass-theft from vehicle, reckless driving, failure to use turn signal, resisting arrest, obstructing peace officer/police animal/fireman, driver failed to yield right of way at stop sign, drove vehicle without valid driver's license, failed to drive in single lane (weaving), parked vehicle on paved portion of highway, drove vehicle with BAC .08 or more, illegal possession or consumption of alcohol by minor, drove vehicle while under the influence of alcohol, failed to display lights when visibility less than 1,000 feet, safety belt required, Great West Avenue/West U.S. 160.

Jan. 6 — Driving under restraint alcohol/drug-related offense, owner operated or permitted operation of vehicle without insurance, failed to display valid registration, Bonanza Avenue/Trails Boulevard.

Jan. 8 — Under investigation, no location listed.

Jan. 8 — Information only, U.S. 84.

Jan. 9 — Obstructing governmental operations, Harman Park Drive.

Jan. 9 — Information only, Valley View Drive.

Jan. 9 — Information only, Fire-side Street.

Jan. 9 — Expired license plates, Hopi Drive/Navajo Trail Drive.

Jan. 10 — Second-degree introducing contraband, unlawful possession of a controlled substance, Harman Park Drive.

Jan. 10 — Knowingly permitted livestock on public highway, animals running at large, Ute Drive.

Jan. 11 — Information only, Da-

vid Drive.

Jan. 11 — All other thefts, Jack's Pasture Road.

Jan. 11 — Warrant arrest, Blue-bird Court.

Jan. 12 — Violation of restraining order, violation of restraining order, violation of restraining order, Solomon Drive.

Jan. 13 — Information only, Eagle's Loft Circle.

Jan. 13 — Under investigation, no location listed.

Jan. 13 — Driving under restraint alcohol/drug-related offense, Vista Boulevard/Park Avenue.

Jan. 13 — Third-degree criminal trespass, littering of public or private property, Sandlewood Drive.

Jan. 13 — Under investigation, no location listed.

Town of Pagosa Springs Police Department

Calls for service for three weeks: 331.

Dec. 30 — Recovered vehicle, North 8th Street.

Dec. 30 — Careless driving, DUI, left scene after striking unattended vehicle, Pinon Causeway.

Dec. 30 — Reckless driving, South 8th Street/Zuni Street.

Dec. 31 — Nuisance/animal running at large, County Road 600.

Dec. 31 — Possession of drug paraphernalia, warrant arrest, Aspen Village Drive.

Jan. 1 — Expired license plates, no insurance in possession, West U.S. 160.

Jan. 1 — DUI, failed to observe or disregarded traffic control device, West U.S. 160/Aspen Village Drive.

Jan. 1 — Violation of restraining order, South 9th Street.

Jan. 2 — Misdemeanor motor vehicle theft, Boulder Drive.

Jan. 2 — Theft, South 9th Street.

Jan. 2 — Nuisance/animal running at large, Eaton Drive.

Jan. 2 — Simple assault third degree, domestic violence, harassment, South Pagosa Boulevard.

Jan. 3 — Drove vehicle when license suspended, expired license plates, South 8/9 Alley/Piedra Street.

Jan. 3 — Theft, Aspen Village Drive.

Jan. 3 — Harassment, South 8th Street.

Jan. 4 — Criminal trespass, Pagosa Street.

Jan. 4 — Simple assault third degree, menacing, Oren Road.

Jan. 5 — Warrant arrest, U.S. 84.

Jan. 5 — Possession controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia, violation of restraining order, Country Center Drive.

Jan. 6 — Criminal trespass, Pagosa Street.

Jan. 7 — Exceeded safe speed for conditions, failed to notify police of accident, San Juan Street.

Jan. 7 — Information only, Lewis Street.

Jan. 7 — Missing person-located, Aspen Village Drive.

Jan. 8 — No depositing snow in street from private property, 14th Street/15th Place.

Jan. 8 — Violation of restraining order, South 8th Street.

Jan. 9 — Possession of forgery devices, San Juan Street.

Jan. 10 — Found property, Aspen Village Drive.

Jan. 11 — Shoplifting, trespass warning, Eagle Drive.

Jan. 11 — Law enforcement agency assist, East Pagosa Street.

Jan. 11 — Shoplifting, Aspen Village Drive.

Jan. 12 — Information only, South Pagosa Boulevard.

Jan. 13 — DUI, Harman Park Drive.

Jan. 13 — Law enforcement agency assist, Harman Park Drive.

Jan. 13 — Menacing-misdemeanor, domestic violence, Hot Springs Boulevard.

Jan. 14 — False alarm of emergencies, Hot Springs Boulevard.

Jan. 14 — DUI, Pagosa Boulevard, Country Center Drive.

Jan. 14 — Assault, information only, Aspen Village Drive.

Jan. 14 — Careless driving, DUI, left scene after striking unattended vehicle, Hot Springs Boulevard.

Jan. 15 — Trespass warning, U.S. 160.

Jan. 17 — Owner allowed animal to run at large, Florida Street.

Jan. 17 — Law enforcement agency assist, East Pagosa Street.

Jan. 17 — Criminal mischief, South 8th Street.

Jan. 17 — Theft, Hot Springs Boulevard.

Jan. 17 — Simple assault third degree, criminal mischief, resisting arrest, possession controlled substance, Pagosa Street.

Jan. 17 — Careless driving, left scene without providing information after striking unattended vehicle, 15th Street.

Jan. 18 — Menacing, Hot Springs Boulevard.

Jan. 18 — Criminal trespass, littering of public or private property, Aspen Village Drive.

Jan. 19 — Found property, East Pagosa Street.

Jan. 19 — Warrant arrest, South 6th Street/San Juan Street.

Jan. 19 — Trespass warning, Pagosa Street.

Jan. 19 — Simple assault third degree, Eagle Drive.

Pagosa Springs Municipal Court: Judge Anthony D. Edwards

Jan. 8 — Giangelo Garbisio, following too closely, four points off, fine, surcharge and costs — \$146.

Jan. 8 — Leonard Rice, following too closely, four points off, fine and surcharge — \$111.

Jan. 8 — Renee Gaul, careless driving, four points off, fine, surcharge and costs — \$202.

Jan. 8 — Danny Bean, careless driving, four points off, fine, surcharge and costs — \$202.

Jan. 8 — Eric Jeantette, changing lanes when unsafe, three points off, fine, surcharge and costs — \$146.

Jan. 8 — David Beineke, vicious animal prohibited, fine and costs — \$135.

Jan. 9 — Donna Chipps, owner allowed animal to run at large, fine and costs — \$85.

Jan. 16 — Maria Murray, speeding 10-19 over limit, four points off, fine, surcharge and costs — \$197.

Archuleta County Court: Judge Justin P. Fay

Jan. 2 — Jeremy P. Gallegos, failure to use seat belt, fines and costs — \$100.

Jan. 3 — Kevin G. Widger, lane usage violation, fines and costs — \$172.50.

Jan. 3 — Jamison Lee Stewart, speeding 10-19 over, fines and costs — \$225.

Jan. 3 — Justin Kerby, driver's license-driving without, registration-unregistered vehicle, fines and costs — \$207.50.

Jan. 3 — Shawn Christopher Hinz, failed to cover load, fines and costs — \$70.

Jan. 3 — Kennon M. Ferguson, speeding 1-4 over, fines and costs — \$120.

Jan. 3 — Alan Dent, registration-unregistered vehicle, fines and costs — \$161.50.

Jan. 3 — Jose Angel Espinosa, driving under restraint, registration-unregistered vehicle, fines and costs — \$242.50.

Jan. 3 — Richard T. Brennan, license plates-expired, fines and costs — \$155.50.

Jan. 3 — Chase Bilazzo, tail lamps/reflectors, obstruction of view/haz situation, fines and costs — \$185.

Jan. 3 — Shona Marie Sanchez, fail obey traffic control device, driver's license-driving without, fines and costs — \$183.00.

Jan. 3 — Jesus Esteban Leon-Valenzuela, driver's license-not in possession, registration-unregistered vehicle, fines and costs — \$160.50.

Jan. 3 — Tony J. Ferraro, wildlife-violation of rule/reg, fines and costs — \$121.50.

Jan. 8 — Rande Spencer Sherman, tail lamps/reflectors, fines and costs — \$65.

Jan. 11 — Michael Velez, violation p/o-criminal, 12 months probation updated sentence, fines and costs — \$292.50.

Jan. 11 — Benjamin Taylor Edens, disorderly conduct-unreasonable noise, 10 days jail, fines and costs — \$36.

Jan. 17 — Eric Philip Hutchens,

driving under the influence-with prior, 365 days jail suspended imposition, 48 hours community service, 10 days electronic surveillance, two years probation, fines and costs — \$1,920.50.

Jan. 17 — Joseph Lawrence Happ, violation p/o-criminal, 18 months probation, fines and costs — \$1,164.50.

Jan. 17 — Malu Erwin Brown, speeding 10-19 over, fines and costs — \$225.

Jan. 17 — Ryan Edward Cook, speeding 10-19 over, fines and costs — \$225.

Jan. 17 — Cathy Gaugh Dearmon, speeding 20-24 over, fines and costs — \$290.

Jan. 17 — Madonna L. Delanders, signaling violation, registration-unregistered vehicle, fines and costs — \$238.50.

Jan. 17 — Dominik Florez, speeding 10-19 over, fines and costs — \$225.

Jan. 17 — Jesus Michael Garcia, obedience to official traffic control device, fines and costs — \$170.

Jan. 17 — Travis Gilbert, driving under restraint, speeding 10-19 over limit, fines and costs — \$349.50.

Jan. 17 — Xane David Hill, headlamps excess numbers, fines and costs — \$100.

Jan. 17 — Allison A. Knight, speeding 1-4 over, fines and costs — \$120.

Jan. 17 — David Lee Langsfeld, speeding 10-19 over, fines and costs — \$225.

Jan. 17 — Joseph Stuart March, speeding 10-19 over, fines and costs — \$225.

Jan. 17 — Jeremy Lee Martin, speeding 20-24 over, fines and costs — \$255.

Jan. 17 — Jacob A. McAlister, obedience to official traffic control device, fines and costs — \$170.

Jan. 17 — Briana Legacy McFaddin, defective stop lamps/turn signals, windows obstructed, fines and costs — \$160.

Jan. 17 — Chandra Ortega, license plates-expired, fines and costs — \$155.50.

Jan. 17 — Carlos Quintana, weaving from traffic lane, drove a defective vehicle, fines and costs — \$230.

Jan. 17 — Valeria Skarrek, speeding 10-19 over, fines and costs — \$190.

Jan. 17 — Samuel Laurence Sovago-Royal, registration-unregistered vehicle, fines and costs — \$161.50.

Jan. 17 — Noah J. Volgamore, speeding 10-19 over, fines and costs — \$225.

Jan. 17 — Peter A. Watson, lane usage violation, fines and costs — \$172.50.

Jan. 17 — Megan Mescal Wolf, speeding 10-19 over, fines and costs — \$225.

Jan. 17 — Destiny N. Atkinson, driving under the influence, 30 days jail suspended imposition, 48 hours community service, 12 months probation alcohol evaluation and supervision, 10 days electronic surveillance, fines and costs — \$720.50.

Jan. 22 — Gavin Lee Marquart, speeding 1-4 over, fines and costs — \$85.

6th Judicial District Court: Judge Justin P. Fay

Jan. 11 — Tashina L. Rosenbalm, driving under the influence, two days jail, 48 hours community service, 12 months probation, fines and costs — \$1,424.50.

Jan. 11 — William Tyrell Sweitzer, menacing, carrying a concealed weapon-knife/gun, 52 days jail, four years probation, 48 months probation, fines and costs — \$2,703.50.

Jan. 11 — Michael Jonathan Velez, assault 3-know/reckless cause injury, 15 days jail, 18 months probation, fines and costs — \$1,231.50.

6th Judicial District Court: Judge Jeffrey R. Wilson

Jan. 8 — Daniel Weaver, menacing, 30 days jail, fines and costs — \$258.50.

Jan. 8 — Skyler James Joseph Bilazzo, driving ability impaired-with prior convictions, 440 days jail, 365 days jail suspended, 56 hours community service, two years probation, fines and costs — \$2,599.50.

Cause of death remains unknown after local woman's body found

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

The cause of death for a Pagosa Springs woman whose body was discovered Jan. 4 remains unknown.

According to a draft Archuleta County Sheriff's Office report, the body of Kathryn Lee Demchak, 27, was discovered on Jan. 4 near County Road 600 and Forest Service Road 629.

The report notes Demchak's body was discovered face down in the trees by a trio of out-of-town individuals.

According to Archuleta County Undersheriff Robert Hill, nothing suspicious was found and an autopsy was conducted, but final results are pending.

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145 Hills Circle

Close to National Forest, fishing, paddle boarding, 2 bedroom + loft, 2 bath, 2-car detached garage. New windows, log beam accents, in-floor radiant heat.

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MLS 808568 • \$472,000



11 Pinon Hills Place

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MLS 802483 • \$68,500



46 Gala Place

Great location, near fishing and National Forest. Treed lot with southern view.

MLS 806764 • \$35,000

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MLS 798968 • \$35,000



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2016 & 2018 SPIRIT AWARD, 2019 REALTOR OF THE YEAR

Sports



WRESTLING

Two Lady Pirates place at She Devil Classic

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Lady Pirate girls' wrestling division competed at the She Devil Classic in Page, Ariz., on Jan. 19 and 20, where two Lady Pirate wrestlers placed.

Coach Dan Janowsky noted that the She Devil Classic was "quite a bit bigger" than any tournament the division has participated in before and that the Lady Pirates competed against some schools with much longer-standing girls' wrestling programs.

He stated that the division as a whole is learning how to wrestle effectively, although he commented that factors like maturity, raw strength and confidence also play a significant role in determining the outcome of a wrestling match.

"I think they're doing great, and I think they have every right to feel good about themselves and what they're doing," Janowsky said.

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

and scored 11 points for the Pirates.

Stretton pinned her opponents in the first championship round and quarterfinals before being pinned in the semifinals. She was then pinned in the consolation semifinals and the fifth-place match to take sixth.

Dalton Hoover, competing in the 120-pound weight class, received a bye in the first championship round before being pinned in the second. She received another bye in the second consolation round before losing the third consolation round by major decision.

In the 132-pound weight class, Kylie Matyniak scored seven points for Pagosa.

She pinned her opponent in the first championship round before being pinned in the quarterfinals. Matyniak then won the second consolation round due to an injury default before being pinned in the third consolation round.

In the 145-pound weight class, Aspen Salazar scored seven points for the Pirates.

She pinned her opponent in the first championship round before

being pinned in the second. She also pinned her opponent in the second consolation round before being pinned in the third.

Laykyn Baxstrom, wrestling in the 235-pound weight class, took third place and scored 20 points for the Pirates.

She received a bye in the first championship round and pinned her opponent in the quarterfinals before being pinned in the semifinals. She then achieved pins in the consolation semifinals and the third-place match to take third place.

The coach commented that Baxstrom's placement was particularly notable due to the large field for the tournament.

He added in a communication to The SUN that she overcame illness to achieve her placement.

The Lady Pirates will next participate in the Four Corner Championship Tournament in Ignacio on Jan. 27 beginning at 9 a.m.

Janowsky noted that the tournament is not associated with an official championship or title.

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Pagosa goes 1-2 in recent duals

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Pirate boys' wrestling team competed in three duals over the last week, winning a dual at home against Bayfield on Jan. 18 and losing two duals against Centauri and Buena Vista on Jan. 20 in La Jara.

On the week overall, coach Dan Janowsky commented, "I think our kids wrestled fairly well across the weekend, but the team score kind of depends on matchups and completing your lineup and those kinds of things, and that's where we struggled on [Jan. 20.] That and we're wrestling good teams. Those two teams are good."

Pagosa won the dual against the Bayfield Wolverines 66-18.

Janowsky noted that Bayfield was missing a couple of key wrestlers and that the Pirates "wrestled well."

"So, the combination of those two things, it ended up kind of a lopsided dual," he commented.

The dual included five forfeits by Bayfield — in the 126-pound, 144-pound, 165-pound, 215-pound and 285-pound weight classes — scoring 30 points for Pagosa.

The contested matches began in the 150-pound weight class with Wyatt Hoover pinning his opponent in one minute, six seconds, scoring six points for Pagosa.

In the 157-pound weight class, Derek Carter pinned his opponent in 3:38 and earned the Pirates six points.

Jimmy Elledge, competing in the 175-pound weight class, was pinned in 4:25, scoring six points for Bayfield.

In the 190-pound weight class, Harley Armijo scored six points for Pagosa

by pinning his opponent in 3:17.

Anthony Manzanera, wrestling in the 106-pound weight class, pinned his opponent in 3:13, scoring six points.

In the 113-pound weight class, Mark Ray was pinned in 22 seconds, scoring six points for Bayfield.

Xavior Haney, competing in the 120-pound weight class, was also pinned in 3:25, scoring the Wolverines six more points.

Hudson Mazur, in the 132-pound weight class, pinned his opponent in 4:55 to score six points for the Pirates.

In the 138-pound weight class, Luke Tressler closed the dual by pinning his opponent in 45 seconds to score Pagosa a final six points.

On Jan. 20, the Pirates participated in the Randy and Naomi Keys Duals at Centauri High School in La Jara, where they faced the Centauri Falcons and the Buena Vista Demons.

Full statistics were not entered by Centauri as of press time, but some information on the results was available.

Janowsky commented that the event was "a little bit up and down" in terms of the Pirates' lineup, but that he felt the team wrestled well.

He explained that Tressler was absent from the duals and that the team had other open weights as well.

