

Children OK: Crash involving school bus leaves one in critical condition

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

A two-vehicle crash Monday morning that involved a school bus left one in critical condition, but expected to recover. Several children from the bus were taken to Pagosa Springs Medical Center (PSMC) for minor injuries, where they were treated and released.

Archuleta School District (ASD) Superintendent Rick Holt indicates in a Monday email the students were from Pagosa Springs Elementary School.

According to a press release from Pagosa Springs Police Chief William Rockensock, at approximately 7:24 a.m. on Monday, Jan. 29, Archuleta County Combined Dispatch initiated a call for a two-car motor vehicle accident on U.S. 160 near the intersection of Majestic Drive in the Town of Pagosa Springs.

The Pagosa Fire Protection District (PFPD), PSMC Emergency Medical Services and Pagosa Springs Police Department were dispatched to the location.

“Initial information advised a white sport utility vehicle collided

with an Archuleta County School District bus. The school bus was full of children and was off the roadway. The driver of the SUV was injured and entrapped in the vehicle,” it states.

The driver of the SUV, the release states, was a 54-year-old male, who had to be extricated from the vehicle by PFPD personnel.

It adds he was transported to PSMC in critical condition. His identity is not currently being released.

On Wednesday, Jan. 31, Rockensock explained the driver was airlifted to a different hospital, where he was in stable condition.

Rockensock added he is expected to recover.

Several children on the bus were taken to PSMC for minor injuries and, were treated and released, according to the release.

The investigation into the collision determined the SUV was driving west on U.S. 160, drove across the center line and collided with the left front driver side of the school bus, which was driving east-bound, according to the release.

■ See Crash A8



Rock slide

Photos courtesy Carleen Comer, Colorado Department of Transportation

A rock slide blocks U.S. 160 on Wolf Creek Pass on Monday, Jan. 29. The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) responded to the blockage, which closed the highway from about 9 a.m. until late in the morning, at which point it was opened to one-lane, alternating traffic. The highway was fully reopened about 4:30 p.m. after CDOT geohazard engineers inspected the cliffs for further signs of rockfall and safety concerns.



PAWSD rates proposed to increase

Public hearing to be held Feb. 15

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD) Board of Directors will hold a public hearing and vote on proposed fee and rate increases at its Feb. 15 meeting.

The new rates are planned to take effect March 1.

PAWSD Programs Manager Renee Lewis outlined the reasons for the changes in an email to The SUN.

She comments, “The PAWSD rate increases are due to multiple factors:

“Significant increases in State regulations over the past few years for water treatment and distribution including:

“The existing Snowball Water Treatment Plant requires treatment process upgrades to comply with stricter requirements from the State Health Department resulting

in a new plant estimated to cost \$44 million.

“Increases to the amount of infrastructure assessments, sampling and tracking for lead and copper within the system, which is anticipated to cost PAWSD approximately \$200,000 annually over the next few years.

“Updating water distribution pipelines near/under Hwy 160 where CDOT is planning to replace the road surface is expected to cost \$250,000 over the next few years.

“Other increases of about 20-30% in operation and maintenance costs related to supply chain issues and inflation (e.g., increased chemical costs, increased sampling costs, etc.).

“Significant increases in State regulations over the past few years for wastewater treatment and collection including:

“Increases in the amount of treatment processes from the State

Health Department for wastewater discharge will require a significant upgrade to the Vista Wastewater Treatment Facility. This upgrade is estimated to cost \$8-11 million over the next few years.

“Increases in regulations regarding Infiltration and Inflow (I/I) into the collection system will require an investment of approximately \$250,000 annually over the next few years to prevent snowmelt runoff from getting into the collection system and then into the plant.

“Updating the collection pipelines near/under Hwy 160 where CDOT is planning to replace the road surface is expected to cost \$250,000 over the next few years.

“Although the exact response to this new regulation has not yet been determined, costs for building a new plant to comply with Reg 31 are estimated at \$60 million.

“Other increases of about 20-30% in operation and maintenance costs related to supply chain issues and inflation (e.g., increased sam-

pling costs, hauling fees, etc.).

“The District is using cash reserves and over \$6.5 million in grants for these projects. However, these resources could not meet the significant increase and pace of State regulations in combination with the supply chain issues and inflation that we are all experiencing. PAWSD has also secured low-interest financing for the larger expenses (e.g., new plants, facility upgrades, etc.), and the rate increases will also be used to pay down the remaining debt.”

PAWSD Business Manager Aaron Burns added in an interview that the changes recommended by the recent rate study are designed to bring the district's income into close alignment with the increased costs it faces and prevent these costs from overrunning the district's income.

He emphasized that, even with the large increases, the district's spending will closely match its

■ See Increase A8

Changes proposed for Pagosa Views subdivision

By Derek Kutzer
Staff Writer

A major subdivision development — known as Pagosa Views — faces an uncertain future after the Pagosa Springs Planning Commission voted to “continue” its decision on the approval of the preliminary plat to a later, undecided date.

On Jan. 23, the commission considered the plat application for Phase 1 of an eventual four-phase development on a 79-acre parcel located along U.S. 160 near the Pagosa Springs Elementary School.

Phase 1 of the development would be on a 15.7-acre section of the parcel.

Agenda documentation on the matter states, “Phase 1 would

include 47 lots and an apartment complex, along with associated tracts for community amenities and open space.”

In Phase 1, the developers propose to build a total of 58 dwelling units, which would include 10 single-family home units, 37 townhome units on multifamily lots and 11 apartment units on an additional lot, according to the application.

The owners of the parcel is documented as P.S. Acquisitions LLC and lists an Albuquerque, N.M., address in the application.

Carl Bommarito and civil engineer Phil Williams represented the owner/developer of the parcel at the meeting, with Bommarito explaining that a large portion of the Phase 1 development would

be geared toward “workforce housing.”

On its website, the Town of Pagosa Springs describes the type of “workforce housing” that it's trying to have built as dwelling units, both rental and ownership, that serve residents making 60 to 100 percent of the area median income (AMI).

At the meeting, the town's planning manager, Cindy Schultz, explained that the household median income for the area is around \$67,000 per year, and that she thinks that households in this AMI range should be able to qualify for mortgages for the types of homes being proposed.

Bommarito stated that the goal is for the single-family homes to sell in the \$300,000 to \$400,000

price range, which would accommodate the “pent-up demand” of potential home buyers in the 60 to 100 percent range of AMI.

He added that Phase 1 of the development would be “the launch” of a larger “master plan community of 100s of homes” eventually coming onto the market, but that Phase 1's main emphasis, “right now,” is on building homes that would sell “in the price range that will qualify as workforce housing.”