"Honestly, I thought we made some advances ... in certain important areas," he said. "Obviously, when you get beat like that you're not patting yourself on the back at all. We've got some work to do, but those are good teams, too, and ... we just weren't at full strength."

Pagosa lost to the Falcons 61-18, with Pirate victories coming with pins in the 144-pound weight class by

Colton Lucero and in the 215-pound weight class by Armijo.

Antonio Quesada, in the 285-pound weight class, received a forfeit.

Janowsky explained that Centauri's full lineup was present for the dual and that the team is talented.

He highlighted Conner Kelly's match in the 190-pound weight class as an example of the challenges of competing against a high level team, noting that Kelly's opponent, Josh Polkowske, is the top-ranked wrestler for his weight in 3A for the state and that Kelly is typically around No. 3.

Janowsky commented that the match was close and Kelly "closed the gap" on his opponent compared to previous performances although he was ultimately narrowly defeated.

"We made some improvements, but we're still not there and we have time to get there," the coach said. "That's one of the fun things about it, it's not just rolling the dice and waiting to see if we beat him this week, but we make specific changes to our technique or our strategy. And Conner made some good adjustments. We got beat in a different aspect of the match than we got beat last time."

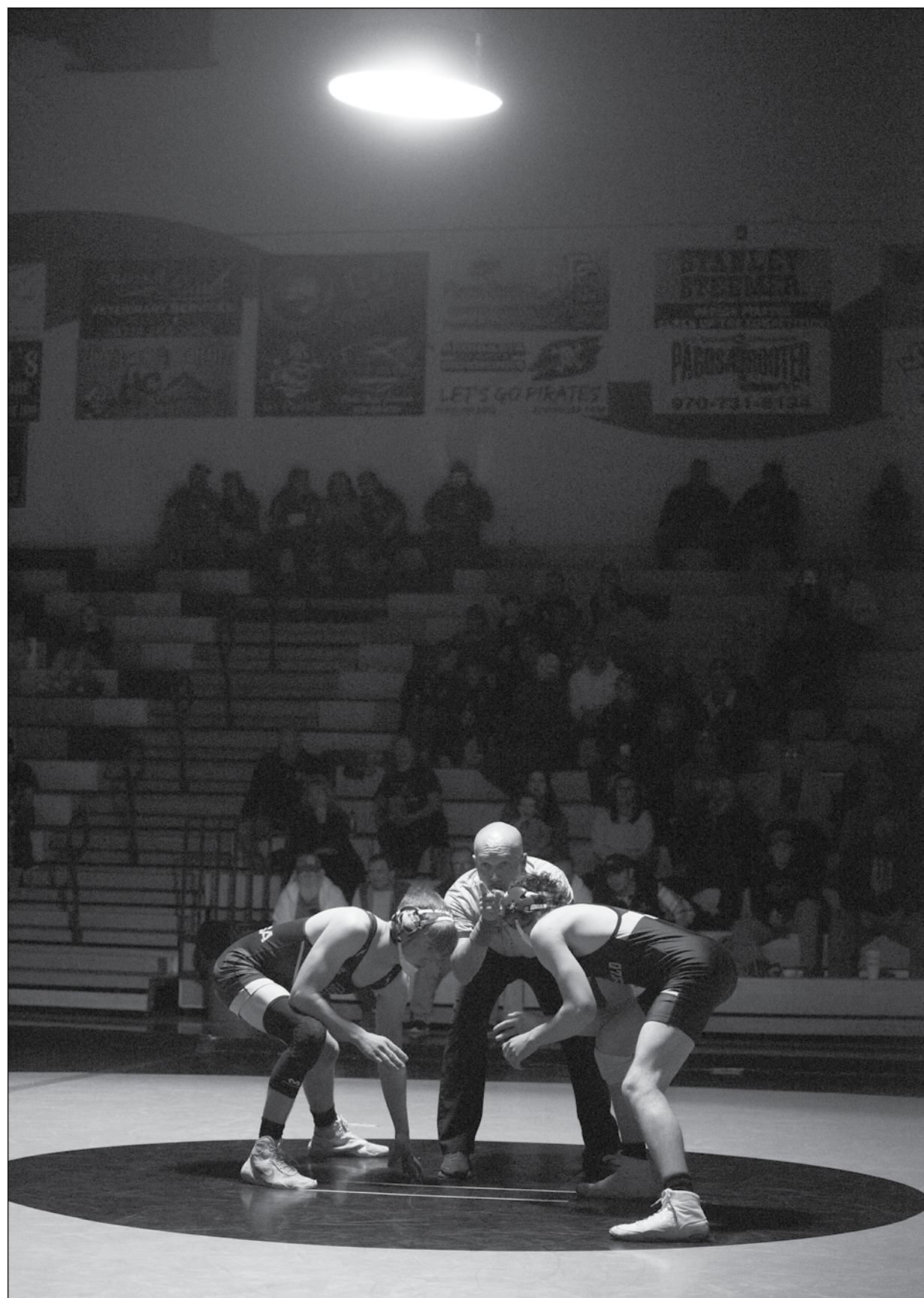
He added that Centauri is a likely opponent for the Intermountain League championship dual and that he thinks Pagosa can likely "give them a much better go" at that event.

Pagosa lost the dual against Buena Vista 45-27.

The dual included pins by Lucero, Carter and Armijo, who was competing in the 190-pound weight class.

Kelly, in the 215-pound weight class, won by decision, while Stetson Osborn, wrestling in the 120-pound

■ See Wrestling A11



SUN photo/Randi Pierce

The drama of high school wrestling is on display as Pirate Wyatt Hoover prepares to wrestle his opponent during a dual against Bayfield at home on Jan. 18 under the spotlight. Hoover won the match with a pin in one minute, six seconds.



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BASKETBALL

Pirates maroon Mean Moose, Wolverines

By Robert Moore
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Pirate basketball team continued its winning ways over the last week as the Pirates extended their winning streak to 12 games.

The Pirates defeated the 3A Alamosa Mean Moose Friday night by a score of 53-43, and followed that with another road victory on Saturday, defeating the 3A Bayfield Wolverines by a score of 71 - 31 to move their winning streak on the road to 10.

The two wins improved the Pirates' record to 13-1 overall and 4-0 in the Intermountain League (IML).

Coach Wes Lewis noted that Alamosa started quickly against Pagosa, saying, "They got off to a pretty hot start. We were down ... I think it was 6-0 before we scored, and then we kind of played from behind a little bit."

According to Lewis, the game continued "pretty much back and forth" through the first three and a half quarters, but indicated that

then the Pirates "were able to take about a 10-point lead and go into a little bit of a delay game."

Lewis shared that Alamosa began a strategy of intentionally fouling the Pirates to prevent Pagosa from getting into its delay game, saying, "They started fouling us right away and from then on they didn't even allow us to get into our delay game. As soon as we'd get a rebound, they'd foul us. Or if they'd score, as soon as we inbounded, they'd foul us."

The Pirates made their free throws down the stretch to clinch the win 53-43.

"We weren't very good from the free-throw line for the first three quarters, but we were able to go ahead and make some free throws and secure the win from the free-throw line in the fourth," Lewis said.

Colt Lewis led the team in scoring with 22 points including three 3-pointers. Blake Laner and Ridge Wilson added nine points each, Nathaniel Kinsley chipped in eight points, Chase Harper and

Seth Ziegler scored two each, and Creede Dozier added one more.

Laner led the team in rebounding with 11 along with two assists, three steals and one block. Wilson had six rebounds and one assist. Colt Lewis contributed five rebounds, five assists and three steals. Kinsley had four rebounds, four assists and one block. Harper added four rebounds and one steal, with Dozier chipping in one rebound and one steal.

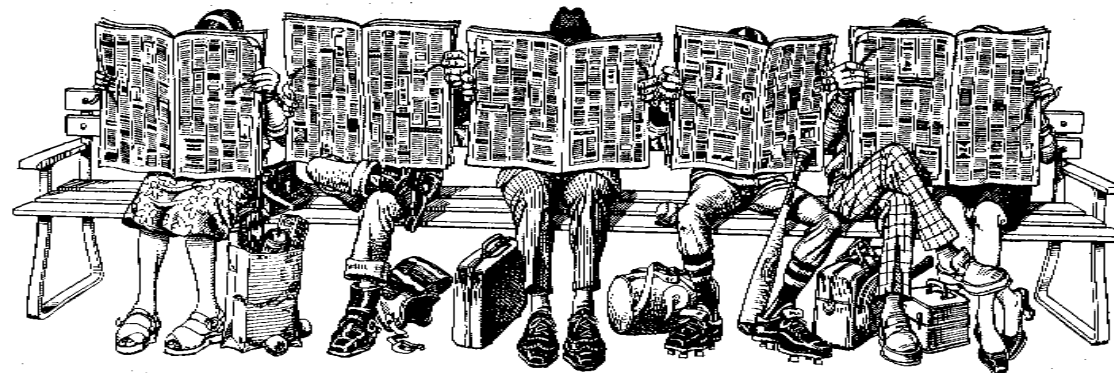
The team snared 31 rebounds in the game while committing six turnovers, and made 15 of 30 attempts at the free-throw line for 50 percent.

In the Bayfield game, the coach indicated that the Pirates got off to a "little bit of a slow start. I want to say they had 22 points at halftime and they banked in a three at the end of the first quarter."

He added that the Pirates were confident going into halftime, as "11 of their 22 [points] kind of came from just some really bad breaks and offensive rebounds. So, it felt

■ See Pirates A13

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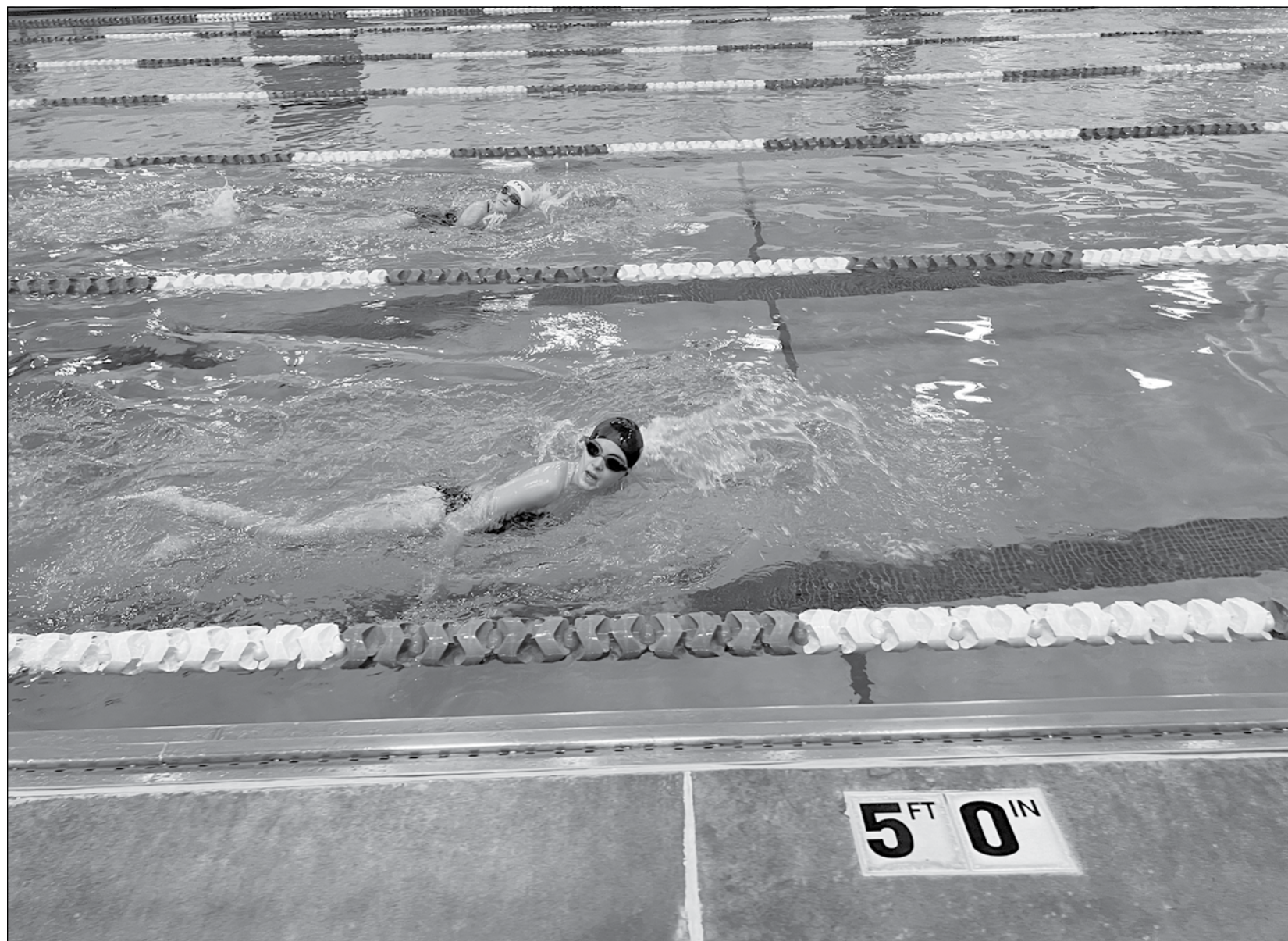


Photo courtesy Heather Miller

Lady Pirate Grace Cram swims during last week's meet in Delta. Cram's finishes on the day included a fifth-place finish in the 200-yard individual medley.

Lady Pirates gearing up for conference meet, will compete in Gunnison Jan. 26

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

With one regular-season meet remaining before the conference meet, the Pagosa Springs High School Lady Pirate swim team is continuing to work on refining its technique and speed.

That work continued at a pair of meets over the last week in Delta and Grand Junction.

"In Delta we had a combination of great swims and some mistakes but in Grand Junction the swimmers were much more focused and avoided the issues we saw in Delta and Durango," coach Heather Miller wrote in an email to The SUN.

The Lady Pirates tied for fourth with Delta at the five-team meet in Delta on Jan. 19.

Sargent won the meet, with Durango following in second and Montrose finishing third.

In the 200-yard freestyle, Natalia Monterroso finished 12th and scored one point with a time of 3 minutes, 16.12 seconds. Lucia Rivera finished 14th in 3:38.47.

Miller notes both swimmers dropped more than 15 seconds in the event.

Chloe Gantt dropped just over 10 seconds in her 200-yard individual medley, according to Miller, helping her place fifth with a time of 3:00.88 to earn 10 points.

Grace Cram finished 10th and earned three points with a time of 3:26.14.

Miller notes it was Cram's first 200 individual medley.

Five Lady Pirates finished the 50-yard freestyle: Gemma Slingerland finished 15th in 36.08 seconds, Leah Blackman followed in 16th in 36.12 seconds, Rebecca Stewart finished in 17th with a time of 37.14 seconds, Bella Gutierrez finished 22nd in 39.78 seconds and Natalie Talley finished 24th in 43.61 seconds.

Karis Blackman finished second in the 100-yard butterfly with a time of 1:33.88 to earn 13 points.

Miller notes it was her first 100 butterfly.

In the 100-yard freestyle, Monterroso finished 18th with a time

of 1:22.86 and Talley finished 22nd with a time of 1:37.76.

In the 500-yard freestyle, Stewart finished third and earned 12 points after finishing with a time of 8:28.04. Leah Blackman followed in fourth and earned 11 points with a time of 8:44.01.

The coach notes it was the first 500 freestyle for both Lady Pirate swimmers.

In the 200-yard freestyle relay, the team of Marlowe Hedgecock, Cram, Slingerland and Gantt finished seventh with a time of 2:16.49 and earned 14 points.

The team of Monterroso, Gutierrez, Marie Smith and Stewart finished in ninth with a time of 2:36.21 to earn eight points.

A quartet of Lady Pirates took part in the 100-yard backstroke: Gantt placed eighth and scored five points after finishing with a time of 1:24.21, Karis Blackman finished 10th and scored three points with a time of 1:29.56, Gutierrez took 13th with a time of 2:01.60 and Rivera followed in 14th with a time of 2:09.01.

Miller notes all of the Lady Pirates recorded their best times in the event, with Blackman dropping just over 13 seconds off her previous time.

Hedgecock finished ninth in the 100-yard breaststroke with a time of 1:38.33 to earn four points. Cram finished 14th with a time of 1:48.96.

In the 400-yard freestyle relay, the Lady Pirate team of Hedgecock, Cram, Gantt and Karis Blackman finished fourth with a time of 5:04.23 to earn 22 points.

The team of Monterroso, Rivera, Talley and Leah Blackman followed in sixth with a time of 6:05.09 to earn 18 points.

The following day, the Lady Pirates competed at the GJHS Invite in Grand Junction, where they finished 10th out of the 10 teams present.

In the 200-yard medley relay, the Pagosa team of Cram, Karis Blackman, Gantt and Hedgecock finished with a time of 2:30.63 to take 13th and score 10 points.

The team of Stewart, Leah Blackman, Slingerland and Monterroso

followed in 20th with a time of 2:58.66.

In the 200 freestyle, Miller notes Hedgecock and Slingerland each dropped a couple of seconds, with Hedgecock finishing 22nd in 2:51.06, Slingerland finishing 29th in 3:01.37 and Stewart finishing 32nd with a time of 3:16.22.

In the 200 individual medley, Miller notes both Karis Blackman and Leah Blackman dropped time.

Karis Blackman finished 14th and earned three points with a time of 3:05.83. Leah Blackman finished 18th and scored one point with a time of 3:30.71.

Seven Lady Pirates competed in the 50 freestyle: Gantt finished 26th in 31.44 seconds, Cram finished 34th in 34.39 seconds, Monterroso finished 39th in 36.75 seconds, Smith took 45th in 39.41 seconds, Gutierrez finished 48th in 40.68 seconds, Rivera finished 49th in 43.46 seconds, and Talley took 50th in 43.96 seconds.