He explained that Phase 1's focus on prices geared toward the area's workforce stemmed from what he saw as “a tremendous, pent-up demand for workforce housing in this community,” adding that both market analysts and lenders have signaled that the first

■ See Changes A7



Photos courtesy Pagosa Springs High School

Pagosa Springs High School (PSHS) student Marie Smith, pictured with her piece “Swimming Towards Success,” took first place in Ceramics and Glass in the Colorado Art Awards. According to PSHS art teacher Kelly Lewis, Smith beat out thousands of entries, many from dedicated arts magnet schools.

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Opinion

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1/30	52	20	NA	NA	NA

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OUR VIEW

Jobs well done and a lot of luck

Monday morning was difficult. When we had to stop for an ambulance to get on U.S. 160 on our way to school and work, we immediately hoped their services wouldn't ultimately be needed, wherever they were going.

We soon found out where they were going and that their services were definitely needed.

An SUV and a school bus had collided on the highway. At the time, the status of the occupants of the two vehicles were unknown, and we continued to hope for the best.

After detouring around a back way and making it safely to school and work, we were, within minutes of arriving at the office, alerted by our partners at the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) that U.S. 160 over Wolf Creek Pass was closed for the foreseeable future due to a sizeable rock slide.

We worked to get official information out to the community about both issues as quickly as we could, and we were happy to report that no students were severely injured.

Fortunately, neither was the bus

driver, Riley Lucero.

"The bus driver did a good job," Pagosa Springs Police Chief William Rockensock told us, telling us that, while he didn't get to speak with Lucero at the scene, Lucero did well getting the kids off the bus and away from the highway, where they would be safe.

According to Rockensock, the front axle was ripped out of the bus and, after impact, there was little control to be had.

We cannot fathom what was going through Lucero's mind before, during and after the impact, but we are incredibly thankful for the job he did in caring for what we often refer to as our most precious cargo — the children of our community.

We commend Lucero for his efforts, and the school district for providing training to elementary school students about what to do in emergencies and having staff available to talk with students needing extra support following the crash.

Archuleta School District also praised Lucero's response.

In an email to district families, Super-

intendent Rick Hold wrote that Lucero "responded with exemplary composure and adherence to safety protocols during the incident. Riley's quick thinking and commitment to the well-being of our students played a crucial role in a safe response to this unfortunate event. Thanks to Riley, school staff and community members who were passing by and the students themselves who remained calm and supportive throughout the incident, the students were safely exited from the bus and transported to the school."

Rockensock also acknowledged there was luck involved in not having the incident be much worse.

We agree, and we're thankful for every ounce of luck that seemed to be present Monday.

We're also thankful and pleased to report that, according to Rockensock, the driver of the SUV is expected to recover and no lives were lost in the crash.

We don't yet know what caused the crash, but The SUN will continue to follow the investigation and report its outcome, whenever that is available.

Randi Pierce

LEGACIES

By Shari Pierce

100 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
February 1, 1924

Considerable progress has been made in school matters since the destruction of the Pagosa school building by fire last week. Though no classes were held this week, the high school semester tests were duly given at the Methodist church on Monday and Tuesday. All school operations will resume next Monday at the following places, which will be maintained for the remainder of the school term:

Primary, 1st and 2nd grades, former Sparks Hardware Co. store building; 3rd and 4th grades, Odd Fellows' lodge room, 5th and 6th grades, Baptist church; Junior High and High School, Methodist church.

Plans for a new school building are going ahead daily. Just now the school board is attempting to learn the sentiment of the taxpaying voters as to what amount of money they are willing to vote in bonds for the purchase of a site and the construction of the building.

It has been ascertained that about the sum of \$76,000 can be voted for these purposes, based upon the valuation of the school district.

Insurance Adjuster Kreuger arrived Tuesday from Denver and on Wednesday made settlement of the insurance to the full amount, \$21,000, which included the building and the equipment. The brick of the burned building was also given to the district without rebate.

75 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
February 4, 1949

The David Hersch Insurance Agency recently donated new raincoats and hats to the Volunteer Fire Department. The coats and hats are a much needed addition to the equipment of the Department inasmuch as they protect the firemen's clothes while fighting fire and also offer much protection from the weather during the winter.

The Ski Club of the Pagosa Springs High School, which recently joined the Wolf Creek Ski Club, enjoyed a trip to the Pass this past week-end. There were about 20 members that went.

The snow is well over a hundred inches on the pass now, and perfect for wet snow skiing. An auxiliary tow has been established to carry skiers to the top of the range, and thereby provides a run that is a challenge to even the best skiers.

50 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
January 31, 1974

A December 31 story in the daily newspapers told of Secretary of State Kissinger's flight from Washington, D.C. to Los Angeles on a commercial airliner. Kissinger flew by commercial airline, as had President Nixon, to set an example in energy saving.

According to the story, the first class section of the TWA plan was occupied only by Kissinger, his aides, and Secret Service agents. Stewart Gilbert, pilot of the 707, is an Albuquerque resident, but has a home in the O'Neal Park area here and spends a great deal of time there, especially during the summer.

He has had the home there for several years and is well known to many local residents.

The Pagosa Springs School Band has been performing at the Pirate home basketball games this season. Their music has been enjoyable and adds a lot to the entertainment of the evening. Steve Little is the band director.

25 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
February 4, 1999

The big "Z" word, as in zoning, skipped from mouth to mouth Wednesday night of last week at a joint meeting of the Archuleta County Commissioners and the Upper San Juan Regional Planning Commission.

Billed as a work session, the meeting was called at the request of the planning commission. The planning commission and planning office wanted the commissioners to provide them guidelines concerning work plans and items to emphasize for 1999. That didn't happen.

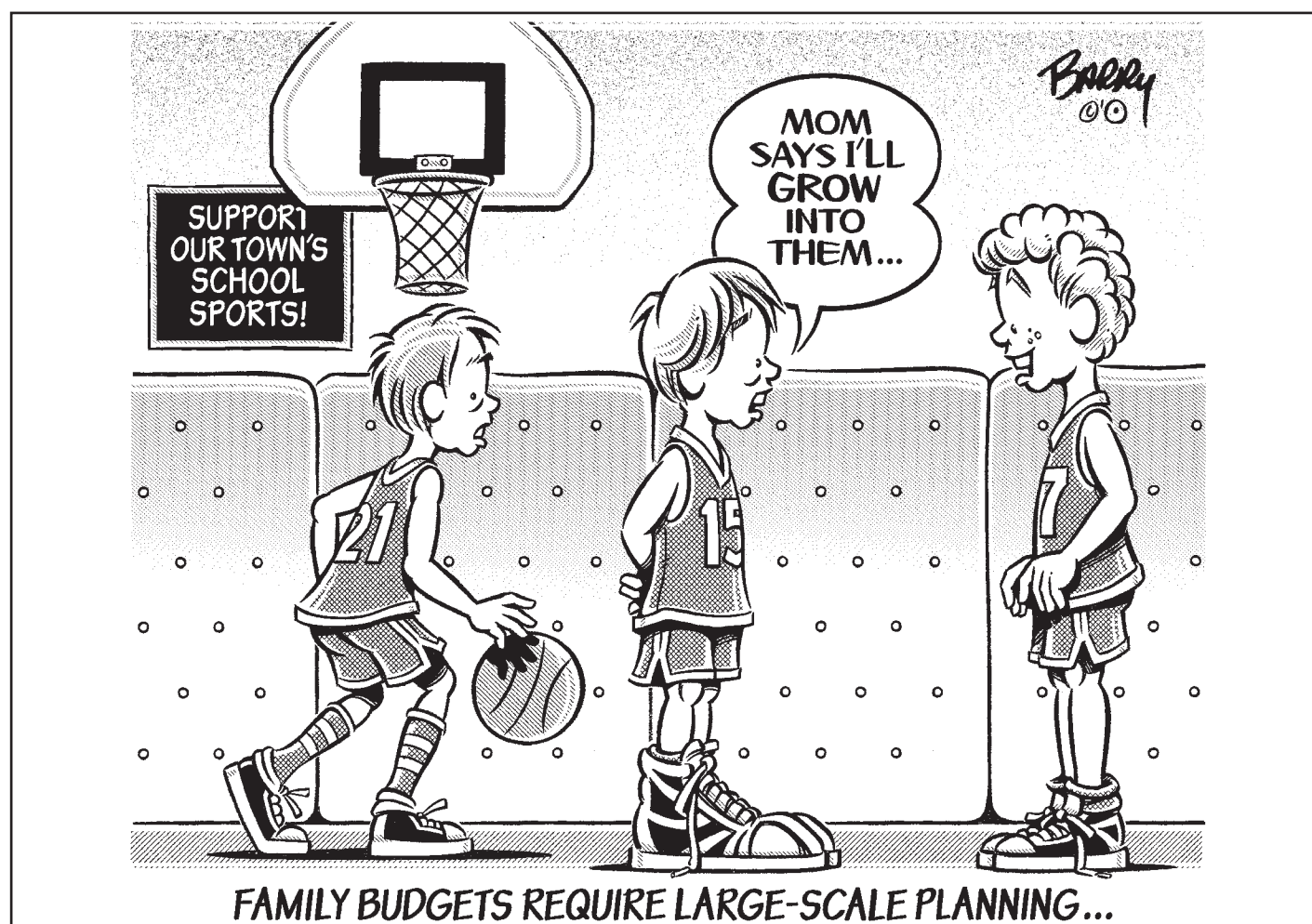
Instead, the commissioners received an earful from several people upset with county plans to hire a planner and place that planner as administrative head over the county planning and building departments. Other discussion included advice on how the county can move towards some form of land-use planning, and philosophical statements from each of the commissioners concerning growth.

LOOKING BACK



From the Feb. 20, 1992, Pagosa SUN — Motorists in the Pagosa Springs area have experienced a rare event during the past two weeks — some of the lowest gas prices in the State of Colorado. Rumors of a gas war have leaked out, but regardless of the cause several local stations have offered prices below those posted in Durango and Farmington, and below the Denver-metro average of \$1.00 per gallon for regular and unleaded.

Archuleta County Commissioners		
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FAMILY BUDGETS REQUIRE LARGE-SCALE PLANNING...

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.

Demented letters

Dear Editor:
Last week's Pagosa Sun had two demented letters obviously demanding response. Blake's "Iowa Caucus" and Porco's "Millions of Migrants".

Our Christian guidance absolutely detest your lying, demonic bondage you spew, with your leftist Marxist tactics, you blame the Right the adverse, anti-America, conniving actions the left is doing to destroy America. Trump calls you out loud, clear Tune into Conservative news, see it! Because America was formed by Godly leaders that knew they must depend on a higher power (instead of being control freaks like liberals) formed a more perfect union. God chose Israel and America in Covenant. We who pray and support Israel, blessed, those who do not, cursed. God's Word. America has been responsible for spreading the gospel worldwide Donald was responsible for the "Abraham Accord" and moving the Embassy to Jerusalem, Biblical.

We Christians have been seeking God to forgive, heal our nation. As God does things His way, agreed, Donald Trump probably wasn't first choice of most. God knew the man, not perfect, but God's infinite wisdom chose, Donald followed through. Biblical, Paul was chosen, he had been killing Christians, was stricken, his ministry preached Christ, changed the world and he wrote most of the New Testament. No, Donald Trump is not a preacher by definition, but was willing to serve and restore what America lost. His "Make America Great... and... Great Again" resonated far. He with his upstanding family support, actually did what he said he would do... He couldn't be bought like others, a businessman, puts sentences together, negotiate, fix what Obama- Biden Dems had broken.

Of course the spirits clashed! But Pres. Trump delivered most secure border in 45 years, had no wars, became self energy efficient, people could afford to live. Christian's freedom, he stood up the unborn, reversing roevwade.

Of course not everyone views our country spiritually just like we do. But you would have to be blind, deaf, uncaring, blank, or just stupid not to see our nation, culture being destroyed by Biden and his dem-regime. A country is not a country without borders, global wars, our best ally another holocaust included Americans, now 5 military dead this week!.. Biden says "don't", enemies did! disabled vets, drug addicts, bankrupted Americans, living in streets with rats and feces, starving; destructive forces on our children & parents....O so much more!

JPorco did the migrants you spoke of just swarm in illegally, got everything free, built their empires called "good to be an American"? No, they didn't, they paid a price, followed the laws, worked hard, did not steal our country! "Melting pot" now is few needy migrants, tons of illegals, cartels, deadly drugs to kill us, terrorists from our enemies that hate us, sex traffickers of children & women...

Iowa & New Hampshire, respected historically!

Hallelujah! we want "bold as a lion", proven American 1st Pres. Donald Trump back! The Why... "The truth will set us free". Personality "ticks" just don't matter, freedom for the generations does!
Jan and Tom Carnley

Border policy

Dear Editor:
Recently I received a text from a friend who is an avid FOX watcher — not FOX News but the bloviators and inventors of alternate facts. He was outraged that Democrats insist on linking southern border security with funding for Ukraine. What is outrageous is how completely opposite this is regarding reality in DC. The extremist right-wing of the GOP insisted that there will be no funding for Ukraine without a

border security solution. The Senate worked diligently to construct a bipartisan immigration bill to send to the House so that they can free up funding for Ukraine. But wait! Donald Trump has pronounced that they should not pass this bill because he doesn't want Joe Biden to have a victory and he wants to run on the immigration issue next fall.