"Chloe Gantt was able to break 32 in the 50 free," Miller highlighted, adding, "she also took just over 6 seconds off in her 100 free."

Gantt finished the 100 freestyle in 1:09.19 to finish 18th and earn two points.

In the same event, Hedgecock finished 27th with a time of 1:12.10.

In the 500 freestyle, Slingerland finished 12th and earned six points with a time of 8:25.89.

"Gemma was able to cut another 8 seconds off of her 500 free," Miller wrote.

The Lady Pirates fielded three teams for the 200 freestyle relay.

The team of Hedgecock, Cram, Blackman and Gantt finished 15th with a time of 2:10.07 to earn six points.

The team of Slingerland, Stewart, Monterroso and Leah Blackman finished 21st with a time of 2:26.97.

The team of Smith, Rivera, Talley and Gutierrez finished 23rd with a time of 2:52.22.

Six Lady Pirates competed in the 100 backstroke: Cram finished 27th with a time of 1:29.33, Stewart finished 32nd in 1:37.70, Smith

followed in 33rd in 1:43.03, Monterroso finished 34th with a time of 1:51.59, Talley finished 35th in 2:00.03 and Gutierrez finished 37th in 2:06.04.

A trio of Lady Pirates were in the 100 breaststroke event: Karis Blackman finished 19th with a time of 1:30.62, Leah Blackman finished 24th in 1:35.97 and Rivera took 36th with a time of 1:58.32.

In the 400 freestyle relay, the team of Smith, Rivera, Talley and Gutierrez finished 13th with a time of 6:37.72 to earn 14 points.

"Overall, the swimmers are looking very good heading into our last couple of meets," Miller wrote.

This week, the team will compete in Gunnison, with the meet slated to begin at 3 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 26.

"For Gunnison this week we are continuing to focus on good technique and speed. At the meet we are focusing on swimmers better events as a tune up for [conference] and to help us make final entry decisions for the conference meet," Miller wrote.

The conference meet is scheduled for Feb. 2 and 3.

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Wrestling

Continued from A10

weight class, received a forfeit. Janowsky commented that the Demons are a "very good" 2A team with high-quality coaching and "good, knowledgeable wrestlers kind of across the board."

He stated that the Pirates had to forfeit too many weights to make the overall dual competitive, but that the matches wrestled were "pretty competitive" and that he saw improvements in some Pirate athletes. The Pirates will compete next in a

dual against the Montezuma-Cortez Panthers in Cortez on Jan. 26.

Janowsky noted that this will be the team's second Intermountain League dual.

The next day, on Jan. 27, the Pirates will wrestle at the Butch Melton Invitational in Ignacio.

The coach explained that this tournament uses a scramble format that is different from most tournaments the team attends and is designed to maximize the number of matches for each wrestler.

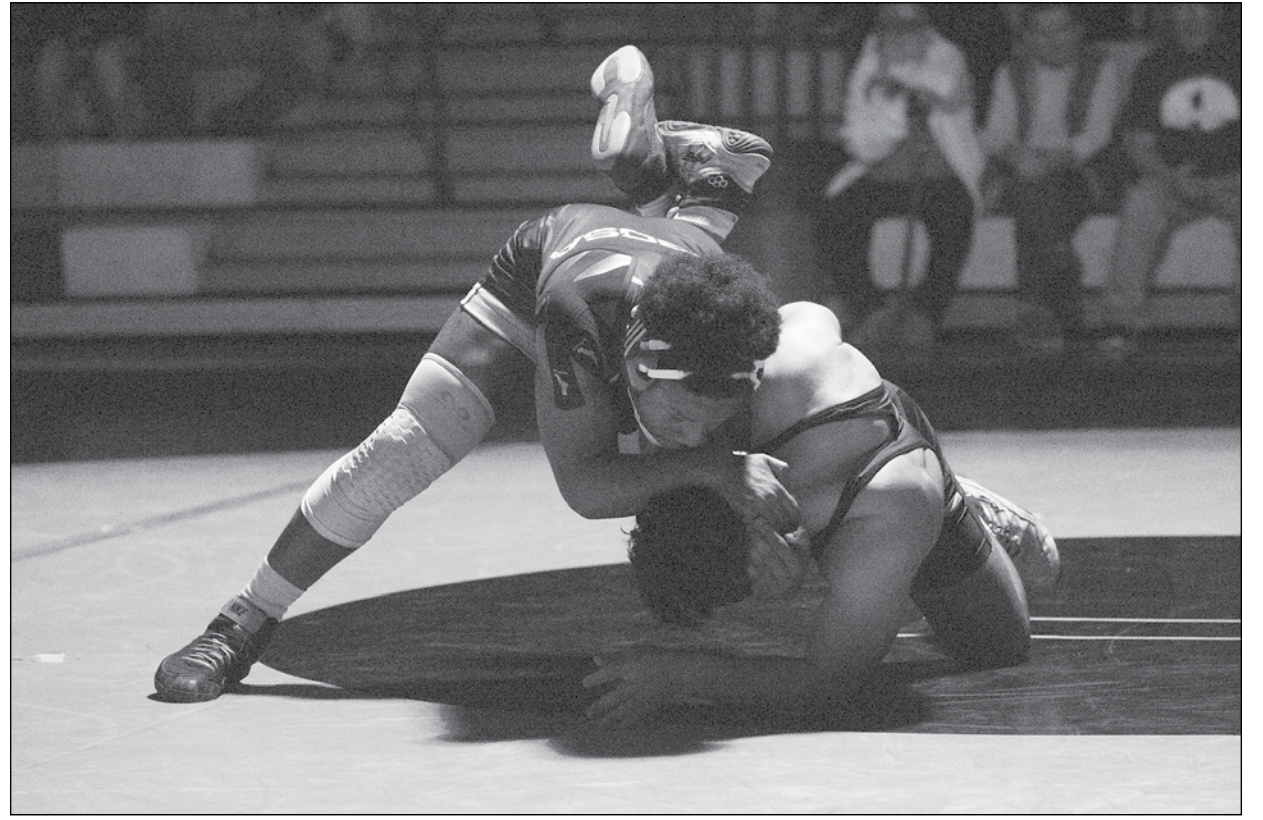
He stated that this format begins with matches against other wrestlers in a pool format where no eliminations are possible and then moves to a set of line bracket matches with seeding based on the pool results.

He stated that this format will result in most Pirates receiving four to six full-length matches over the course of the day.

"It's a long day, but ... at the same time, it's a great day for training," Janowsky concluded.

josh@pagosasun.com

WRESTLING



SUN photos/Randi Pierce

Pirate wrestlers compete under the lights at Pagosa Springs High School during a dual against Bayfield on Jan. 18. The Pirates won the dual 66-18.



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BASKETBALL

Lady Pirates sail past Alamosa, Bayfield

By Robert Moore
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Lady Pirate basketball team hit the road twice over the last week and returned home with two more wins as the team defeated the 3A Alamosa Mean Moose on Friday, Jan. 19, 41-26 and followed that with a dominant performance Saturday, Jan. 20, against the 3A Bayfield Wolverines, winning 57-10.

The two wins improved the Lady Pirates' overall record to 11-3 and extended their winning streak to 10 games, with the Bayfield game being their largest margin of victory this season.

Pagosa is also currently in first place in the Intermountain League with a 4-0 record.

Pagosa trailed Alamosa at the end of the first quarter by the score of 12-7, with all 12 of the Mean Moose's points coming from four 3-pointers scored by four different players.

From her film study of Alamosa, coach Sarah Osborn indicated she had anticipated Alamosa to open with their normal offense, so she had the team "taking a step off, closing those gaps in the paint, not getting into foul trouble."

In the second quarter, Osborn had the Pirates return to their normal style of defense, saying, "We're going to be up in their face and still close gaps, and ... play our normal defense."

In the remaining three quarters, Alamosa did not hit any 3-pointers, and scored only three points in the second quarter, four points in the

third period and seven points in the final quarter, which enabled Pagosa to pull away and win by a final score of 41-26.

"It was nice to go there and get that big win in their gym, and hopefully we can repeat that again when they come to us, but it feels good," Osborn stated. "We're almost all the way through the league. We're hoping to go through the first time with no losses, and then just repeat that the second time, which will be tougher."

The Lady Pirates were led in scoring by Elizabeth Currier with 18 points, followed by Annie O'Donnell and Karsyn Shahan with eight points each, Daveyann Snarr with three, and Kylie Ketchum and Amber Snarr with two points each. O'Donnell led the team's rebounding performance, snagging nine rebounds, which was followed by Shahan with six, Ketchum with five, Currier with four, Daveyann Snarr with three, Amber Snarr with two and Adelyn Hittle with one for a total of 30 for the Lady Pirates in the game.

Pagosa had a total of 14 assists, led by Daveyann Snarr with seven, and six players helped snare 11 steals while committing only seven turnovers.

The team shot 75 percent from the free-throw line, making six of eight attempts.

In their next game, the Lady Pirates breezed past the Bayfield Wolverines to notch their 11th win of the season and remain undefeated on the road this season.

Even though it has been a down year for Bayfield, Osborn noted,

"We still got to play our game. We still got to play consistently. I think it's kind of easy to play down to certain teams, to play to the level of the competition, and I thought we did a good job of coming out and staying focused."

Pagosa led 23-4 at the end of the first quarter and 32-8 at halftime.

The Lady Pirates were even more dominant in the second half as Bayfield scored only two points in the third period and went scoreless in the fourth quarter, with the final score of the game being 57-10. "My first five [were able] to go in there, get it done so we could get everybody that experience in playing time; and we were able to play all 12 and get everybody in and get everybody some minutes, which was good," Osborn said.

Seven Lady Pirates contributed to a balanced team scoring effort led by Currier with 14 points and O'Donnell with 12. Ketchum and Daveyann Snarr scored nine points each, Shahan added six, Hittle five and Kaila Limebrook two.

Eight different Pirates jumped in to nab a total of 33 rebounds for the game, led by Ketchum with seven, Daveyann Snarr and O'Donnell with six each and Shahan with four. Currier, Hittle and Amber Snarr snagged three each, and Ximena Garcia grabbed another.

Pagosa had 14 assists, five blocks, and 22 steals fueled by Daveyann Snarr and Shahan with seven each.

The team went to the free-throw line 20 times but were only able to connect on eight for 40 percent, and committed 12 turnovers for

the game.

Pagosa remains No. 3 in the 4A Ratings Percentage Index (RPI) standings, which help determine postseason seedings.

Alamosa's record stands at 8-6, and the Mean Moose are ranked No. 12 in the 4A RPI standings.

Bayfield's record dropped to 1-8. The Wolverines are currently ranked 44th in the 3A RPI standings.

Next, the Pirates will be home for a game against the 3A Montezuma-Cortez Panthers on Friday, Jan. 26, at 5:30 p.m.

The Panthers are 4-5 on the season and ranked No. 22 in the 3A RPI standings.

Then, Pagosa will hit the road the following day for a rematch with the 3A Centauri Falcons, where the Lady Pirates hope to end the Falcons' 16-game home-court winning streak.

The teams will play on Saturday, Jan. 27, at 12:30 p.m.

Centauri's record is 9-3 for the season, and the team is ranked No. 6 in the 3A RPI standings.

In preparation for their next games with Montezuma-Cortez and Centauri, Osborn said, "Cortez has played everybody tough ... So, you got to show up, you got to play ... [and Centauri] will be prepared for us. We need to make sure that we're executing pretty precisely for both games. And then our defense, it's nice because we've been able to rely on that all year ... Even when our offense hasn't quite hit or isn't quite connecting, we can rely on our defense to keep us in games." *robert@pagosasun.com*

Bayfield's record is 1-11 and the Wolverines are ranked No. 48 in the 3A RPI standings.

Next up for the Pirates is a home game against the 3A Montezuma-Cortez Panthers on Friday, Jan. 26, at 7 p.m.

The Panthers are 4-7 on the season and ranked No. 36 in the 3A RPI standings.

The Pirates will then travel to La Jara for a rematch against the 3A Centauri Falcons on Saturday, Jan. 27, at 2 p.m.

Centauri is 8-4 on the season, 3-1 in IML play, and is ranked No. 14 in the 3A RPI standings.

For the upcoming games with Montezuma-Cortez and Centauri, Lewis said, "We will again continue to need to be good defensively ... and we just got to be a little bit better offensively." *robert@pagosasun.com*

Pirates

Continued from A10

like if we cleaned those things up in the second half, which we did ... and we just kind of cruised to a victory."

The final score of the game was Pagosa 71, Bayfield 31.

Kinsley set a new season-high in scoring as he led the Pirates with 18 points while adding five rebounds and two assists.

Colt Lewis had 12 points, three rebounds, eight assists and two

steals. Harper added 12 points, two rebounds, two assists and four steals. Laner had 11 points, eight rebounds, four assists, three steals and two blocks. Wilson contributed nine points, seven rebounds and one steal.

Zeigler had four points and two rebounds. Jaxton Schiel three points, two rebounds and one steal. Trey Garcia added two points and a steal, and Dozier finished with one rebound and

five assists.

The Pirates made six of 10 free throw attempts for 60 percent and committed 14 turnovers.

The two wins improved the Pirates' record to 13-1, but Pagosa moved down to No. 4 in the 4A Ratings Percentage Index (RPI) standings, which help determine postseason seedings.

Alamosa's record is now 8-6, and the Mean Moose are ranked No. 27 in the 3A RPI standings.

Wolf Creek Ski Area hosts first Fun Race of season

By Shelley Raymond
Wolf Creek Ski Area

Wolf Creek Ski Area hosted its first Fun Race of the season on Sunday, Jan. 21.

The modified grand slalom course was held on Lower Charisma and was groomed, with some light snowfall later in the day making for soft conditions on the course. The turnout was a respectable 44 skiers traveling in from Florida, New Mexico and Arizona.

The overall winner of the day was Dan Hultgren, from Saint Petersburg, Fla., with an impressive time of 27.30 seconds. Corbin Horrocks, of South Fork, came in second place with a time of 28.83 seconds. Third place went to Thomas Popov, of Pagosa Springs, with an equally impressive time of 29.31.

Only two seconds separated the first- through third-place finishers in the men's race.

The ladies race was equally as exciting, with less than one second separating the top three finishers.

The overall winner of the ladies race was Linda Johnston, of Scottsdale, Ariz., with an impressive race time of 37.38. Second place went to Laura Mithuff, also of Scottsdale, Ariz., with a time of 37.69. Finally, Julie Church, of Pinetop, Ariz., came in third place with a race time of 37.69.

In the girls' race, Blayke Hill (age 3-5) and Logyn Hill (age 6-8), of Carlsbad, N.M., came in with race times of 1:12.57 and 45.60, respectively.

Aiden Soden, of Pagosa Springs, placed first in our Boys 9-11 group with a time of 35.91. First-time racer Logan Bristow, of Pagosa Springs, came in just behind Soden with a race time of 45.49.

Rylan Soden, of Pagosa Springs, placed first in the Boys 12-14 group with a time of 38.17 seconds. Cooper Webb, of South Fork, placed second with a race time of 42 flat.

Brayden Jones, also of South Fork, came in with a finishing race time of 51.79 seconds.

Horrocks, the overall second-place winner, was the only contestant in the Boys 15-17 group, finishing with a time of 28.83 seconds.

Finally, there were two racers in our Boys 18-20 group, with both racers hailing from Oklahoma City, Okla. The overall winner of this age group was Jaxson Chesser with a time of 41.62 seconds, and coming in a close second was Carson Osburn at 45.52 seconds.

Overall the first race went well, even with the fresh snow, and Wolf Creek Ski Area is looking forward to the next fun race, which will be held on Feb. 18 for Presidents Day weekend.

The racing fun continues over the next two weeks with the Cont. Freeride IFSA Jr. Event being held this Saturday, Jan. 27, and Sunday, Jan. 28; and the Wolf Creek Giant Slalom Race on Saturday, Feb. 3.

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Triple Impact Student-Athlete of the Week Kylie Ketchum Basketball, track

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Comments from coach Sarah Osborn: "Kylie Ketchum is a junior in our program this year, and she significantly impacts our program both on and off the court. Kylie has put in a lot of work since her sophomore year to become one of the keys to our successful season so far. She has helped us in our offense with her consistent shooting and hitting some big threes when we need them. She brings not only her potent offense but also her strong defense to our team as well. We can always count on her for consistency on both ends of the floor. Her teammates and coaches love that she brings a positive attitude to the court and always lifts her teammates. She is reliable both on and off the court, and the younger classmen

look up to her for her confidence, trustworthiness, and leadership. Not only is she successful in basketball, but she is also a varsity track athlete; she makes top marks in all her classes and is part of SALT, our student-athlete leadership club. On top of all this, Kylie is a young businesswoman and entrepreneur. She has a very successful small business, SunSteer Designs. Kylie used her skills to help make the team t-shirts this year and the sweatshirts for both the boys' and girls' basketball programs. She is very talented and successful in everything she does and puts her mind to. I am beyond proud of her and all her accomplishments both on and off the court. I can't wait to see what she brings to us as a senior next year."

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Outdoors



Photos courtesy Jeff Laydon

Saturday's WinterFest festivities included the 15th annual Red Ryder BB Gun Biathlon, hosted by the Pagosa Nordic Club at Yamaguchi Park. The event included a competitive 16km, citizens 4km and a KidK, with racers shooting at targets between course laps. Costumes were encouraged.

EXTENSION VIEWPOINTS

Thinning Colorado forests to reduce fire danger also helps bees and flowers, research shows

By William Allstetter and Robin Young
Colorado Sun and SUN Columnist

A more-than-decade long effort to thin Front Range forests to reduce fire danger has brought more bees, more flowers and increased resilience to climate change, new research shows.

The raw number and the diversity of bees and plants exploded a few years after ponderosa pine forests were restored to a "pre-European" state, researchers from Colorado State and Utah State universities found.

"We found that if you cut trees and open up the canopy, between three and 10 years later, you see a pretty good response," said Seth Davis, associate professor of for-

est and rangeland stewardship at Colorado State University and co-author of a study recently published in "Ecological Applications." "Forest restoration and forest thinning is one of the ways that we can conserve our native communities."

For thousands of years, natural fires have been an integral part of healthy forest ecosystems in the West. Small fires that clear out underbrush every five to 30 years as well as more devastating fires that can raze the forest to the ground every 50 to 100 or more years clear the way for new growth. Native Americans were known to set small fires to clear out undergrowth for better hunting and regeneration of valuable plants, but did not cause major changes in the ecosystem.

Then, beginning in 1859, Euro-Americans flooded into Colorado seeking gold and silver.

"Suddenly, in a span of decades, the Colorado Rockies were engulfed by this new, highly unpredictable world of commodity capitalism, of smelters and railroad investment, of boomtowns and sudden busts, of landscape changes so fundamental that they dwarfed the modest human impacts made over the prior 10 centuries," historical geographer William Wyckoff wrote in his book "Creating Colorado."

Vast swaths of the Front Range forests were cleared to obtain wood for mining, construction and railroads. Extensive fires also surged across the landscape, fueled by accidental and intentional fires.

■ See Viewpoints A15

Weminuche Audubon Society announces Camp Colorado scholarship

By Jean Zirnheft
Weminuche Audubon Society

The Weminuche Audubon Society is offering an incredible opportunity for an area student between the ages of 13 to 17 to attend a weeklong camp this June.

If you have an interest in birds and exploring nature in beautiful surroundings, this is the camp for you.

Camp Colorado is based at the Highlands Camp and Retreat Center in Allenspark, Colo., at the edge of Rocky Mountain National Park. This camp will teach you skills to enhance your observations of the natural world with sketching, painting, field journaling, photography and more.

A new adventure awaits each

day when campers explore the birdlife in ecosystems from the grasslands, and foothills to mountain areas within Rocky Mountain National Park.

Meet new friends from across the country with similar interests. With the small number of campers in the program and friendly, knowledgeable staff, the camp is designed to make your experience a blast from beginning to end.

The camp in 2024 will take place from June 23 to 30. Camp requirements require that all campers and staff provide a negative COVID-19 test before arrival. Detailed information on the camp may be found at aba.org/campcolorado.

To apply for the scholarship, students should submit an essay of 400 to 600 words describing his

or her experiences in the outdoors and reasons for wishing to attend the camp, along with a letter of recommendation from an adult who is not a relative.

Submissions must be received by the Weminuche Audubon Society by March 1 and may be sent by email to weminuche.audubon@gmail.com or by mail to P.O. Box 1087, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147.

The scholarship, which pays camp expenses, is awarded thanks to the generosity of Joan Ward, who has funded the scholarship since 2015. Only through this support is our chapter able to offer this opportunity. The scholarship fund was established in memory of Michael Ward, former chapter board member and supporter, and is named in his honor.

Public Notices

COMBINED NOTICE - PUBLICATION
CRS §38-38-103 FORECLOSURE SALE NO. 2023-009
To Whom It May Concern: This Notice is given with regard to the following described Deed of Trust:
On October 26, 2023, the undersigned Public Trustee caused the Notice of Election and Demand relating to the Deed of Trust described below to be recorded in the County of Archuleta records.
Original Grantor(s) Justin Travis Fowler
Original Beneficiary(ies) Terry Jackson
Current Holder of 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 §38-38-101(4)(i), you are hereby notified that the covenants of the deed of trust have been violated as follows: Failure to pay principal and interest when due together with all other payments provided for in the evidence of debt secured by the deed of trust and other violations thereof.
THE LIEN FORECLOSED MAY NOT BE A FIRST LIEN.
Lot 11 of Block 7 in ASPEN SPRINGS SUBDIVISION NO. 3, according to the plat thereof filed for record July 6, 1971 as Reception No. 74587, 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 ENCMBERED 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)
COMBINED NOTICE - PUBLICATION
CRS §38-38-103 FORECLOSURE SALE NO. 2023-010
To Whom It May Concern: This Notice is given with regard to the following described Deed of Trust:
On November 8, 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) June J Balizan and James A Pacheco
Original Beneficiary(ies) Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as beneficiary, as nominee for The Central Trust Bank
Current Holder of Evidence of Debt PennyMac Loan Services, LLC
Date of Deed of Trust September 06, 2019
County of Recording Archuleta
Recording Date of Deed of Trust September 09, 2019
Recording Information (Reception No. and/or Book/ Page No.) 21905117 Book: N/A Page:
Original Principal Amount \$250,381.00
Outstanding Principal Balance \$236,059.23
Pursuant to CRS §38-38-101(4)(i), you are hereby notified that the covenants of the deed of trust have been violated as follows: Failure to pay principal and interest

when due together with all other payments provided for in the evidence of debt secured by the deed of trust and other violations thereof.
THE LIEN FORECLOSED MAY NOT BE A FIRST LIEN.
Lot 2 of Block 2 in ASPEN SPRINGS SUBDIVISION NO. 4, according to the plat thereof filed for record August 20, 1971 as Reception No. 74785.
Also known by street and number as: 511 Blue Jay Cir, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147.
THE PROPERTY DESCRIBED HEREIN IS ALL OF THE PROPERTY CURRENTLY ENCMBERED 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, 03/07/2024, 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 1/11/2024
Last Publication 2/8/2024
Name of Publication Pagosa Springs Sun
IF THE SALE DATE IS CONTINUED TO A LATER DATE, THE DEADLINE TO FILE A NOTICE OF IN-

TENT TO CURE BY THOSE PARTIES ENTITLED TO CURE MAY ALSO BE EXTENDED;
DATE: 11/08/2023
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: Aricony J. Dall #51467
Randall S. Miller & Associates PC 216 16th St, Ste 1210, Denver, CO 80202 (720) 259-9053
Attorney File # 23CO00165-1
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 January 11, 19, 25 & February 1 & 8, 2024 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (221568)
FOR BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HEARING February 20, 2024 PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to CRS 30-28-116 that the Board of County Commissioners of Archuleta County, Colorado, will hold a public hearing to consider revising the County Land Use Regulations. The language proposed to be adopted is available for review at the County Development Services Department 970-264-1390 and on the County Website.
The public hearing will be held on Tuesday, **February 20, 2024**, at 1:30 p.m. in the County Commissioner's Meeting Room at 398 Lewis Street, Pagosa Springs, Colorado, at which time all interested parties will be heard. Written comments may also be submitted to the Archuleta County Board of Commissioners, P.O. Box 1507, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147, at or prior to said

public hearing.
Published January 25 & February 15, 2024 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (226558)
FOR BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HEARING ON August 1, 2023 ARX WIRELESS, has applied for a Board Conditional Use Permit for the GRMS TOWER, on the PARCEL in 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 Board of County Commissioners on February 6, 2024, at 1:30 p.m. in the County Administration Office Meeting Room, 398 Lewis Street, Pagosa Springs, Colorado. Public comment will be taken at the meeting.
Published January 25 & February 1, 2024 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (224900)
LEGAL NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that Archuleta County is seeking proposals for conducting Strategic Planning Services for the county. Proposals will be received by the Archuleta County Finance Department at 398 Lewis Street, Pagosa Springs, Colorado, until 3:30 p.m. on February 20, 2024. The Invitation for Bids can be found on the county website at www.archuletacounty.org.
Published January 18 & 25, 2024 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (226557)

PUBLIC NOTICES: YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW

Nonprofits raise more than \$10,500 at WinterFest Penguin Plunge

By Mary Jo Coulehan
Pagosa Springs Area Chamber of Commerce

The 2024 Penguin Plunge saw more than \$10,500 raised for six nonprofit agencies in Archuleta County. Hardy souls swam in the 33-degree water to raise funds for their organizations.

The participating agencies this year were: Habitat for Humanity of Archuleta County; Mark Trimmer,

WinterFest title co-sponsor plunging for the Red Ryder Rodeo; Pastor Ken Daniels with Community United Methodist Church; the San Juan Basin Area Agency on Aging (SJBAAA); Special Olympics; and the Humane Society of Pagosa Springs.

Penguin Plunge fun notes: The Humane Society is the organization that has plunged the most times since the event's inception and often winning the "Most Money Raised" award. Throughout the

years, plunger Merlin Wheeler, always plunging for SJBAAA, has been the single longest participant plunging for over six or seven years.

This year, Special Olympics raised the highest amount of pledges, totaling more than \$5,000, with the Humane Society coming in second.

The Penguin Plunge was developed 15 years ago as a "fun" way for organizations to raise money for their causes. Spectators cheer

the participants on as they brave the San Juan River waters ranging from 29 to 33 degrees.

This is also a good way to raise awareness for the various nonprofit agencies in Pagosa Springs.

Congratulations to all the participants and organizations. Get your teams ready for the 2025 WinterFest Plunge and start raising money at the end of 2024. Contact the Chamber of Commerce for more information.

Viewpoints

Continued from A14

To combat the rampant and unregulated logging of these forests, the federal government in the early years of the 20th century created the White River, Pike, and Arapaho and Roosevelt national forests along the Front Range and high into the Rockies. At about the same time, firefighters began trying to suppress all fires.

As a result, over the past century, dense forests with thick undergrowth have grown up across the Front Range and the entire West. Many of the plants that thrived in the pre-European forests disappeared from the now shady forest floor. And with them went many of the animals that ate and pollinated them.

"You end up with a rather homogenous landscape that doesn't have a lot of flowers in it," Davis said. "You end up with a situation where you can't have a lot of native bees there."

In Colorado and across the nation, sharply declining populations of native bumblebees and non-native honeybees have raised concerns about these important pollinators at the base of the food web. Loss and fragmentation of bee-friendly habitat, pesticides, diseases and climate change have all been blamed. Colorado recently limited access to a particularly harmful class of pesticide, neonicotinoids, and commissioned a study to evaluate the state of pollinators across the state, presumably with an eye toward more conservation. Colorado Parks and Wildlife, however, has no authority to manage or protect insects like bees, beetles and other pollinators.

Dense forests that have grown up over the past century have fostered more frequent devastating crown fires that are extremely difficult to fight and have destroyed thousands of homes. Ponderosa pine forests, growing between 6,000 and 9,000 feet in elevation, are especially prone to burning.

In 2020 alone, five devastating fires burned 25 percent of the Arapaho and Roosevelt national forests. Drier and warmer weather from climate change are further increasing the fire danger.

In an attempt to reduce fire danger and restore forests across the West closer to their healthier, pre-European state, the federal government in 2009 funded a 10-year program, called the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program. Thirty-two thousand acres — or 50 square miles — of the most vulnerable and degraded forests along the Front Range were chosen for restoration, through physical removal of excess trees and undergrowth and low-intensity prescribed fires.

It is still too early to know if the thinning has reduced fire danger. However, thinning did have a beneficial effect on at least one large fire.

"The Cameron Peak fire burned into some of the areas that did have that thinning and prescribed fire," said Tony Cheng, director of the Colorado Forest Restoration Institute at Colorado State Uni-

versity. "That fire basically kind of laid down once it hit those thinned areas. It transitioned from being a running crown fire into being more of a grass kind of surface fire, which is exactly the kind of fire that we would have expected more of historically. So that was really kind of an eyewitness demonstration where a lot of that work really did have an impact on the fire."

Flowers were three times more abundant in thinned forest plots

Davis and his colleagues studied 15 thinned and 15 unthinned plots near Estes Park, Lyons and Buffalo Creek. The thinned plots were sunnier, warmer and more open.

"Think 'open and park-like,' or 'savannah woodland,'" Davis wrote in an email.

In contrast, the unthinned forest was colder and darker with pine needles and woody material covering the forest floor.

"Think 'thick pine forest that wants to burn up,'" he wrote.

Sweat bees, so named because of their attraction to human sweat, were the most common group of bees. Bumblebees were the second-most common group and two of the most common species. Leafcutter bees were another group often found in the forests.

Compiling a list of the plants and bees provides a very limited picture of the forest ecosystem. It is kind of like naming the characters in a play without performing the play. It does not tell you how the characters interact, who is important and who plays a minor role.

To get a more direct and relevant measure of the ecological effects of forest thinning, Davis and his colleagues cataloged which bees visited which plants.

They found an impressively richer, more dense and resilient web of life. While the bee population roughly doubled, the number of interactions between bees and plants rose eightfold and there were five times as many unique connections between specific bee species and plant species.

The researchers illustrated the interactions in a diagram, which visually depicts a richer, more complex web of life.

"Yeah, it's kind of mind-blowing," Davis said. "You just see there's just far more diversity or more complexity."

"You get the idea that if you lost one or two of the flowers or one or two of the bees out of this system, the whole network doesn't just collapse and fall apart. Whereas on these control plots, if you remove one or two things, you just got a lot more vulnerable ecosystem."

"This paper is a strong piece of evidence for the ecosystem benefits of forest thinning in areas where fire has been suppressed and the canopy is overgrown," said Amy Yarger, director of horticulture at the Butterfly Pavilion. She was not involved in the research. "With climate change and biodiversity loss posing existential threats, mindful forest management is key for conservation and for preserving our way of life in Colorado."

By mapping those interactions, Davis was able to identify several plant species that are particularly important for a healthy ponderosa pine forest: blue mist penstemon (*Penstemon virens*), field chickweed or prairie mouse-ear (*Cerastium arvense*), sand dune or Western wallflower (*Erysimum capitatum*) and pineywoods geranium (*Geranium caespitosum*).

In addition to being visited by many bees, these plants also connect different groups of bees and plants that interact, sort of like the person in high school who was both a jock and part of the theater crowd. These connector plants help make the network more resilient should one or more species of plant or bee disappear.

"Here are some really key species for supporting a lot of biodiversity of pollinators, which in turn supports biodiversity of plants," said Julian Resasco, assistant professor of ecology and evolutionary biology at the University of Colorado. "Things that maintain the integrity and the diversity of these ecosystems make them more robust to other threats, like climate change."

The researchers recommended that forest managers seed ponderosa pine forests with these plants to promote a robust pollinator network. They also could be good plants for people to plant in their gardens. "These are good choices for planting because they're going to support the bee-flower interaction network," Davis said.

He believes the environmental benefits extend beyond bees and plants. "We're sort of measuring one little component of the overall food web here," Davis said. "By bolstering their abundances, you're also bolstering the abundances of things which prey upon them, like predators, which could be birds and other animals."

Another study from 2020 suggests that the thinned forests also benefited bird populations.

The thinning by the original landscape restoration program ended in 2019. Since then, the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and Inflation Reduction Act have funneled more money into the program and the Forest Service has announced a strategy to reduce wildfire hazards across the West. The initial funding for that program, however, will run out in three to four years, said the Forest Restoration Institute's Tony Cheng, and it is not clear what will happen after that.

"I think the question is always what comes next to sustain the funding for this continued forest management," Cheng said.

This article is reprinted with permission of The Colorado Sun. The Colorado Sun is a nonprofit, reader-supported news outlet. To learn more and subscribe to free newsletters, go to coloradosun.com.

Refrigerator needed for Extension office

The Extension office is looking for a commercial refrigerator to replace the one in the Exhibit Hall that finally went kaput after many years. If you have a working commercial refrigerator that you are looking to get rid of, please let us know. We will come remove it for you.

Save the dates

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 at 5:30 p.m.

Do you own property in Archuleta County? Would you like to know more about your land and its resources?

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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Celebration

Nathan Scott Lewis

More than 10,800 Iowa State University students have been recognized for outstanding academic achievement by being named to the fall semester 2023 Dean's List. Students named to the Dean's List must earn a GPA of at least 3.50 on a 4.00 scale while carrying a minimum of 12 credit hours of graded course work.

Included on the Dean's List is Nathan Scott Lewis, 4, biological systems engineering.

Card of Thanks

WOLF fundraiser

Last Thursday, WOLF hosted its annual ski film fundraiser. We'd like to thank all of our supporters. Of course, none of what we do is possible without donations from Shelly and Jason Cox or the use of space (and AV expertise) provided by Laura and Tim Moore.

Thank you.

Your source for community news: The Pagosa Springs SUN



SUN photo/Hailey Sams



Photo courtesy Jeff Laydon

WinterFest

Last weekend's WinterFest featured the fun of the season, from sledging to ballooning, a community bonfire, dog parade and more.