Wow. Hard to believe that Donald Trump would put his own interests over that of his country and our allies. Just kidding. That is his whole, and only, schtick. What is hard to comprehend is the abject cowardice of our elected officials from the Republican side of the aisle. Hold on though, there are Republicans who seem to retain some sense of duty and courage in the face of a fascist baby-man. Here is Thom Tillis (R-NC): "I didn't come here to have the president as a boss or a candidate as a boss. I came here to pass good, solid policy.... It is immoral for me to think you looked the other way because you think this is the linchpin for President Trump to win."

And Senator John Lankford (R-OK), when asked (on FOX!) why Republicans should allow Biden a victory on the border issue: "Republicans four months ago would not give funding for Ukraine, for Israel, and for our southern border because we demanded changes in policy. So we actually locked arms together and said we're not going to give you money for this, we want a change in law. And now it's interesting, a few months later, when we're finally getting to the end they're like, 'Oh, just kidding, I actually don't want a change in law because [it's] a presidential election year.' We all have an oath to the Constitution, and we have a commitment to say we're going to do whatever we can to be able to secure the border."

For that, the Oklahoma GOP has threatened to end all support for Senator Lankford.
Immigration policy has been avoided by Congress for decades — it's politically difficult and many businesses rely on undocumented workers who earn small wages, have no legal rights and do dangerous and unpleasant jobs that Americans don't want. At risk here is the fate of Ukraine and, by extension, Europe, as well as U.S. cred-

ibility on the world stage. Also, the fate of people who are looking for a better life. Are we going to let radical right wing extremists define us? How is that "Great"? Sounds more like "Shameless" to me.

Lee Stopher

BSA anniversary

Dear Editor:
Yes, in one week, February 8th, the Boy Scouts of America will celebrate the anniversary of Scouting in America since 1910. A very successful organization, training boys in quality leadership skills that lead to successful lives. Yes, they take an oath:

On my honor,
I will do my duty to God and my Country
Obey the Scout Laws,
and help others at all times,
Keep myself physically strong,
mentally awake and morally straight

Scouts I have known truly honor their oath in the way they continue to live as adults. Yes, learning values through shared activities is a great way to grow.

Back in 1912, my father joined one of the first Troops organized in this country. He continued to be active within the organization throughout his life. He enjoyed a very successful career as General Manager of his company, always applying the values and skills he learned as a Boy Scout.

Scouting provides boys an opportunity to be exposed to many areas of interest as they earn the required Merit Badges on their march to the top rank of Eagle Scout. Being exposed to many areas of interest can help one determine future professional pursuits.

The Methodist Church here in Pagosa has sponsored our Scout Troop since the early days. Membership in the church is not required for a boy to join the troop. The church simply provides a place to meet and assures quality leadership. So, all are welcome regardless of church affiliation.

As always,
Patty Tillerson

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All letters must:
be submitted electronically in a format that can be copied and pasted, must not be in all capitals
include the author's actual name, phone number and address
be 500 words or less
be received by The SUN by noon on Tuesday (deadline may move up due to a holiday)

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

Letters quoting other people must contain proper attribution.
There is no guarantee letters will be published.
The SUN generally does not edit letters, but reserves the right to do so.

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Obituaries

Kathi Lou Creech

Kathi Lou Creech passed away Wednesday, Jan. 17, 2024, in Pagosa Springs, Colo. She was 69 years old. Kathi was born April 28, 1954, to Frank and Melba Salerno at the Alameda Naval Air Force base in California. As a child Kathi loved being with her parents and traveling the world (as an Air Force brat). Her biggest love was to be with friends and family, from camping to just hanging around the house. She loved to cook (especially spaghetti) for her friends and family. She enjoyed watching tennis, playing backgammon, gardening, working crossword puzzles, listening to music and going to music festivals. She loved her birds, watching them and feeding them. All creatures, big and small, were fed at Kathi and Robert's house and often she would feed the squirrels right out of her hand. The turkeys got their birdseed, all kinds of birds were fed daily and hummingbirds got their daily sugar water and the leftovers would go to the foxes. Kathi was preceded in death by her mother, Melba, and husband, Robert. She is survived by her father, Frank, and many friends and extended family. Services for Kathi will be announced at a later date.



"Beeps" — her forever nickname because he couldn't say baby. He spent his teenage summers working with Melanie at Freemon's. They first started by filling condiment bottles and scooping ice cream and worked their way up to flipping burgers. He grew up as his dad's right-hand man, always wanting to help. Many know about his love for snowmobiling, but it didn't begin until he got a '95 vintage Arctic Cat. He was terrified of that machine until he realized he could master it, then that's exactly what he did. He was an avid and skillful snowmobiler, and it was an amazing thing to be able to witness. He was recognized in 2012, with a broken wrist sustained while jumping his sled, as snowmobiler of the year. He had an innate sense for anything mechanical and loved to tinker. As a teenager, he worked on a '69 Chevy K10, and in adulthood he loved his collector car — a '76 Corvette. Many memories were made in that '76 Corvette with his wife, Jennah, and his three daughters. He loved to show it off to the world and he was so proud of it. Michael was married twice and had four children through these two marriages: Darcy, Jayda, Bristol and Robert. He was the kind of man who accepted another man's child as his own — a really special kind of man. He always had a passion to love and be loved, and this showed through his marriages and his love for all four children. His love was a wondrous thing to feel. Many fond memories were made in his marriage to Jennah: snowmobiling as a couple and with friends, going to Minnesota, a trip to Ouray, multiple spring flings with friends, late-night talks of life's adventures yet to be had and, best of all, a beautiful blended family was created.

He was always willing to extend a helping hand to those in need. He had a deep love for all of his ani-

mals: Thor, Freya, Kitty and even their chickens. He had a drive to work that was unmatched and admirable. His love for trees and passion for work propelled him to start and operate his own tree service for the last seven years. He did an extraordinary job working in very intimidating work environments. His children always enjoyed the crane rides he would give, bringing them high up into the air. He was a devoted husband, father, son, grandson, brother, brother-in-law, nephew and friend who showed his compassion and love often to all of his loved ones. Through life and death, he will always be remembered as a loving, funny, ambitious, thoughtful, generous, adventurous, charming and beautiful human.

Michael is survived by his wife, Jennah Kukuk; his children, Darcy Kukuk, Jayda Graber-Kukuk, Bristol Kukuk and Robert Kukuk; his parents, Robert and Janelle Kukuk; his maternal grandparents, James and Laverne Lambert; his sister, Melanie Dickey, and her husband, Andy Dickey; and many aunts, uncles, cousins and close friends. He is preceded in death by his paternal grandparents, Coleman and Joan Kukuk.