SUN photo/Randi Pierce



SUN photo/Randi Pierce



Photo courtesy Jeff Laydon



Photo courtesy Jeff Laydon



Photo courtesy Jeff Laydon



SUN photo/Josh Pike



Photo courtesy Jeff Laydon



SUN photo/Randi Pierce



Photo courtesy Jeff Laydon



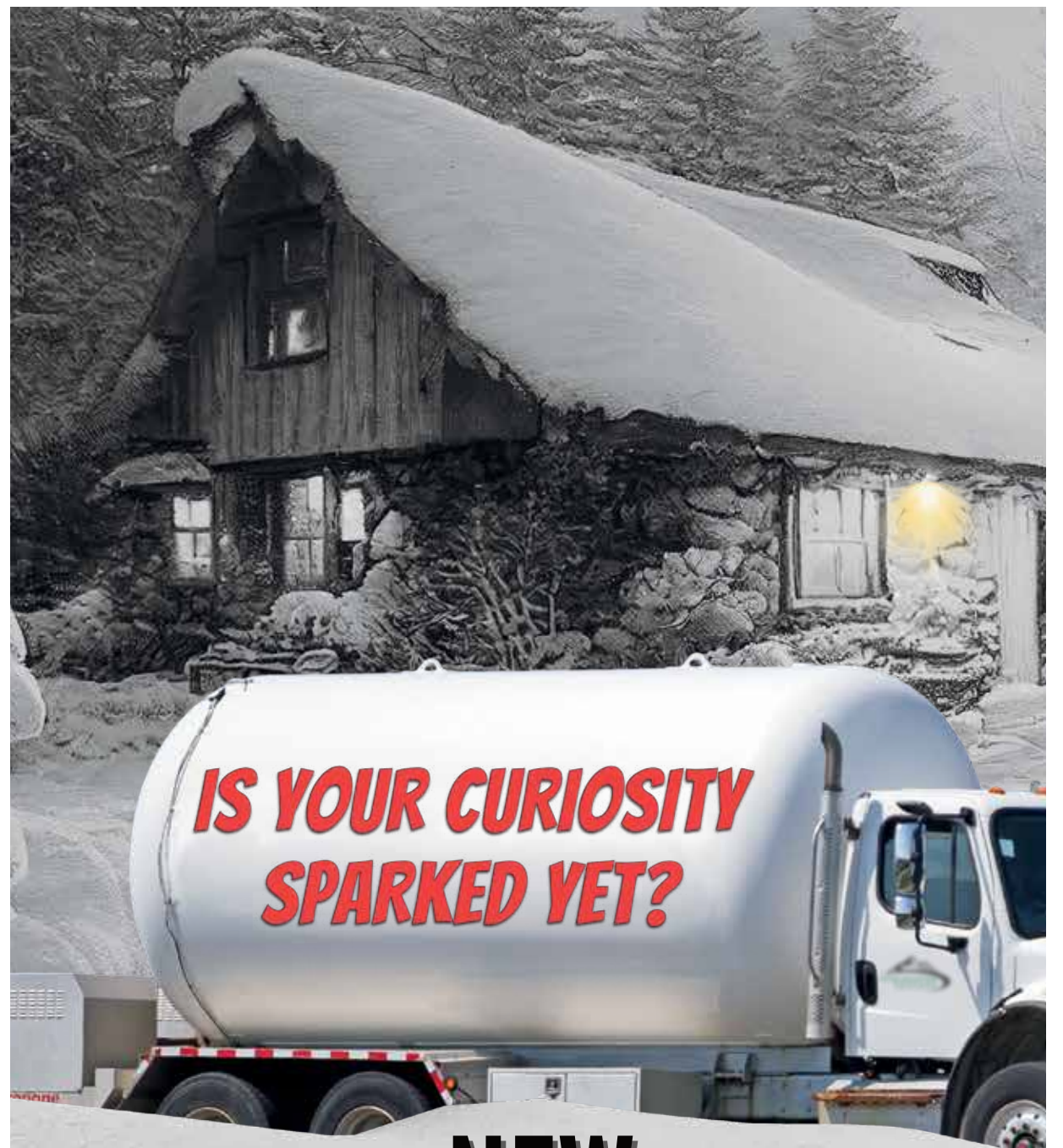
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ARTS & LIFE



PREVIEW photo/Randi Pierce

January 25, 2024

San Juan Stargazers plan monthly meeting, Stellarium webinar

By Joan Mieritz
San Juan Stargazers

The San Juan Stargazers will hold their next monthly meeting on Thursday, Feb. 1, 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. You enter the kitchen and go to the large meeting room. We usually 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. This is a chance to visit with other members and if you have a question about astronomy, I'm certain we will find someone with a good answer.

We have two different topics for this meeting, the first one being the 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.

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.

Club members who are remaining in Pagosa will gather for the eclipse with anyone who wants to join them in Centennial Park at the Geothermal Greenhouse Partnership amphitheater along the Riverwalk.

Hopefully our members can answer questions and document anything special that happens in Pagosa. Please feel welcome to join in a rare event of the moon passing between the sun and the earth.

If anyone (in the community or any club members) has questions about the eclipse, come to our meeting at 7 p.m. and we should have answers. Since this is an important eclipse, our club has the responsibility for making sure that everyone in our community has the correct information to decide where they want to be and how they want to see it. We are here to help you.

The second topic for the night will be Mercury, "an extreme little planet" from a Great Courses lesson. We will have a summary to read and discuss and then have a video presentation by our favorite lady astronomer, Dr. Sabine Stanley. It should be fascinating. She always does a great job.

Webinar

The Stargazers will host a webinar on Stellarium at 7 p.m. on

Jan. 31.

During the colder months, using a planetarium app allows you to explore the night sky from the comfort of your home. It will simulate any location on Earth at any time, past, present or future. The San Juan Stargazers use Stellarium to prepare and outline our night sky programs including the moon phase, visible planets, visible constellations and deep-sky objects.

This webinar will be a demonstration of the free online planetarium app Stellarium. If you already use it and are thinking of upgrading to reasonably priced Stellarium Plus, the demo will include features of the paid version, such as Field of View simulation and Telescope Control.

To access this webinar, go to the events page on the Stargazer website, sanjuanstargazers.org, to register before Jan. 30. You will receive an email on the day prior with the link to the Zoom call. You can simply click the Zoom link in a browser on your computer to join.

If you plan on joining the call on your mobile device, you will need to install the Zoom app before the webinar.

Installing the free Stellarium app before the webinar is recommended, but not required.

It is assumed participants have some minimal knowledge of astronomy. **See Stargazers on next page**

Live Performers

Friday

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

Saturday

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

Tuesday

The Springs Resort lodge atrium: Dustin Burley, 5 p.m.

Wednesday

The Den: Karaoke, 8 p.m.

Physical address: 457 Lewis Street
Mailing address: PO Box 9, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147

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PREVIEW is a publication of

The Pagosa Springs
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ISSN 2835-3994 (Print) ISSN 2835-4001 (Online)

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New Thought Center to host Wolfwood Refuge fundraiser

By Shayla McClure
New Thought Center for Inspirational Living

We are so excited to team up with Wolfwood Refuge for wolves to fundraise with this special event. Please join Julie Mary Loar — the creator of an award winning game, Quintangled — and the “Good Vibe Tribe” at the Pagosa Lodge from 6 to 10 p.m. on Jan. 27 for a masquerade ball.

Come dressed as a character such as a wizard, knight, queen, king, goddess, dolphin, whale, unicorn, witch, sage, Tasmanian devil, joker or as a medieval times

Women Helping in Pagosa Springs luncheon set

By Nancy Ford
Women Helping in Pagosa Springs

WHIPS, Women Helping in Pagosa Springs, will hold their luncheon on Tuesday, Jan. 30, at 11:30 a.m.

It is being catered by Sarah and Patrick Hurley for \$15 per person. The location is a home at 34 Agate Court off North Pagosa Boulevard and Antelope Avenue. All women are welcome.

We must have RSVPs by Sunday night, Jan. 28. Call (970) 946-1895.

Stargazers

continued from previous page
tronomy. We will not be teaching astronomical concepts. This is a software demonstration. First-timers are welcome to attend. We are in no way affiliated with the company that developed Stellarium, we just think that it is truly amazing, easy to use and well worth your time to add to your skill set. It is super-fun to use.

About the Stargazers

If you would like to join the San Juan Stargazers, 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 you can join using PayPal on our website, sanjuanstargazers.org.

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

person.

We will have a cash bar, appetizers, soups and desserts. There will be giveaways and live music by the Retrocats.

Support the majestic wolves. Tickets are on sale for \$50. Reserve your tickets now by texting or calling (970) 510-0309.

If you cannot attend or would like to donate \$50, you will receive a 2024 Wolf Calendar.

Or, for a \$20 donation, you can purchase a 2024 Wolf Calendar that can be mailed directly to you.

This fundraiser is sponsored by the New Thought Center, a 501(c)(3) organization.

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Rotary set to hold Super Bowl party

By Lisa Scott
Rotary Club of Pagosa Springs

Bring your friends for fun and viewing of the 58th NFL Super Bowl at a party suited for the occasion.

The Rotary Club of Pagosa Springs is hosting a party at the Tennyson Building Event Center on Sunday, Feb. 11. Kickoff is 4:30 p.m. and the party doors will open at 3 p.m.

The party room will have one large-screen projector, plus four additional large televisions that will broadcast the game and all the great commercials and entertainment in real time. Various food options, suited for a spectator sport event, will be offered at the end of every quarter, and beer, wine, and mixed drinks will be offered at the

cash/credit card bar.

The fun will not only be in the Allegiant Stadium as Rotary is offering many exciting door prizes that will be given out throughout the game, including passes to the geothermal springs, axe throwing, virtual shooting range and more. Prizes will also be awarded to the best-dressed fan from each team. Betting squares, with awards given out every quarter and at the end of the game, will be available for \$20 cash per square.

Tickets are \$25 per person and may be purchased online with a credit card through pagosaspringrotary.org or in person with cash or check at The Choke Cherry Tree.

Don't miss this fun event with your friends and community

friends. Net proceeds will benefit the Rotary Club local scholarship program for graduating high school seniors that awards higher education support for college and certificate and vo-tech training.

About us

"Service Above Self" is the International Rotary motto for the international service organization with more than 46,000 clubs and 1.4 million members worldwide. Local Rotary clubs service their communities with various projects, and provide human resources and financial support for local and international projects that improve the lives of others. To learn more about Rotary, visit <https://pagosaspringrotary.org>.

Free mental health appointments available through Aspire

By Marcy Mitchell
ASPIRE Medical Services and Education

A recent article on the cover of the Denver Post stated, "More pregnant and postpartum women in Colorado die from suicide or drug overdoses than any other causes, and those deaths represent only a small percentage of moms who need help."

Furthermore, a recent survey by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment found "about 12% of moms who gave birth in 2020 reported postpartum depression symptoms, and 32% reported anxiety in the first year after their child's birth."

As the only prenatal center in Archuleta County, Aspire has seen the rise in mental health challenges for new moms since COVID. Factors such as financial instability, geographic isolation, transportation challenges, food insecurity and a lack of health insurance contributes to a higher degree of mental stress for young families in Pagosa Springs.

To help solve this issue, Aspire began offering free mental health consulting services through Authentic Solutions in 2022. Thanks to an initial grant from Early Milestones Colorado and then a subsequent grant from Rocky Mountain Health Foundation, Aspire has been able

to help more than 40 individuals receive free mental health counseling.

One client stated, "I'm forever grateful for the free counseling provided through Aspire. After struggling through my first pregnancy, delivery and postpartum, I wanted this experience to be brighter. Through counseling we've been able to work through the medical trauma I experienced, enabling a more positive pregnancy. My therapist has also been an invaluable tool as I've navigated raising a toddler, working, managing relationships and addressing anxiety surrounding limited medical options in a rural community."

Pregnancy and the first three years of life are the foundation of healthy brain development and social/emotional development for children.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, poor mental health in parents is related to poor mental and physical health in children. As a result, providing quality mental health services is essential to supporting families in our community.

"If we want to change the trajectory of children and families in Archuleta County, we need to offer quality mental health services that are both accessible and affordable," said Marcy Mitchell, executive direc-

tor of Aspire.

Aspire offers free counseling appointments on Wednesdays. All sessions are confidential with the counselors. If you are a parent of a young child or are pregnant and would like to speak to someone, please contact Aspire at (970) 264-5963 to schedule an appointment.

First meeting for Women Entrepreneurs of Pagosa announced

By Annie Sewell
Women Entrepreneurs of Pagosa

Are you a woman who owns a small business in Pagosa?

We would like to invite you to the first meeting of the Women Entrepreneurs of Pagosa, a community of women helping women in business. This group is designed to encourage Pagosa-area women entrepreneurs success in business through education, collaboration

and collective intelligence.

We want to help you grow your business, help you get more visible and access the support you need to take your business to the next level of success.

Please join us for our first meeting, Monday, Jan. 29, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Visitor Center meeting room, located at 105 Hot Springs Blvd.

Light refreshments will be provided, or feel free to bring a lunch.

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February brings new free programs for adults and preschoolers plus first 2024 book sale

By Carole Howard
PREVIEW Columnist, and the library staff

Next month we will launch two new free programs, one for preschool-age youngsters and another for adults.

“Strategize Change in Your Life in 2024” is a weekly program for adults on Wednesdays beginning Feb. 7 from 1 to 2:15 p.m. that will happen only in February.

Led by a licensed professional counselor named Jennifer, the group will focus on goal setting and making positive changes to identify and change unwanted behaviors.

Attendance is limited, so pre-registration is required.

“Ready, Set, Learn” helps build important preschool skills such as tracing a line, cutting, identifying letters and holding a pencil. It will happen on Friday, Feb. 16, from 10 to 11 a.m. We are hoping this will become a monthly program.

Pop-up book sale Feb. 10

Mark your calendars for Saturday, Feb. 10, when the Friends of the Library are hosting their first book sale of the year, a Cabin Fever pop-up event from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the library.

These book sales are a superb opportunity for you to purchase books for yourself and your family and as gifts at remarkably low prices while also benefiting your library, which gets all the proceeds.

Friends members, teachers, nurses and first responders enjoy “buy one, get one free” with proof of membership or employment. To learn about becoming a Friend or to renew your membership, stop by your library or go to friends@pagosalibrary.org.

Online author talks

Our highly popular free online author talks continue with two 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://libraryc.org/pagosalibrary/upcoming>.

On Tuesday, 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.”

Save the date for teen Great Stories Club

Teens are invited to join us on Thursday, Feb. 8, from 5:30 to 8 p.m. to discuss the book “American Street” by Ibi Zoboi and create art based on the book. The book explores the idea of the American Dream from the perspective of a young Haitian immigrant.

Pizza and beverages will be served at this free event, and everyone will come away with a free



copy of the book. Note that this event takes place at Pagosa Community Initiative’s Studio space under the new Department of Human Services Building on Hot Springs Boulevard. Preregistration is required.

Friday Flix tomorrow

Enjoy a PG movie and free popcorn Friday, Jan. 26 from 2 to 4 p.m.

Adult knitting Saturday

Join new and experienced knitters this Saturday, Jan. 27, for our free Knitters Circle from 1 to 3 p.m. It is aimed at anyone over the age of 18 who would like to knit together or get some help if you are stuck on your project.

Shakespeare Read-Aloud

The Shakespeare Read-Aloud Club’s last session this month features “As You Like It” on the agenda on Monday, Jan. 29, from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Call Jenny at (240) 426-7887 for more information. This is an all-ages event.

Tween/teen hangout

We are setting aside the large meeting room for teens and tweens to use and spend time with friends on Monday, Jan. 29, from 4 to 5 p.m.

Dungeons and Dragons

Next Tuesday, Jan. 30, and Thursday, Feb. 1, 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.

New basic quilting classes

Adults are invited to the first new quilting class next Wednesday, Jan. 31, from 1 to 3 p.m. The free classes will be led by Wanita Martin, a local quilter and member of the quilters guild. They will happen on Wednesdays from Jan. 31 through March 6. Preregistration is required and the classes are limited to six participants.

Participants will need to do some homework. You also will need access to a sewing machine, a ruler, good scissors, a marking pen, straight pins, thread, an iron and an ironing board.

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.

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

Free in-person evening classes take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays: 4 to 5 p.m. is reserved for beginners, 5 to 6 p.m. for intermediate and 6 to 7 p.m. for advanced students. Please help us spread the word about these classes to others in our community who would be interested, and contact us by phone or email if you have any questions.

■ See Library on next page

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Saturday, January 27
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Photo courtesy Scott Bradford

Oakley poses with his dogloo at Wolf Creek Ski Area. Oakley's annual dogminium at the ski area continues to be a draw for visitors, with one local even contributing a custom sign.

Library

■ continued from previous page Tech Time

Free in-person slots are available from 10 a.m. to noon Tuesdays and 2 to 4 p.m. Thursdays. Judy helps you with basic questions relating to computers, smartphones and tablets, and also provides

assistance in accessing any of the library's online resources.

No appointment is needed for these drop-in sessions, but it is important that you bring both your device's charger and also your device passwords with you.

Pagosa Adult Learning

Services (PALS)

Join Mark or Sally for free PALS sessions Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:30 to 8 p.m. to help with high school equivalency, GED, college prep, financial aid, tutoring and more. PALS stands for Pagosa

■ See Library on next page

Shuttle to Wolf Creek!

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

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

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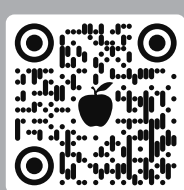
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Archuleta Seniors Inc. receives Department of Local Affairs funds

By Rose Chavez
PREVIEW Columnists



The Community Foundation of the San Luis Valley along with the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) are working together to administer infrastructure grants to small community based organizations like Archuleta Seniors

Inc. that have a track record for providing effective, culturally re-

sponsive, and relevant programs and services to communities who have historically been underrepresented, underserved or under resourced in Colorado.

These funds are to be used for one or more of the following eligible projects: data technology needs including data collection and tech-
■ See Senior on next page

Library

■ continued from previous page
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.

DVDs

"Story Ave." features a South Bronx teen with great artistic skills rescued from the gang life. "Pinocchio" is the classic tale of a puppet boy and his maker. "Miss Scarlet & The Duke" is the complete seasons one through three. "Five Nights at Freddy's" brings the horror game phenomenon to life.

Nonfiction

"Made Whole" by Tiffany "The Budgetnista" Aliche is a practical guide to reaching your financial goals. "Guilded Youth" by Tom Quinn looks at centuries of royal children's upbringing in England from Edward VII to princes William and Harry.

"Lessons for Living" by therapist Phil Stutz is a collection of essays with insights into the challenges everyone faces. "Snacking Bakes" by Vossy Arefi contains simple recipes for cookies, bars, brownies, cakes and more.

Mysteries, thrillers and suspense

"Dirty Thirty" by Janet Evanovich is a Stephanie Plum mystery. "The Frozen River" by Ariel Lawhon is a historical mystery inspired by an 18th century midwife. "A Different Kind of Gone" by Catherine Ryan Hyde begins when a search and rescue volunteer finds a teen huddled in a cave. "Murder of an Amish bridegroom" by Patricia James is an Amish Seamstress

mystery. "From a Far and Lovely Country" by Alexander McCall Smith is the latest No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency mystery. "Dis-solved" by Sara Blaedel and Mads Peder Nordbo is a thriller by this highly popular writing team from Denmark.

Other novels

"The Lost Journals of Sacajawea" by Indigenous author Debra Magpie Earling is a new look at the life of Lewis and Clark's guide. "Day" by Pulitzer Prize-winner Michael Cunningham deals with a family already facing domestic issues even before COVID puts them into lockdown. "The Refugee Ocean" by Pauls Tountonghi follows two refugees whose lives become linked over time and distance. "Lone Oaks Crossing" by Janet Dailey explores the new life of a Kentucky Derby horse trainer when she comes home to save her family farm. "Flores and Miss Paula" by Melissa Rivero features a Peruvian immigrant mother and her millennial daughter.

Donation guidelines

When we are open, material donations are accepted for the Friends of the Library at the front desk — not down the outside returns slot at the library or the drop box at City Market, please.

The Friends recently announced new guidelines for donations: Yes to popular fiction books published in 2014 or later, nonfiction books published 2019 or later, and children's and young adult books — all in excellent condition, please. No to CDs, DVDs, Blu-ray, VHS or cassette tapes; or 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

"Over the years I've learned that you can tell a lot about people by the way they handle rainy days, lost luggage and tangled Christmas tree lights. I've learned that making a living is not the same as making a life. I've learned that you shouldn't go through life with a catcher's mitt on both hands, that you need to be able to throw something back. ... I've learned that people will

forget what you said and what you did — but never how you made them feel." — Maya Angelou (1928-2014), American author, poet and civil rights activist who received dozens of awards and more than 50 honorary degrees.

Website

For more information on library books, services and programs — and to reserve books, e-books, books on CD and DVDs from the comfort of your home — please visit our website at <https://pagosalibrary.org>.

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SAVINGS!
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X6L Standard

Regular price: \$12,058.95
Inventory: Storm/Granite (2)
Acorn/Sunset (1)
Showroom Model: Storm/Granite

Sale Price
\$9,800

SAVINGS!
\$2,258.95

A5L Select

Regular price: \$16,138.95
Inventory: Timber-Ebony/Platinum (1)
Showroom Model: Timber-Ebony/Platinum

Sale Price
\$12,500

SAVINGS!
\$3,638.95

Sale Price
\$12,000

SAVINGS!
\$3,036.28

A6L Standard

Regular price: \$15,036.28
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Showroom Model: Woodland Brown/Almond



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Senior

■ continued from previous page

nology infrastructure; professional development for staff and board members; strategic planning and organizational development for capacity building, fundraising and other services; communications; and existing program expansion, development or evaluation.

Funds are not eligible to be used on the following expenses: capital improvement projects, real estate or land acquisition, payment of debt, advocacy or lobbying, organizing, and endowments or reserves.

Archuleta Seniors Inc. (ASI) is a recipient of \$14,000 in DOLA funds to support the development of a five-year strategic plan. The ASI board of directors, staff and Pagosa community will work together with a facilitator to engage in the strategic planning process throughout 2024.

For more information, contact ASI executive director Rose Chavez at rosa@psseniors.org.

Healthy aging yoga therapy class series

This winter, a healthy aging yoga series will be offered as a hybrid class at the Pagosa Senior Center on Mondays from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Classes will be structured by therapeutic yoga tools and techniques with chair movement, standing stretches, gentle postures, breathing practices and reflective meditative moments.

Monthly themes for the series will include topics such as sustainable strength for healthy aging individuals, brain health, heart and cardiovascular health, mental and emotional well-being, community connections, and stress management, to name a few.

Classes will be educational for participants to utilize practices in daily life and are meant for all levels of experience with yoga.

The class is hosted by local yoga therapist AJ Connors, with a hybrid focus for the winter months, blending in-person, online and, occasionally, recorded classes. Zoom sessions will be streamed at the Senior Center to provide the community experience to practice together or can be accessed at home if weather is a factor.

Mats and chairs will be provided at the Senior Center; some blocks and Therabands are available, too. The addition of yoga props is always welcomed.

We are requesting that individuals who are new to joining the series arrive early for intake inquiries and to please communicate with AJ directly by emailing ajconnorslove@gmail.com.

Yoga therapy monthly themes and tentative schedule

January: Healthy Aging and Brain Health.

February: Heart Health Month and National Cancer Prevention Month.

March: Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month and Brain Injury/Health Month.

April: Stress Management Month, Cancer Control and Parkinson's Awareness Month.

May: Mental Health Awareness Month, Older Americans Month, Stroke and High Blood Pressure Awareness.

June: Alzheimer's and Brain Health Awareness Month.

A tentative yoga therapy schedule for the next few months follows, with in-person subject to change.

Jan. 29: In person.

Feb. 5: Zoom.

Feb. 12: In person.

Feb. 19: Zoom.

Feb. 26: Recording.

March 4: Zoom.

March 11: Zoom.

March 18: Recording (potentially Zoom).

March 25: In person.

April 1: Zoom.

April 8: Zoom.

Mindful drawing

Mindful drawing is an easy-to-learn, relaxing and fun way to create beautiful images by drawing structured patterns. Join our friendly instructor, Roberta Strickland.

Classes are every Wednesday at 1:15 p.m. in the Senior Center. This activity is open to all ages. Help us create an intergenerational community. For those under 18 and/or with disabilities, you are welcome to join us, but we kindly ask you to please bring an adult chaperone with you.

Bingo

The Senior Center will be hosting bingo twice a month on Friday afternoons from 1:15 to 2:30 p.m.

Bingo will be on Feb. 9 and Feb. 23.

The price to participate is free and we ask you bring yourself and a friend for 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.

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

T'ai Chi Chih and mindfulness-based meditation

The Senior Center will be offering T'ai Chi Chih with accredited instructor Patti Popovich each Thursday from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m., and longtime local practitioner Udgar Parsons will offer mindfulness-based meditation classes from 3 to 4 p.m. in the dining hall to support older adults who want to discover purpose and fulfillment in this

transitional phase of life.

T'ai Chi Chih and mindfulness-based meditation are not martial arts, but rather tools for self-healing. Softness, flow and effortlessness are the guiding principles in these practices.

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.

For more information, 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.

Pagosa Springs Scrapbooking Club

The Pagosa Springs Scrapbooking Club holds monthly meetings the second Saturday of each month at the Senior Center.

It meets each month from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. to be creative, share ideas, connect with friends, learn new techniques, share supplies and indulge in a potluck lunch together.

Bring your scrapbooking projects — or any crafting project that you may want to work on with the group. If you would like to be added to the mailing list to receive notifications each month of the upcoming meeting along with handy tips and tricks for scrapbooking, please send your request to copenhavercreative@gmail.com.

■ See Senior on next page

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Senior

■ continued from previous page

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. 25 — Crispy codfish with tartar sauce, green beans, dinner roll, garden salad, fruit and milk.

Friday, Jan. 26 — Pork kielbasa, German potato salad, sweet and sour cabbage, garden salad, fruit, Bavarian cream puffs and milk.

Monday, Jan. 29 — BBQ pulled pork, creamed corn, southern biscuit, garden salad, cottage cheese and fruit, and milk.

Tuesday, Jan. 30 — Beef chili and beans with cheese, cornbread, peach cobbler, garden salad, fruit and milk.

Wednesday, Jan. 31 — Baked cod, broccoli hollandaise, dinner roll, garden salad, fruit, bread pudding with rum sauce and milk.

Thursday, Feb. 1 — Thai chicken with peanut sauce with snap peas, brown and wild rice, garden salad, mango coconut bread pudding, and milk.

Friday, Feb. 2 — Potato leek soup with ciabatta bread, cottage cheese, fruit, garden salad 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 sug-

gested donation of \$10 helps to sustain our program. For ages 59 and younger, the cost is \$10.50. No one will be turned away for their inability to donate. Please call or text us at (970) 264-2167 to make a reservation.

Meals on Wheels

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

Mobile food pantry service discontinued

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

Text reservations

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

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

COVID-19 test kits available

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

Mahjong

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

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

Medicare call by appointment

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

Bridge

The longest-played bridge game

in Archuleta County takes place on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 1:15 p.m.

Bridge is a four-player card game with partners sitting opposite each other around a table. It is a trick-taking card game using a standard 52-card deck. Come alone or bring a partner.

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Protein and Weight Loss

Protein is an essential nutrient in your diet. It helps you maintain lean muscles, regulate your appetite, and feel full so you can manage food cravings. Where you get your protein is very important.

How much protein do you really need each day, especially if you are trying to lose weight?

Women typically need just 46 grams (g) of protein a day. They need 60 g a day if pregnant or 57 g a day if over the age of 70. For men, its 64 g a day, increasing to 81 g a day when over 70.

However, for weight loss, when to eat protein is as important as how much to eat. Our bodies can't store protein, so the excess will generally be converted and stored as fat.

The best approach is to spread your protein intake over the day. When attempting to trim down, it is recommended that a person should aim for 25 g per meal and 10 g for healthy snacks.

Balancing your protein intake across the day can help you lose weight by reducing food cravings and keeping your appetite in check while boosting your metabolism and energy intake. Some of the healthiest forms of protein are nuts, seeds and legumes. Next week we will explore some other important tips on protein and which seeds, nuts and legumes have the highest levels of protein.

"I will praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made..." Psalm 139:14 NKJV

Fun Bible Facts: An edition of the King James Bible had the word "not" left out of the seventh Commandment, making it read, "Thou shalt commit adultery." The printer was fined 300 francs for this mistake.



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100 years ago this month: Historical events from January 1924

Special to The PREVIEW

The month of January has been home to many historical events over the years.

Here's a look at some that helped to shape the world in January 1924:

- Millionaire oil broker Courtland S. Dines is shot in the abdomen at his home on Jan. 1. When police arrived on the scene, they found alcohol on the premises, causing a scandal during the Prohibition era.

- The exiled King Ferdinand is granted permission to return to Sofia by the Bulgarian government on Jan. 2, prompting an immediate objection to the move by the Kingdom of Yugoslavia.

- On Jan. 3, the governor of the Mexican state of Yucatán, Felipe Carrillo Puerto, is executed by rebels fighting for General Adolfo de la Huerta. De la Huerta was attempting to overthrow the government of President Alvaro Obregón, and Carrillo and three of his brothers were among 11 people killed by the rebels.

- The automobile manufacturer Walter P. Chrysler introduces his first car, the Chrysler Six Model B-70 sedan, on Jan. 5 at the 24th Annual New York Automobile Show.

- Turkish President Mustafa Kemal Atatürk survives a bomb attack at his home on Jan. 6. A visitor to the president's home asked to see him and then threw the bomb when Atatürk appeared.

- The British submarine HMS L24 sinks during a training exercise on Jan. 10. The sub collided with the battleship HMS Resolution, and all 43 crew members aboard perish in the accident.

- Bengali activist for Indian independence Gopinath Saha shoots and kills Englishman Ernest Day, a civilian, in Calcutta on Jan. 12. Saha believed he was shooting Calcutta police commissioner Charles Tegart, who was helping to lead the fight against the independence movement. Saha is arrested and subsequently tried and sentenced to death.

- The SMS Berlin embarks on a two-month tour of the North Atlantic Ocean on Jan. 15. It is the first German Navy warship since the end of World War I to depart on an overseas voyage.

- On Jan. 16, Argentine engineer Raúl Pateras Pescara breaks his own record for helicopter flight. Pescara keeps his model 2F aloft in the air for

eight minutes and 13.8 seconds at an altitude of around 15 feet near Paris.

- Richard Connell's short story "The Most Dangerous Game" appears in the weekly magazine Collier's on Jan. 19. The story's theme of the hunter who becomes the hunted has since been adapted for countless stories.

- Following a stroke, semi-retired leader and founder of the Soviet Union Vladimir Lenin dies on Jan. 21 at his estate in Gorki.

- On Jan. 23, Britain and the United States sign a treaty that allows American authorities to search British ships suspected of rum-running.

- Oil tycoon Edward L. Doheny testifies on Jan. 24 that he lent Sen. Albert B. Fall \$100,000. Doheny's admission exacerbates the Teapot Dome Scandal that enveloped the administration of U.S. President Warren G. Harding.

- The first Winter Olympics open in Chamonix, France, on Jan. 25.

- Prince Regent Hirohito marries Princess Nagako in an elaborate royal wedding in Tokyo on Jan. 26. Within two years, Hirohito would become the 124th Emperor of Japan, a position he would retain, despite controversy, until his death in 1989.



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Requirements: A minimum of 2 half-page ads must run in February 1 through 29, 2024 editions. Must be the same ad for both insertions, runs do not need to be consecutive. Business' main office must be located in Archuleta County. Offer not available for color ads. Limited to the first 10 advertisers.

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Photo courtesy Shanna Robb

The ABLAZE Catholic High School Youth Group participated in this year's WinterFest activities, including with four duck sleds in the Sledz on Rez, which paid homage to the Knights of Columbus' yearly summer duck race.



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MLS 807938 • \$619,000



145 Hills Circle
Close to National Forest, fishing, paddle boarding, 2 bedroom + loft, 2 bath, 2-car detached garage. New windows, log beam accents, in-floor radiant heat.
MLS 804534 • \$478,000



59 E. Cotton Court
Lake Forest area. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, Brand new home, stocked lake, backs to National Forest and motorized trails, granite, upgraded countertops.
MLS 808568 • \$472,000



11 Pinon Hills Place
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.
MLS 804419 • \$275,000



141 Hollow Drive
1.1 acre, no HOA, new engineered septic system, ready for your home.
MLS 802483 • \$68,500



46 Gala Place
Great location, near fishing and National Forest. Treed lot with southern view.
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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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 juniper titmouse.

The name titmouse originated with words in Old English that joined together meant "small bird". In the U.S., there are five species of titmice, each permanent residents of the region where they are found. Titmice, chickadees and birds simply known as tits, are all related members of the Paridae family of birds which ranges across the Northern Hemisphere in Europe, Asia, North America and in Africa.

In North America, members of the Paridae family with crests are called titmice and those without chickadees. These cousins all have short little beaks, short wings and relatively drab plumage. They are active, agile birds often found hanging upside down to feed, eating insects when available, and seeds and berries during winter. They will come to backyard feeders for sunflower and suet, where they can become quite tame.

Until 1996 when it was recognized as a separate species, this cheerful little bird with the jaunty crest of feathers was known as the plain titmouse. Its new name reflects the forests it inhabits. It is all gray with beady black eyes, and its long body and tail can make it appear larger than it is.

Juniper titmice are habitat specialists of pinyon/juniper forests. They are most commonly found where juniper is the dominant tree species and seldom wander far from their nesting territory. Most of their range in the southwest is found within Nevada, Utah, Colorado, Arizona and New Mexico.

They require large, mature trees that have natural or woodpecker-created cavities for nesting. These cavities are also important for winter survival as roosting sites where these birds lower nighttime body temperatures to conserve energy. In the trees, a titmouse can often be heard hammering open a seed by pounding it against a branch or holding one between its feet and pounding it with its beak. This style is employed to harvest pinyon seeds, acorns and small berries like juniper.

The overall decline of pinyon/juniper forests from drought and disease poses a threat to these still-common birds.

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

Our Community Eats seeks commercial refrigerators, freezers

By Beth Lamberson

Pagosa Springs Community Development Corporation

The largest food pantry in Pagosa Springs is Our Community Eats, serving more than 3,000 food insecure individuals monthly in Archuleta County.

It is in need of additional commercial refrigerators and freezers to keep dairy and other perishable products fresh for their daily customers.

Click and give to meet its goal of \$7,500 at their website, www.ourcommunityeats.com, or mail a check to P.O. Box 2562, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147. A tax donation receipt will be provided.

Our Community Eats is located at 2800 Cornerstone Drive, Suite A1 — the former Sears retail building. Visitors, volunteers and food donations are also welcome. Check the website for daily hours of operation.

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SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

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!

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

ANSWER:

Preview Calendar

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

Thursday, Jan. 25

Ruby's Writers Guild. 9-11 a.m., Sisson Library. Ruby's Writers Guild will welcome writers who are looking for opportunities, support and camaraderie with other writers. Members will provide support, resources and guidance for each other.

Bridge. 1:15 p.m., Senior Center.

Hand and Foot Card Game. 1:15 p.m., Senior Center. No experience is necessary, so come willing to learn.

T'ai Chi Chih. 1:30-2:30, Senior Center. Free for those 60 and better.

Tech Time. 2-4 p.m., Sisson Library. Basic questions related to computers, smartphones, tablets, etc. Bring your device charger. We provide assistance with accessing any of the library's online resources. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information.

Mindfulness-based Meditation Class. 3-4 p.m., Senior Center. Free for those 60 and better.

English as a Second Language. 4-7 p.m., Sisson Library. Your library offers English as a second language classes. These classes are free. Call (970) 264-2209 or email for more information. Beginning students are encouraged to attend from 4-5 p.m., intermediate students from 5-6 p.m. and advanced students from 6-7 p.m.