Mary Maxine Lattin

Mary Maxine Lattin passed away Tuesday, Jan. 23, 2024, at home, surrounded by family. She was 91 years old. A rosary will be recited Saturday, Feb. 3, at 9 a.m. and the eulogy will be read at 9:30 a.m., followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at 10 a.m. all at Pope John Paul II Catholic Church on South Pagosa Boulevard in Pagosa Springs, Colo.

Maxine was born June 22, 1932, to Jose V. and Susanna Montoya in Edith, Colo. She grew up in Edith,

and numerous places in Archuleta County and northern New Mexico. In her youth, Maxine took on the honor of caring for her brothers and sisters and left her schooling. She married Dewey Lattin April 25, 1952. The young family made their home in Pagosa Springs, and Dewey worked at the Piedra and San Juan Saw Mill. Maxine excelled in caring for her children and making her home a place of love. She also worked in the Pagosa school system as a kitchen aide for 50 years.

Maxine enjoyed fishing, crocheting and cooking, but most all, her grandkids and great-grandkids. She was a member of the Guadalupean and an active member of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church. She was a mentor to her family and other moms, including her daughter-in-laws. Her feathered friends, ducks, geese, dogs and pets were always cared for and loved.

She is survived by her sons, Terry (Vicki), LeRoy (Linda) and Gary; many grandchildren, great-grandchildren and extended family; and siblings, Ray Montoya, Alice Contreras and Peggy Vautier.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Dewey; son Ronnie; great-granddaughter Casey Jordan; and siblings Bellarmino and Joe Montoya.

Contributions in Maxine's name may be sent to Pope John Paul II Catholic Church or to Archuleta Seniors Inc.

Obituaries

Local obituaries of 500 words or less are printed free in The Pagosa Springs SUN. Submit to:

editor@pagosasun.com

Deadline is noon Tuesday for the following Thursday's edition. The SUN reserves the right to edit all submissions.

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Public Meetings

The following meetings are subject to change.

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/>.

Monday, Feb. 5

Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners joint work session with PLPOA. 5 p.m., Archuleta County administration building, commissioners' meeting room, 398 Lewis St. View Zoom meeting at: <https://zoom.us/j/91609048375?pwd=dFFV0J1cGVKa1NHWHFsa2taeGxtZz09>, meeting ID: 916 0904 8375, passcode: 4141885. For more information, visit <http://archuletacounty.org/agendacenter>.

Tuesday, Feb. 6

Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners work session. 8:30 a.m., Archuleta County administration building, commissioners' meeting room, 398 Lewis St. View Zoom meeting at: <https://zoom.us/j/91609048375?pwd=dFFV0J1cGVKa1NHWHFsa2taeGxtZz09>, meeting ID: 916 0904 8375, passcode: 4141885. For more information, visit <http://archuletacounty.org/agendacenter>.

Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners meeting.

1:30 p.m., Archuleta County administration building, commissioners' meeting room, 398 Lewis St. View Zoom meeting at: <https://zoom.us/j/91609048375?pwd=dFFV0J1cGVKa1NHWHFsa2taeGxtZz09>, meeting ID: 916 0904 8375, passcode: 4141885. For more information, visit <http://archuletacounty.org/agendacenter>.

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

Wednesday, Feb. 7

Archuleta County Fair Board Meeting. 6 p.m., CSU Extension office, 344 U.S. 84. For more information, visit <http://archuletacounty.org/agendacenter>.

Thursday, Feb. 8

Main Street Advisory Board meeting. 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/>.

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 meet-

ing 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=N0theitOZ013YzVQWGkzS2dzTWtHdz09>, meeting ID: 885 5474 2993, passcode: 525329. A meeting to address needs prior to and during the downtown reconstruction project.

Thursday, Feb. 15

Archuleta County Board of Health meeting. 3 p.m., Archuleta County administration building, commissioners' meeting room, 398 Lewis St. For more information, visit <http://archuletacounty.org/agendacenter>.

Archuleta County Republican Central Committee meeting. 5:30 p.m., Ross Aragon Community Center, 451 Hot Springs Blvd.

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Business



New Chamber board members announced

By Mary Jo Coulehan
Pagosa Springs Area Chamber of Commerce

Every year, the Pagosa springs Area Chamber of Commerce membership elects three new members to its board of directors as three existing board members cycle off the board.

The process includes six chamber member candidates running for the board and, at the end of the voting process, three members are selected.

This year's new board members are Billy Cotts, Davilyn Valdez and Annie Sewell.

These new members will serve a three-year term. We appreciate all the members that ran for these positions.

Thanks also go to Kirsten Derr, Ricardo Martinez and Loren Tally,

If you are interested in finding out more about Chamber membership or running for the board of directors, please contact Mary Jo Coulehan or Kim Hartfiel for more information.

Community Conversation and Community Awards

The Chamber will hold its annual meeting which consists of a Community Conversation and the Community Awards.

The events will be held on Friday, Feb. 9, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Tennyson Building Event Center at 197 Navajo Trail Dr. The first part of the evening will be the Community Conversation and will spotlight "The New" in Pagosa Springs.

New Town Manager David Harris will be one of the guest speakers. He will speak about the projects

and initiatives that the town will be focused on in 2024.

Many of these initiatives will affect our business community, so it would be prudent for our businesses to be there to hear a synopsis of what is planned and to also ask questions.

The other guest speaker will be Ashley Wilson, new director for the new Archuleta County Public Health Department.

While many of the same programs that were with San Juan Basin Public Health will be continued, there are some services which are no longer offered and there are also new services which are being added.

As a business owner, it is important for you to know how these services might affect your employees. If you are in the food industry, there are also new contacts and timelines which you will need to adhere to. This is another great reason to attend the Community Conversation. Come out and find out what is new.

Beginning at about 6 p.m., nominees for Citizen of the Year, Volunteer of the Year, Small Business of the Year and Non-Profit of the Year will be announced. As in year's past, the nominees are all well-deserving. We have such high-caliber individuals and organizations, and the decision is hard to select just

one in each category.

Here are the nominees for this year:

- Citizen of the Year: Bob and Robin Brobst and Shayla White Eagle McClure; Volunteer of the Year: Ken Rogers, Crystal Gillich and Al Pfister; Small Business of the Year: KWUF and FootPrints; and Non-Profit of the Year: the Pagosa Nordic Club, Pagosa Pickleball Club and Veterans Memorial Park.

It is fun to gather others from your business, organization or friends and attend this ceremony to honor all the nominees. They are all deserving of an award.