PALS Adult Education. 5:30-8 p.m., Sisson Library. Pagosa Adult Learning Services, or PALS, can help you with high school equivalency, GED, college prep, financial aid, tutoring and more. Mark can help you develop a plan to achieve your education goals. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information.

Friday, Jan. 26

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

Friday Flick. 2-4 p.m., Sisson Library. Enjoy a PG-rated movie and free popcorn.

Backcountry Ski Film. 5 p.m., Pagosa Peak Open School, 3133 Cornerstone Drive. Pagosa Peak Open School is hosting a backcountry ski film for kids and families. The event is promoting human-powered winter adventure and supports the Winter Wildlands Alliance. The cost is \$5 for kids and \$10 for adults.

Pagosa Springs Varsity Girls' Basketball. 5:30 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School. Pagosa versus Montezuma-Cortez.

Pagosa Springs Varsity Boys' Basketball. 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School. Pagosa versus Montezuma-Cortez.

Saturday, Jan. 27

Knitters Circle. 1-3 p.m., Sisson

Library. Join new or experienced knitters to get help with your project, or sit and knit.

Masquerade Ball Fundraiser. 6-10 p.m., Pagosa Lodge, 3505 West U.S. 160. A fundraiser for Wolfwood Refuge. Tickets are \$50 and can be reserved by texting or calling (970) 510-0309.

Monday, Jan. 29

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

Women's Fellowship. 9-11 a.m., John Paul II Catholic Church classrooms.

Senior Conversations. 1:15 p.m., Senior Center.

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.

Teen/Tween Hangout. 4-5 p.m., Sisson Library. The library is setting aside the large meeting room for teens and tweens to use and spend time with friends.

Deepening the Faith Classes. 6-7 p.m., John Paul II Catholic Church classrooms.

Tuesday, Jan. 30

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.

WHIPS Luncheon. 11:30 a.m., Women Helping in Pagosa Springs luncheon catered by Sarah and Patrick Hurley, Blue Bird Catering for \$15 per person. The location is a home at 34 Agate Court off North Pagosa and Antelope. All women are welcome. We MUST have RSVPs by Sunday night Jan. 28, call (970) 946-1895.

Virtual Author Talk: Robert Lustig. Noon, virtual. Listen live or recorded. Featuring Dr. Robert Lustig, author of "The Lure and the Lies of Processed Food, Nutrition and Modern Medicine." For details and to register, go to <https://libraryc.org/pagosalibrary/upcoming>.

Bridge. 1:15 p.m., Senior Center.

Mahjong. 1:15 p.m., Senior Center.

Dungeons and Dragons. 4-5:30 p.m., Sisson Library. Join the adventure. Preregistration is required because space is limited. Contact Josie@pagosalibrary.org to join.

English as a Second Language. 4-7 p.m., Sisson Library. Your library

offers English as a second language classes. These classes are free. Call (970) 264-2209 or email for more information. Beginning students are encouraged to attend from 4-5 p.m., intermediate students from 5-6 p.m. and advanced

■ See Calendar on next page

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Preview Calendar

■ **continued from previous page**
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. 31

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.

New Basic Quilting Class. 1-3 p.m., Sisson Library. Registration is required.

Mindful Drawing. 1:15 p.m., Senior Center.

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.

San Juan Stargazers Virtual Planetarium Webinar. 7 p.m., via Zoom. The San Juan Stargazers will present an overview of a free planetarium app. Register at www.sanjuanstargazers.org by Jan. 30 to receive the Zoom link.

Thursday, Feb. 1

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.

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PALS Adult Education. 5:30-8 p.m., Sisson Library. Pagosa Adult Learning Services, or PALS, can help you with high school equivalency, GED, college prep, financial aid, tutoring and more. Mark can help you develop a plan to achieve your education goals. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information.

San Juan Stargazers Astronomy Club Meeting. 7 p.m., Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St. There will be a social hour starting at 6 p.m. At 7 p.m., eclipse Q&A and video presentation on Mercury by Dr. Sabine Stanley.

Friday, Feb. 2

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

Teen/Tween Hangout. 2-3 p.m., Sisson Library. The library is setting aside the large meeting room and some of the computers for teens and tweens to use and spend time with friends.

Pagosa Springs Varsity Girls' Basketball. 5:30 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School. Pagosa versus Ignacio.

Pagosa Springs Varsity Boys' Basketball. 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School. Pagosa versus Ignacio.

Saturday, Feb. 3

LEGO Club. 11 a.m.-noon, Sisson Library. For kids 6-12 years old. We have the LEGO bricks, all you need to bring is your imagination. Contact the library at (970) 264-2209 for further information.

Pagosa Springs Varsity Girls' Basketball. 5:30 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School. Pagosa versus Alamosa.

Pagosa Springs Varsity Boys' Basketball. 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School. Pagosa versus Alamosa.

Monday, Feb. 5

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

Women's Fellowship. 9-11 a.m., John Paul II Catholic Church classrooms.

Senior Conversations. 1:15 p.m., Senior Center.

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

Deepening the Faith Classes. 6-7

p.m., John Paul II Catholic Church classrooms.

Tuesday, Feb. 6

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.

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, Feb. 7

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

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.

Pagosa Catholic Quilters. 9 a.m.-2 p.m., John Paul II Catholic Church classrooms. For more information,

contact Maxine Everaert at quilters@ihmjp2.org.

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.

New Basic Quilting Class. 1-3 p.m., Sisson Library. Registration is required.

Mindful Drawing. 1:15 p.m., Senior Center
■ See Calendar on next page

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Archuleta County Courts



Have you experienced problems with courts and/or judges? Have you been denied attorney fees as the prevailing party? I have.

In August, 2023 I had a hearing with Judge Justin Fay to defend against frivolous TPO's (temporary protection orders) obtained by neighbors who used false accusations to do so (as contained in cases 2023C75/76). Reluctantly ruling in my favor, Fay also questioned my honesty, made unnecessary personal comments about me, and denied motion for legal fees — actions which call into question his competence and suitability.

More about the judge, court, and my case: archuletacountycourts.com.

Moving on to a new assignment

By Daris Howard
Special to The SUN

There is an old saying that the only constant in life is change. After a rocky start teaching music to the children at our church, it became one of the greatest experiences I have ever had. But eventually, the day came when our congregation leader, whom we called Bishop or the bishop, asked me to visit with him in his office.

“Daris,” he said, “how long have you been teaching music to the children?”

“Around four and a half years,” I replied.

The shock from my response showed in his face. “Wow!” he said. “I remember when we asked you to take the assignment, and we said we expected to keep you in it for only a year. But you’ve been so good that I didn’t realize how long it has been. You have really loved the children, haven’t you?”

I nodded. “I feel like children are God’s gift to the world, and we show our gratitude to Him in how we love and train them.”

“And they have loved you, too,” he replied. “That is why asking you to take on a different assignment is hard, because I know how much they will miss you.”

“I will miss them, too,” I replied.

He leaned toward me and put his arms on his desk. “We might have kept you there if it wasn’t

for another assignment we desperately need you in. We have a large group of boys who are now scouting age. You know them well because you taught them music. Your work in scouting is legendary, and these boys need your skill in the outdoors and mentoring for their lives. Will you do that?”

I nodded. “If that’s where I can be of the most value, I will give my whole heart to it.”

He smiled. “I know you will.”

The bishop wanted someone ready to replace me, so it was a couple of weeks before they announced the change. When I went for the last time to teach the children, there was a solemnness as I started.

“Well,” I said, “when you children get old enough to move on into scouting and other teenage things, I have had you choose your favorite songs to sing for your last day with us. So, I guess today it’s my turn.”

As we sang a lively, fun song, few joined in, and some started to cry. I finally had to stop, not able to sing myself. One small girl ran up, threw her arms around my leg, and cried. I picked her up into my arms.

“Why are you going to leave us?” she asked. “Don’t you love us?”

I nodded. “Of course I love you, Mary. But sometimes in life, we are asked to take different assignments. There are some boys who need me with them now.”

“But we need you, too,” she said.

“I’ll still be around,” I replied. “And your new music leader will love you. And maybe I can sub if she needs someone.”

Everyone cheered up a bit after that, and the singing was more enjoyable. As we were ending, one of the children’s organization leaders came up to where I was.

“We have a special present for you,” she told me. “We knew you were leaving because we were asked to suggest a replacement. We didn’t tell the children other than to say we wanted to get a gift for you. Everyone, including the children, has chipped in for it.”

She presented me with a beautiful, framed picture of Jesus with children gathered around him, and a smaller one with a hanging ring on it. “We thought you might like to hang the smaller one on your Christmas tree,” she said.

Many of the children rushed up to give me a hug, and I struggled to hold in my emotions. When I went home, I hung the ornament on our tree. It reminded me that Christmas was about God’s gift to the world of a very special child. The ornament seemed very appropriate.

Then, after getting my emotions under control, I readied myself for my new scouting assignment — something familiar, but something always adventurous and challenging.

Views expressed do not necessarily represent those of The SUN.



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Preview Calendar

■ continued from previous page

Center.

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.

ABLAZE High School Youth Group. 6-8 p.m., John Paul II Catholic Church. Dinner provided.

Thursday, Feb. 8

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.

es. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information.

Mindfulness-based Meditation Class. 3-4 p.m., Senior Center. Free for those 60 and better.

English as a Second Language. 4-7 p.m., Sisson Library. Your library offers English as a second language classes. These classes are free. Call (970) 264-2209 or email for more information. Beginning students are encouraged to attend from 4-5 p.m., intermediate students from 5-6 p.m. and advanced students from 6-7 p.m.

Great Stories Club. 5:30-8 p.m., Pagosa Community Initiative Studio. Teens are invited to discuss the book “American Street” by Ibi Zoboi and create art based on the book. Pizza and beverages will be served at this free event, and everyone will come away with a free copy of the book. Registration is required.

PALS Adult Education. 5:30-8 p.m., Sisson Library. Pagosa Adult Learning Services, or PALS, can help you with high school equivalency, GED, college prep, financial aid, tutoring and more. Mark can help you develop a plan to achieve your education goals. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information.

Friday, Feb. 9

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.

Saturday, Feb. 10

Cabin Fever Book Sale. 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Sisson Library. Friends of the Library are hosting their first book sale of the year. These book sales are a superb opportunity for you to purchase books for yourself and your family and as gifts at remarkably low prices while also benefiting your library. Friends members, teachers, nurses and first responders enjoy “buy one, get one free” with proof of membership or employment. To learn about becoming a Friend or to renew your membership, stop by your library or go to friends@pagosalibrary.org.

Pagosa Springs Scrapbooking Club. 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Senior Center dining room. Bring your scrapbooking projects or any crafting project you may want to work on with the group.

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Habitat for Humanity volunteer spotlight: Larry Parks

By Monica Nigon

Habitat for Humanity of Archuleta County

Habitat for Humanity of Archuleta County's volunteers contributed 1,890 hours on our build sites in 2023.

Larry Parks, a retired lawyer and mechanical engineer, accounts for 496 of those — more than a quarter of the total volunteer hours.

At present, Parks has assisted in building Habitat homes in three states, totaling "somewhere north of 60 homes."

And he's not stopping soon. He and his wife, Patricia, will be back in Pagosa Springs from May to November, which they do to correspond with the Habitat build schedule.

He began volunteering with Habitat in 1998 when his law office was looking for a volunteer opportunity, and "I showed up and just stuck with it."

Parks said the best days on the Habitat site are when he doesn't use a hammer or a saw but teaches someone else to do so.

"It's amazing how fast a volunteer can learn. In half a day, a volunteer can learn a skill and use it for a week. In half a day, we can teach you what you need to know," he said.

While Parks learned some building skills as a kid while helping his father construct homes, "I didn't really build a complete house until I started working with Habitat," he said. "And every house I build, I learn something."

something."

The most important thing a volunteer can bring to a Habitat site is, "The realization that without volunteers, affordable housing is not attainable," Parks said. "And I think that's what motivates the other volunteers I work with... That's meaningful for them."

He added that, if given the means, it's important for folks to support Habitat financially.

"My belief in the import of building family generational wealth and providing homes for children makes it easy for me to write that check," he said. "Not everyone can do that, not everyone needs to do that, but that is important to me because I know how hard it is to own a home when you're on a modest income."

Parks said that since he retired from law, which he practiced for 43 years, he uses his time to pursue things like reading, writing, and "occasionally I'll play a round of golf."

He added that he and Patricia have been going to a honky-tonk about once a week to practice their two-step.

To join Parks on the build sites this year, contact our volunteer coordinator, Monica, at office@habitatarchuleta.org or call us at (970) 264-6960.

New this year is an online volunteer application, which you can download, fill in and email back to us. These forms are found on our website: www.habitatarchuleta.org.

Creation Care Pagosa to discuss Blue Zones at Jan. 25 meeting

By Sarah L. Riehm

Creation Care Pagosa

At our next meeting on Thursday, Jan. 25, at 5:30 p.m., Creation Care Pagosa will offer a program by Chuck and Sarah Riehm on the principles of the Blue Zones — areas in the world where people live longer, healthier and more purposeful lives.

This highly interactive session will equip you with what you need to incorporate some or all of the Blue Zones principles in your life.

Creation Care Pagosa, a faith-based environmental stewardship organization, meets on the fourth Thursday of each month in the fellowship hall of the Community United Methodist Church at 434 Lewis St.

We offer a free, shared community meal and this month's menu features recipes from the Blue Zones. Please RSVP to sarah.riehm@gmail.com if you plan to attend so we have enough food. Everyone is welcome — bring a friend.

Dan Buettner, a reporter for National Geographic, stumbled across some amazing communities around the world that seem to

defy health and aging norms, with an unusually high percentage of centenarians who lived well until the end of their days. He compiled his research in his first book, "Blue Zones," which took the world by storm in 2004.

The "Power 9" lifestyle guidelines are not only good for your health; they also promote a more sustainable way of living centered around faith practices.

You don't need to buy any of Buettner's books to enjoy the presentation. You can find tons of free resources at www.bluezones.com. If you want to get your year off to a good start, you might try the free four-week Blue Zone Challenge, which you can find on the website.

Some entire communities have adopted Blue Zone guidelines with remarkable results. The largest certified Blue Zone community is Fort Worth, Texas, which went from ranking 185th out of 190 U.S. cities for its health/well-being statistics to 31st in just four years, making major improvements in lowering obesity, improving heart health, and lowering blood sugar and cholesterol

■ See Care on page 18

The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

- 1 Foundation
- 6 Partner of "done with"
- 10 Christian symbol
- 14 Calendar entry
- 15 Offensive
- 16 Previously
- 17 Male soldier, say
- 19 Rating unit
- 20 Personal coach
- 21 Individuals
- 23 Certain bills
- 24 Suitor, in poetry
- 25 Have words (with)
- 28 Proctor's call
- 30 Pirate ship board
- 33 Settle
- 35 Detroit NBAer
- 36 Tide alternative
- 37 Precious gem
- 39 Sundial number
- 40 Tiny wave
- 42 Gorbachev policy
- 44 "___ be sorry!"
- 45 Gardening moss
- 46 Wallet wad
- 47 Up the ante
- 49 Muffin choice
- 51 Too many to count
- 53 Like some potatoes
- 57 Chimney residue
- 58 Basic verb form
- 60 End of a threat
- 61 Without ice
- 62 Actress Sophia
- 63 Fortune teller
- 64 Circular current
- 65 All tuckered out

DOWN

- 1 Second to none
- 2 "Rave" anagram
- 3 Vaccines
- 4 Type of fertilization

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14					15				16				
17					18				19				
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51	52							53			54	55	56
57					58		59						
60					61				62				
63					64				65				

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- 5 "Goosebumps" author R. L. ___
- 6 Unusually large
- 7 Energy
- 8 Go by, as time
- 9 Extend, in a way
- 10 Archeologists' finds
- 11 Vocal rise and fall
- 12 Examine closely
- 13 Towel embroidery
- 18 Franc division
- 22 Rafting hazard
- 25 Like Stephen King novels
- 26 FDR's affliction
- 27 Type of flour
- 29 Combine
- 31 Cacophony
- 32 Like many sweaters
- 34 Journalist Bly
- 35 Army outfit
- 38 Eagerness
- 41 Serving dish
- 43 Incessantly
- 45 Wrote, as a novel
- 48 Paris divider
- 50 Tracks
- 51 Plays for a sap
- 52 Dermatologist's concern
- 54 Wear down
- 55 Neck and neck
- 56 Fender blemish
- 59 Craze

Answers to Previous Crossword:

S	P	A	T	E		D	R	U	B		R	A	F	T						
A	L	I	E	N		A	O	N	E		A	C	L	U						
L	U	M	P	S		T	E	C	H	N	I	C	A	L						
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T	R	I	E	N	N	I	A	L							G	O	O	D	Y	
L	I	E	N							C	O	D	E			N	U	D	G	E
Y	A	R	D							E	N	D	S			S	T	E	E	D

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H P L F E G A R A G H C L O S E T S M H
 Y A N D I B E L O N G I N G S G O E U D
 B P E O E B Y A T T P D R F I H E C O U
 G M G K T T N E M E S A B R B D D N E B
 Z R G A D M H E Z I N A G R O H A C G H
 H K Y I E Y G I A D P O A M Y T K T A L
 G G K T K F P B N B I A E U I T M C B L
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 Y Y A P D E L A E K S L N T Y R K S A D
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 L L K T C G L I P A F A F C F T N C H Y
 E G O B U E U T B L I P C O T O Y G A N
 D R Y F H K I K C L L F K I T F R A G T Z
 Y S A D R A Z A H O E T C B F D D P M Z
 D F S I T S T Y I M D S N E P K P U G U

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

WORDS

- ATTIC
- BASEMENT
- BELONGINGS
- CATEGORY
- CHORES
- CLEAN
- CLOSETS
- CLUTTER
- DONATION
- FILED
- GARAGE
- GARBAGE
- HAZARD
- HOARDING
- LABEL
- MESS
- ORGANIZE
- PATTERN
- PROFESSIONAL
- SORTED
- STORAGE
- SYSTEM
- TASK
- THINGS

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Should I stop breathing for them?

By Betty J. Slade
PREVIEW Columnist

When I didn't think life could get any more ridiculous, people have surprised me. Oh me, the foolishness of this age.

Recently, we heard in the news that those who deem themselves smarter than the average person have decided human breathing is harmful to the earth and they are going to eliminate our breathing.

How? I'm not sure. Does that mean I should stop breathing for them? I say, "Stop with the nonsense."

God gives, and God takes away. There is a God, and you're not God. He's on the throne and He's in charge. How did you grow so stupid and so far from the fear of God?

Their thinking is almost comical if it was a laughing matter. They have become brazen souls yelling in the streets, holding up their fists in the face of God. They steal what is not theirs and do not fear the consequences. They have dared God to act.

We serve a merciful God, but I fear for them. I feel like the little canary in the coal mine warning them of the poisonous gas. Have they thrown a blanket over the cage so they don't have to hear the voice of a radical Christian?

My own voice is drowning in their toxic outrage. I keep singing the same old song of warning, "There is a God and He numbers our days. What are we doing to further His message? Are we studying His Word, learning how to trust Him? Are we ready to meet our maker?"

When I read this morning in my devotion, "Not every day is game day," I realized that I've had a lot of



grunt days preparing for game day. I'm not even sure what game day looks like. We can't figure out who's got the ball and who's making the rules. The officials are sitting on the sidelines with the fans.

I've been very careful to stay away from political issues, but these words are from biblical wisdom. People who rule this country, who I thought were smarter than me, have caved in and fallen into a black hole. We are trapped deep underground with them. We need a mine shaft tower to enable us to be hoisted out of this hole. This nation needs turning from foolishness and turn back to God.

I don't know where this thought came from, but it has been ingrained in me: "Every day counts. Do your homework today; you never know when the test will come. Be ready." I think most of my life I've been perched on a limb ready for game day.

Maybe today is game day when we face the opponent and combat all the crazies who are running around with the ball.

I tell my Sweet Al all the time, we've got to keep our eyes on the Lord and not be swayed in fear of what we hear. Their voices are loud and angry. It's hard not to give them attention. I've quoted an old saying for years and believe it to be true: "The louder the voice, the weaker their cause."

We should not fear them, but

New Thought Center to meet Sunday

By Shayla McClure
New Thought Center for Inspirational Living

Sunday service on Jan. 28 at 11 a.m. with Shayla McClure will focus on "Honoring All Sacred Relations— Because all relationships are sacred."

"If you have ever found yourself loved by an animal, or have ever loved one, you have already experienced the ministry of animals. You may have also experienced that this love can be healing and redemptive — you may also have experienced it as painful and sad. But many of you reading can bear witness to the power of our relationships with animals, and how that power has transformed us, physically, emotionally, and spiritually." — Ministry of Animals.

We will enjoy a slide show after of

Care

■ continued from page 16
stats. Fort Worth experienced a significant and measurable reduction in hospitalizations as well as overall

health care costs.

If you have questions, please contact Sarah. We hope to see you on Jan. 25.

the Lord.

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instructions." — Proverbs 1:7 (NKJV).

I have learned in this crazy world, where ridiculous is running rampant, we need to heed to God's words. It behooves us to stay strong in who we believe in and pray. He knows what He's doing. Evil and poison might be a tool to get our attention to rise from the hole.

We need to become stronger in our faith and encourage those who are choking on poisonous gases. Be a canary in the mine. Be faithful to do the grunt work and be ready for game day. Stay on our knees, study His word so we can help those who can't helping themselves.

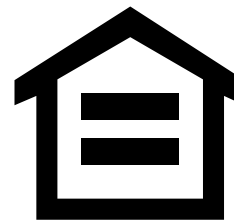
Final brushstroke: Excuse me for breathing and chirping like a canary, but the world needs us to resist the evil and warn others who have become complacent in their dark hole. It seems we are getting closer to game day.

Send your comment to betty-slade.author@gmail.com.

Views expressed do not necessarily represent those of The SUN.

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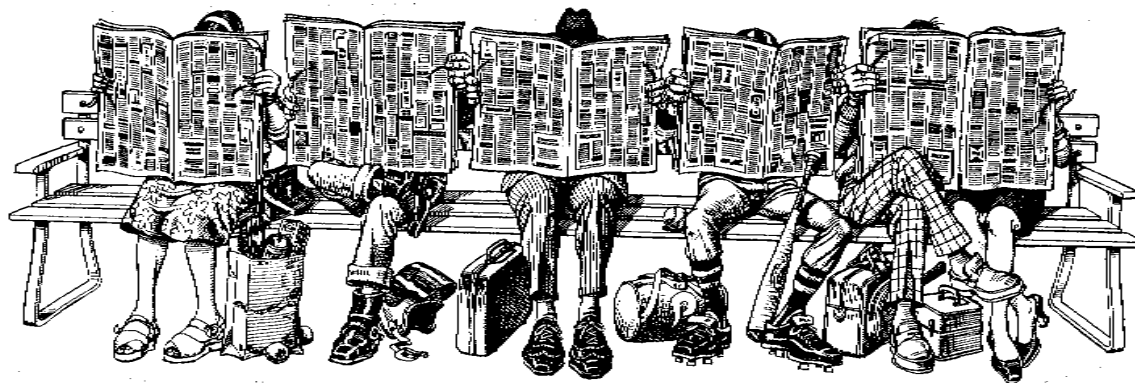


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A terrible dilemma faces the Great Basin

By Stephen Trimble
PREVIEW Columnist

Opinion: Writers on the Range

The long drive between Salt Lake City, Utah, and Reno, Nev., on Interstate 80 feels endless, the landscape timeless. But these basins and ranges of the Great Basin Desert are changing dramatically.

Wildfire, climate change and aridification are transforming plant communities, while animals, including humans, try to figure out how to respond. Meanwhile, the dwindling Great Salt Lake risks becoming a toxic dust bowl.

Sagebrush now covers only half the territory it did before European settlers arrived with their livestock in the 1800s. Exotic annual grasses, including cheatgrass, have increased eightfold here since 1990, accelerating the fire cycle, outcompeting native plants and decreasing the available forage for grazers, wild and domestic.

I called this place “the sagebrush ocean” when I first wrote about it in the 1980s. Now, scientists mourn the loss of 1.3 million acres of healthy sagebrush each year, threatening animals that need sagebrush, like the greater sage grouse and pygmy rabbit. Recent photographs of Nevada and Utah West Desert basins document a cheatgrass sea.

Researchers and federal lands staffers chant the management mantra for sagebrush ecosystems: “identify the core, protect the core, grow the core, mitigate impacts.”

But what is this dwindling core? Think intact ecosystems with abundant sagebrush and native understory, with minimal threats from invasive grasses, encroaching conifers or modification by people. Not much land fitting that description is left.

The core that’s left is rare and vulnerable. Although the Intermountain West is no longer the exclusive domain of the livestock industry, grazing continues to affect more acres than any other human use. Large expanses of sagebrush with grasses and wildflowers eaten down to nubs by cattle do not constitute “restoration.”

That is why land managers are hard put to save threatened animals that need sagebrush, like the greater sage grouse and pygmy rabbit.

But the dilemma is this: Saving sagebrush puts the aromatic shrublands at odds with piñon-juniper woodland — a landscape just as beloved, just as vital. Range ecologists believe that growing the sagebrush core means that half of the Great Basin woodlands need “treatment” — removing younger stands of trees while retaining old-growth forest. Treatment means ripping the trees from the earth

with a chain stretched between bulldozers or “masticating” trees to shreds.

A spree of “treatments” approved at the end of the Trump administration in 2020 opened millions of acres of woodland in the Great Basin and Colorado Plateau to destruction. I happened upon one such project in the Kern Mountains of easternmost Nevada last summer, where a crew had been contracted to thin a dense woodland. The crew created a firebreak, but I felt I’d entered a war zone, with the scattered corpses of hundreds of trees littering newly cleared ground.

Before 1860, two-thirds of Great Basin landscapes in woodland habitat were treeless. Today, less than one-third is treeless, as trees decrease the acreage and vitality of sagebrush. But it’s unclear if sagebrush animals will repopulate cleared habitat anytime soon.

No more than half of tree treatments result in the regrowth of native grasses. Meanwhile, flocks of piñon jays that depend on the trees suffer steep declines.

Here’s the rub: Both sagebrush and woodland landscapes harbor incredible biodiversity. Piñon or sagebrush — which matters most? To sage grouse, pygmy rabbits and piñon mice? To backcountry recreationists, to cattlemen? To Indigenous Great Basin Washoe, Paiute and Shoshone people — citizens of what ethnobotanist Gary Nabhan calls “Piñon Nut Nation?”

When you live in a piñon-juniper woodland, you live with the trees, not under them. “Tree” usually means tall, vertical, but these trees often are round, comforting. I have enormous affection for the “p-j,” my home territory. Yet, who doesn’t love the smell of sagebrush after a rain and cherish its native wildlife?

As sweeping change comes to the Great Basin, federal managers need to address causes, not symptoms. Their challenge is huge: to confront invading cheatgrass and junipers and reverse the decline of sagebrush, nut harvests, native grass and birds. All this, while ensuring that mule deer and cows flourish.

If we want to heal the land and restore the balance between sagebrush and woodland, we need to treat these landscapes as we would with those we love — using every bit of wisdom from both Western and Indigenous traditions for the



Photo courtesy Steve Trimble

The Toquima Range as seen from Monitor Valley in Nevada.

benefit of our collective future.

Stephen Trimble is a contributor to *Writers on the Range*, an independent nonprofit dedicated

to spurring lively conversation about the West, writersontherange.org. A 35th anniversary edition of his book, “*The Sagebrush Ocean: A*

Natural History of the Great Basin,” will be published this year. Views expressed do not necessarily represent those of *The SUN*.



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ADOPT FROM THE Humane Society. Stop by or call (970)731-4771. You'll be amazed at what we have to offer. www.humanesociety.biz.

AKC ROTTWEILER PUPPIES ready for their forever homes. One set of shots, puppy well check and micro-chipped, five female, one male. \$1,500. Please call for more information, serious inquiries only. (970)507-1154.

DOGGY DAY CARE 81147.COM. Open 365 days of the year! Full day and half day doggy day care and overnight boarding. Conveniently located just 1 mile from downtown Pagosa. Call (970)264-9111.

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GOLDEN RETRIEVER PUPPIES. Ready to go. 1 male. 1 female. \$600. Monte Vista. Call (719)992-1014.

LOVING DOG CARE BY LESLIE N.. Find me on Rover.com using zip code 81147. Boarding, day care, drop ins, house sitting. References and reviews online at Rover.com.

CARS FOR SALE

1999 WHITE FORD Ford F-350 SUPER DUTY. 202,087 miles. Good condition, minor dents/scratches. Manual, 5-speed, 7.3L V8 Diesel. Long bed. Routine maintenance complete. \$10,000. Text ONLY, NO phone calls please. (719)640-1588.

CARS FOR SALE

2006 GOLD VOLKSWAGEN TOUAREG. 200,000 miles. Good condition, minor hail damage. V10 TDI. Automatic, 6-speed. 4.9L 310 HP V10 Diesel. Leather, navigation, sunroof. Routine maintenance complete. \$7,500. Text ONLY, NO phone calls please. (719)640-1588.

2012 SUBARU OUTBACK. Great Condition. Silver. 150,000 miles. Original Owner. \$8,500. (970)946-7880.

GUARANTEED CREDIT APPROVAL! 4X4 Auto Sales. 21698 Hwy. 160 West, Durango. (970)385-7940.

VEHICLE FOR SALE. 1969 classic F250 Custom Camper Special with custom engine rebuild. 58k original miles for \$8900 OBO. Call for details. (310)245-0555.

COMMERCIAL FOR RENT

4 OFFICE SPACES. Freshly remodeled, \$400-\$525. Well suited for spa services, 140-270 sq. ft. Beautiful spacious restrooms. (970)946-3232.

OFFICE SPACE AVAILABLE JANUARY 1 Downtown Pagosa in the Metropolitan Hotel. 250 square feet. \$415 per month. Year lease. Call Jacque (970)946-7636.

OFFICE SPACE. 170 SF Downtown Metropolitan Hotel. \$270 per month. Utilities included. Broadband available. Call Jacque (970)946-7636.

OFFICE SPACE. 260 SF Downtown Metropolitan Hotel. Available Feb 1. \$460 per month. Utilities included. Broadband available. Call Jacque (970)946-7636.

OFFICE UNIT FOR RENT. 262 Pagosa St. #101 in the Town Terrace Building. Main street location. 767 sq. ft. Bathroom and kitchenette included. \$850. Call (970)946-9780.

PAGOSA VALLEY PROPERTIES: Offering "Aspen Plaza ProSuites" These are Professional Office Suites available for Long Term or Short Term rental from 100 SF to 205 SF, priced from \$264-\$669/ month. We also offer Hourly, Daily, or other Membership options for even more flexibility. Also, Large Conference/ Event Room Available. Call (970)889-2022 for more information.

PAGOSA VALLEY PROPERTIES: Offering Lewis St. Office Suites available from 238 SF to 755 SF, and priced from \$400 - \$700/ mo. Excellent for a studio or professional office space. Call (970)889-2022 for more information.

HOMES FOR RENT

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.

264-2100

Classifieds

264-2100

Office Hours: Monday — Friday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Classified Deadline: Tuesday 10 a.m.

HOMES FOR SALE

HOMES FOR SALE

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HOMES FOR SALE

HOMES FOR SALE

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HOMES FOR RENT

HOMES FOR RENT

HOMES FOR SALE

HOMES FOR SALE

LAND/ BUILDING SITES

BEAUTIFUL 4 BEDROOM, 3.5 BATH 2 car garage on 3 lovely and private acres. This is a must see property. Available now. \$3,900/month. TP-3 Call Team Pagosa (970)731-8599, pagosaspringsrealty.com.

FURNISHED 3 BEDROOM 2 bath condo across from Lake Pagosa. Pet allowed. Available around January 1, 2024. \$2095 per month. TP-6. Team Pagosa, (970)731-8599, pagosaspringsrealty.com.

LONG TERM RENTALS AVAILABLE. Call Team Pagosa (970)731-8599, 46 Eaton Drive, Suite #1, pagosaspringsrealty.com.

LOVELY UNFURNISHED 2 BEDROOM, 2.5 bath, 2 car garage townhome on golf course in uptown Pagosa. All appliances including gas fireplace. \$2150 per month. TP-5. Call Team Pagosa, (970)731-8599, pagosaspringsrealty.com.

SADDLE MOUNTAIN TOWNHOMES. 3 bedroom, 2-1/2 baths. Open floor plan with gas fireplace, oversize 2-car garage. Close to the bike path, uptown City Market and rec center. \$2,550/month includes: water/sewer, lawn maintenance, snow removal. Call/text (512)626-8499.

STUDIO APARTMENT. Beautiful, Quiet, Private. Furnished or unfurnished. North out of town. Pets considered, fenced yard. \$1200 per month. First month, half of last month and security. Call (970)731-2010. Please leave message. I will return the call.

UNFURNISHED 3 BED 2 BATH, 1 car garage, duplexes. Newly remodeled and updated. All appliances including gas fireplaces. Pets allowed. \$2000 per month. TP-4 Call Team Pagosa (970)731-8599, pagosaspringsrealty.com.

UNFURNISHED APARTMENT FOR RENT on Highway 84. 3 bed, 1 bath. Newly remodeled. Water, Sewer and trash included. No Pets. No Utilities. Available February 1, 2024. \$1,500 per month. Security deposit required. (970)264-9576.

UPDATED 3-2 HOME. All bills paid. Over an acre. Views, privacy, snow removal, Starlink internet, firewood, garage with opener. \$3250/month. (512)762-0429.

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10 BEAUTIFUL COMMERCIAL ACRES. 50x167 metal building with concrete floor, 3 phase electric, well and more. \$650,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties LLC a call (970)903-2817.

MULTI USE 6,800 SQUARE FOOT building in prime location on .60 of an acre. \$1,375,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties LLC a call (970)903-2817.

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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

LAND/ BUILDING SITES

1.2 ACRES CLOSE to Navajo Lake. Utilities available. \$75,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

1.2 ACRES, MOUNTAIN VIEWS, electricity near, No HOA, close to town. \$35,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

35.81 ACRES WITH AWESOME VIEWS of Banded Peaks at the end of cul-de-sac with national forest access. Also comes with a full set of house plans. \$300,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties LLC a call (970)903-2817.

5 BEAUTIFUL ACRES. Centrally located, all utilities near. \$250,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties LLC a call (970)903-2817.

DOWNTOWN, FLAT, BUILDABLE .52 acre lot, views, close to river, all utilities available. \$500,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

All real estate advertised in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing act of 1968 which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, or national origin, or an intention, to make such preference, limitation or discrimination."

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis.

MOUNTAIN VIEWS, MEADOWS. Unique high elevation and complete privacy. 5.6 acres bordering national forest, (970)769-3588 blancoretreat@gmail.com.

ONE ACRE LOT, all ready for your new home with newly installed all utilities, four bedroom permitted septic system, power and insulated pump house. \$165,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

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