Tickets for the event can be purchased online at www.pagosa-chamber.com. Just click on the Awards Celebration graphic on the home page. Tickets are \$25 for an evening of great conversation and education as well as delicious food and beverages.

The Tennyson Building Event Center will be decorated in a Mardi Gras theme in preparation for its Mardi Gras event on Saturday, Feb. 10. Come decked out in Mardi Gras attire and add to the fun with colorful holiday accoutrements. Support all these nominees and enjoy the food and beverages.

Should you need more information about the event or to reserve a whole table, contact the Chamber at (970) 264-2360.

Tourism board recommends four new members

By Robert Moore
Staff Writer

At its Jan. 16 meeting, the Pagosa Springs Area Tourism Board convened with its primary agenda item being to interview applicants for the open seats on the tourism board, and then to vote on which applicants to recommend for approval by the Pagosa Springs Town Council and the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners.

The board first acted upon several housekeeping matters, which included approving a new 2024 signage request process and approving a letter of support for a grant for the Town-to-Lakes Trail.

The board then proceeded to the applicant interview process, with a total of 10 individuals applying for the board positions with one applicant, Dustin English, withdrawing his application for the at-large seat.

It was noted that individuals were able to apply for more than one of the open board positions and that they would only be interviewed once by the board.

The individuals applying for more than one board seat were Shane Prince, Sarah Mashue and Rosanna Dufour.

For the lodging seat, the three individuals that applied were Anne Marie Sukcik, Prince and Mashue. The applicants for the short-term rental (STR) seat were Lance Thornton, Stuart Scull and Mashue.

Applying for the hospitality/recreation seat were Prince, Dufour, Jesse Hensle and Jauxnas Palomo.

The individuals applying for the at-large seat were Julian Caler, Thornton, Dufour and Annie DeMille.

After the interviews were completed, the board moved to the final selection process, beginning with the filling of the lodging seat, with Mashue being nominated and approved.

In her interview, Mashue shared her background with the board, saying, "I have been in Pagosa for 17 years. I have three short-term rentals that I've managed for the last four years ... and we have just completed a motel ... on the Riverwalk downtown."

She noted that she and her husband were becoming "empty nesters" and wanted "to expand ... and focus solely on hospitality."

When asked about the time commitment required to serve, she said, "That's kind of why I wanted to take the initiative to get involved, because of this transition of life — just ready to pour into the community in a different way."

The next seat to be selected was the STR seat, with Mashue removed from the running as she had been selected to fill the lodging seat.

Scull was nominated, but failed to garner the required votes.

Thornton was then nominated and approved to fill the STR seat.

Thornton cited his previous board experience in his interview, stating, "I know what it takes to be on a working board and I appreciate the hard work that you guys do and am willing and looking forward to being involved with that."

When asked what could be improved, Thornton said, "My looking forward thinking is that we need to move back from some of the grassroots events that we have here

and look more to statewide and national [events]."

Thornton stated that he owns two STRs and his family owns three more, and he manages the rental side of the STR business.

■ See Tourism A7

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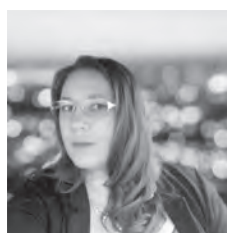
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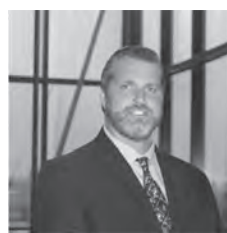
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- ♥ Christmas Bazaar, Senior Center
- ♥ Halloween Hootenanny
- ♥ Park the Bus School Supplies
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2023 YEAR IN REVIEW

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 November and December.

November

• Peyton Jackson, 16, achieved the rank of Eagle Scout on Nov. 1.

For his project, over the course of multiple build days, he managed volunteers who built 162 bird houses for the community. Of those, 82 were placed on Reservoir Hill and locations around the San Juan River in Pagosa Springs. The remaining 80 bird houses were donated to members of the community.

• In early November, the Colorado Tourism Office, a division of the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade, announced that its Marketing Matching Grants program awarded Visit Pagosa Springs and Visit Alamosa \$40,000 to aid in their efforts of partnering to promote south central Colorado, connecting into southwest Colorado.

• The Pagosa Springs High School (PSHS) Pirate football team was victorious in the first round of the 2A playoffs on Nov. 4, defeating the Lamar Tigers 14-7 despite losing to the Tigers earlier in the season.

The win meant the Pirates would host second-round action.

• The Lady Pirate volleyball team fell out of contention during regional pool play the same day.

The No. 33 Lady Pirates traveled to Delta for Region 4 action, but went 0-2 in pool play.

• Archuleta County voters signaled strong support for Archuleta School District's (ASD's) perpetual mill levy override and elected four incumbent members to continue their time on the ASD Board of Education during the Nov. 7 election: Bob Lynch, Amanda Schick, Butch Mackey and Dana Guinn.

• On Nov. 7, the Pagosa Springs Town Council approved a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) regarding CDOT's planned reconstruction project in downtown Pagosa Springs.

The approval allowed the town manager to execute the MOU with CDOT once final cost estimates were included in the agreement language.

The purpose of CDOT's main street project is to completely reconstruct the roadway surface of CDOT managed U.S. 160 through downtown Pagosa, from 1st Street to 10th Street, with reconstruction plans including the installation of a concrete road surface, which CDOT claims will be less susceptible to potholes than traditional asphalt.

The construction project is slated for the spring and summer seasons of 2024 and 2025.

• On Nov. 7, the town council approved a new intergovernmental agreement (IGA) regarding the functions of the Pagosa Springs Area Tourism Board and the way lodging tax revenues are utilized by that board.

The Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) also approved the IGA at a Nov. 8 meeting.

The new IGA followed the BoCC voicing concerns about suggestions circulated throughout the community that lodging tax revenues, which are used to fund the tourism board, could be used for purposes other than the advertising and marketing of local tourism.

• At its Nov. 8 meeting, the BoCC approved a county ordinance for the control of dogs and other pet animals following three readings of the ordinance and citizens expressing concerns about various elements of the ordinance.

• A number of events in Archuleta County honored veterans on Nov. 10 and Nov. 11.

• Wolf Creek Ski Area opened for the season on Nov. 11.

• The Pirate football team fell short of defeating the Eaton Reds Nov. 11 at Golden Peaks Stadium, drawing the team's season to a close in the quarterfinal round of the 2A state playoffs.

The No. 15 Eaton Reds defeated the Pirates 17-14.

• At the Nov. 14 Pagosa Area Water

and Sanitation District (PAWSD) Board of Directors meeting, District Engineer/Manager Justin Ramsey announced that PAWSD received a \$1 million grant from the Colorado Department of Local Affairs Energy/Mineral Impact Assistance Fund for construction on the Snowball Water Treatment Plant expansion.

In an interview with The SUN, Ramsey explained that the grant funding will support the installation of "floating slabs" of concrete as part of the foundation for the expanded plant.

He explained that the grant funding will help make up the gap between the \$38 million loan PAWSD acquired for the project and the final project cost of just over \$40 million.

PAWSD obtained "well over \$6 million" in grants and principal forgiveness for the project in the last year, Ramsey highlighted.

• At a Nov. 14 work session, the PAWSD board heard and discussed a presentation from Carol Malesky of Stantec as part of the district's ongoing rate study.

The presentation followed another presentation by Malesky at the Aug. 24 PAWSD meeting and generally provided similar information, although Malesky and Stantec staff member Zac Koch gave additional data on rates for short-term rentals and revenues from septic haulers.

The board also had the opportunity during the presentation to request adjustments to the model and to see the real-time impacts of these changes on rates.

• The PSHS Unified bowling team traveled to the state championships in mid-November after earning the league title the week before.

The team took 11th out of 27 teams at the state tournament on Nov. 17.

The top three teams from each of the nine Unified bowling regional championships advanced to the state championships — the largest field in the sports' history.

The Pirates garnered the 11th-place finish with a total pinfall of 485.

• At the Nov. 21 BoCC meeting, the BoCC, acting as the interim board of health (BoH), made appointments to the Archuleta County BoH.

Those appointed were commissioners Warren Brown and Veronica Medina, Jon Bruss, Jessica Cox and Stacy Foss.

Prior to the appointments, the BoCC interviewed six candidates for the BoH at special meetings on Nov. 13 and Nov. 14.

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

This release followed the Nov. 8 filing of a lawsuit in the Sixth Judicial District Court against the BoCC and Archuleta County Clerk and Recorder Kristy Archuleta by Tina Woodman, former county human resources director and wife of County Manager Derek Woodman, seeking the release of the recording and alleging that the executive session involved breaches of Colorado Open Meeting Law.

The complaint filed by Tina Woodman, represented by attorney Matt Roane, begins by explaining that she seeks access to the recording under the Colorado Open Records Act.

• The Upper San Juan Health Service District, which operates Pagosa Springs Medical Center, heard on Nov. 28 it had been awarded a grant of up to \$507,581 toward the construction of a building that will house its oxygen generation equipment.

December

• The PSHS Lady Pirate wrestling division saw its first action at the Farmington Wrestling Girls Invite on Dec. 1.

The Lady Pirates took sixth out of 10 teams despite having only four wrestlers.

• The Pirate boys' wrestling team opened its season this week with

eight duals at two events, including the Bayfield Tri in Bayfield on Dec. 1 and the Demon Duals event in Buena Vista on Dec. 2.

The Pirates went 5-3 across the two events, coach Dan Janowsky explained.

• The Pirate basketball team opened the season with two wins and one loss at the Wolf Creek Classic in early December.

• The Lady Pirates went 1-2 at the Classic to open their season.

• On Dec. 5, the town council officially designated South Yamaguchi Park as the preferred location for the Pagosa Multi-Purpose Pavilion (PMPP).

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

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

• In early December, the Community Foundation serving Southwest Colorado announced it awarded its annual grant from the Archuleta County Fund, donating \$10,000 to Wings Early Childhood Center in support of its classroom expansion project.

• Ongoing high gas prices in the area were a topic of concern for many residents as the year drew to a close, and the focus of the recently formed community organization, Citizens for Fair Fuel Pricing.

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

• The Pirate cheerleading squad finished 11th at December's state competition for 3A cheer.

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

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

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

• Archuleta School District (ASD) announced via a letter emailed to district parents on Dec. 11 that the district's transportation director resigned.

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

• The Archuleta County BoH met for the first time on Tuesday, Dec. 12.

• It was announced in December that the Tracks Across Borders Scenic and Historic Byway Commission (TABB) was awarded a Destination Development Mentor Grant by the Colorado Tourism Office.

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

The byway was designated in 2015. The TABB Commission planned to use the grant to develop a robust marketing plan, which will include an expanded outreach to organizations and tourism-related businesses along and near the byway.

The goal is to expand travel on the byway, thereby boosting tourism revenues for the counties and towns along the byway route.

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

• It was also announced in December that several members of the Pirate football team earned post-season honors for their work during the fall season: Davian Coss (all-conference honorable mention), Jaxten Schiel (all-conference honorable mention), Harley Armijo (all-conference first team and all-state honorable mention), Seth Aucoin (all-conference first team), Blake Laner (all-conference first team and all-state honorable mention), Gavin Lindahl (all-conference first team and all-state first team), Seth Zeigler (all-conference honorable mention), Colton Lucero (all-conference honorable mention) and Creede Dozier (all-conference first team). Conner Kelly (all-conference first team and

all-state second team), Freddy Barnas (all-conference honorable mention), Jayden Martin (all-conference honorable mention) and coach Nathan Morales (conference coach of the year).

• At a Dec. 12, special meeting, the BoCC delivered a written warning to Derek Woodman for his role in directing staff to post openings for two cleaning staff positions not approved or authorized by the BoCC.

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

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

• At the same meeting, PPOS School Director Angela Reali-Crossland announced she will not be renewing her contract at the end of its current term.

• At its Dec. 14 meeting, the PAWSD board discussed the need for increased security at PAWSD offices and plants given growing safety concerns.

Following a discussion of increased threats and antagonism by customers, Ramsey explained that PAWSD is planning to hire a security company to help improve security at PAWSD facilities due to concerns about threats from customers and the potential for thefts or intentional water contamination at PAWSD plants.

He added that, due to recent incidents with customers, staff felt "threatened."

• At the same meeting, the PAWSD board accepted the resignation of former board member Peter Hurley and appointed Paul Hansen to the empty seat on the board.

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

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

Hansen stated that he would be willing to do so.

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

Luke Tressler and Colton Lucero each placed third at the tournament.

• In mid-December, CDOT announced the completion of the U.S. 160 surface treatment project west of Pagosa Springs.

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

■ See Review A7



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Changes

■ **Continued from front**
 phase of development should concentrate on units for the workforce.
 The proposal is to build five model homes — with four out of the five being oriented toward workforce housing, he explained, adding, “Let’s put up those models, decorate them, and let’s start taking deposits and reservations and let’s see ... what’s really needed and what people want.”
 “Do they want the single family, or do they want the townhomes?” he asked.
 But members of the public and the commissioners showed reluctance to sign off on a project that seemed to be veering away from the original agreement forged between the owner/developer and the town. The main area of concern was that the new plans show an access to Phase 1 off of 10th Street, instead of U.S. 160 as proposed in the original agreement.
 The worry expressed is that the 58-unit development would add to the traffic, congestion and the general wear and tear of the roadway network around 10th Street.
 Bommarito replied that, upon more careful evaluation, the owners had determined that it would be too expensive to build an access point off of U.S. 160 during the beginning stage of development, and doing so would force the developer to charge more for the ownership units in order to cover the costs, which he quoted as “millions of

dollars.”
 “What we know for sure is that much of the community can purchase [homes] if we are in the 300s and 400s, but if we get into the 500s, a lot of people are eliminated” from being viable for mortgages for homeownership, Bommarito explained.
 The developer’s burden of having to build an access point off of U.S. 160, which was originally planned to be a roundabout, would push these homes into the more expensive ranges, defeating the purpose of gearing the homes to the area’s workforce, he argued.
 The emphasis on workforce housing during Phase 1 was “how all of this shifted,” he said.
 “What concerns me is that the town council passed Ordinance 989,” which changed the zoning of the property “from Transitional Rural to Mixed-use Town-center and it increased the densities to allow this development,” planning commissioner Chris Pitcher said.
 Pitcher added that the changes to the plans were “pretty fundamental,” because the original agreement had the access to the subdivision coming off of the highway.
 “Now, in Phase 1, all of the impacts for traffic are shifted to the neighborhood and that’s not what” the town “approved,” he said.
 He stated that he understood that building access off of the highway would be “an [expensive]

undertaking, and I can understand why that may not be the best first thing to do.”
 He added, “However, that is what was approved ... so, I’m a little reluctant to just get rid” of the original agreement.
 He noted that if the access is going to be somewhere other than off of U.S. 160, then the developers would probably need an entirely new traffic study, since the original traffic analysis “contemplated all of the access off of [U.S.] 160.”
 Bommarito replied, “This is an exact example of what we talked about with the AMI and affordability. There’s a reason we are using 10th Street. It saves about \$30,000 per townhome, which means those townhomes we can sell at a much lower rate.”
 He added, “This is the perfect example of how we’re trying to get to the lower AMI people by using a street that’s already there.”
 “I totally understand that, but I’m not gonna compromise the function of 10th Street for affordable housing,” Pitcher said.
 He suggested that Phase 1 of the development should be looked at “as a standalone phase,” citing uncertainty whether the rest of the development would ever get completed, and if no access off of the highway is ever added.
 “Let’s look at the impacts to the roadway system, the utilities, the sidewalks and community trails as a standalone development,” he

said. “We [need to] modify the traffic plan to look at how these units are going to be accessed.”
 Pitcher also questioned why the developer chose to concentrate so heavily on workforce housing in Phase 1, citing that other developers in the area have found it tough to get workforce housing projects to pencil financially.
 “It doesn’t seem logical to me that you would start with a bunch of workforce housing to try to generate interest and revenue if it’s a break even or even a losing proposition,” he said.
 Bommarito explained that “immediate sales” in workforce housing would create “tremendous momentum” for the rest of the project.
 “When you see homes going up, that’s what gets everyone talking — Realtors, people coming from all over ... you don’t make a bunch of money with workforce housing, but it’s getting the project started and creating tremendous momentum ... and it’s also something that” the lender, the town and the developer, “all three of us, can agree on,” he said.
 He added that it was “very, very difficult” to make this type of housing attractive to developers, adding, “You don’t have anybody, any developers, that are trying to build you homes for sale and sell them as workforce housing.”
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Tourism

■ **Continued from A5**
 The candidates for the hospitality seat were the next to be considered, with Prince nominated and approved for this seat.
 Prince shared in his interview that he has more than 20 years of hospitality experience, working in Seattle, Wash., California and Chicago, Ill., prior to coming to Pagosa Springs.
 “The industry that I’m in, it is about creating experiences. It’s about creating memories. I’m fortunate ... to talk with people that have been coming here for 30 years ... that’s the excitement for me of

being in a place where people want to continuously return to and how do we enhance that value, for them as visitors?” he said.
 For the at-large seat, Dufour was nominated and approved.
 When asked about the “cultural divide” that exists in Pagosa between residents and tourists, Dufour recalled similar experiences growing up in Steamboat Springs, stating, “I’ve seen these changes and I’ve seen the resistance and it really feels like the divide generally is a lack of communication and education as to the importance of things like tourism.”

Asked then what she would like to communicate to the Pagosa community, Dufour said, “I feel like what needs to be communicated to them is the importance of the structure of the tourism industry, and that the more that it is grown intelligently, the more that it can actually enhance their quality of life, as well as guests that we’re serving.”
 With the voting completed, Jennifer Green, executive director of Visit Pagosa Springs, noted that the next step in the process is for her to take the recommendations to the town council and the county commissioners as they are the ones that

actually approved the recommendations from the tourism board.
 She also stated that “we are hoping that we have a board in place, hopefully in the next couple of weeks, and I’ll be in touch with all those that were recommended and schedule some meetings.”
 She also recommended that the board have a retreat “to kind of kick things off with all of the new board members ... review everything that we do, and that’s always a good opportunity for open dialogue.”
 The next tourism board meeting is set for 4 p.m. on Feb. 20.
 robert@pagosasun.com

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Review

■ **Continued from A6**
 • This 124th Christmas Bird Count, annually the largest national bird inventory on record and the longest standing community-generated science project in the Western Hemisphere, took place on Dec. 16.
 A total of 81 Pagosa Springs residents joined in to collect data across our 15-mile diameter circle. Collectively, the group tallied 121.5 hours of party effort and 3,867 total birds of 64 species on count day.
 • At a Dec. 19 work session, the BoCC discussed delinquent payments for a mill levy related to road maintenance and the county’s efforts to obtain a certificate of occupancy (CO) for the county’s justice facility.
 Commissioner Veronica Medina raised the issue of the mill levy in the context of a discussion on the 2024 county budget and explained that the Town of Pagosa Springs brought to the county’s attention that the county has not paid the town’s portion of the Road and Bridge Fund mill levy to the town since 2018.
 She added that the 2018 payment was only partial, with the county still owing the town \$1,622 from 2018.
 Medina commented that state statute requires the county to pay the mill levy and that this payment should not depend on if the entity receiving payment asks for it or if the commissioners decide to make the payment.
 Commissioner Warren Brown suggested that this would be an opportunity to have a “fresh start” on the county’s efforts to obtain a CO for the justice facility.
 Previously, the town demanded additional screening of HVAC systems on the building’s roof to bring the building into compliance with its land use and development code.
 Following the Pagosa Springs Planning Commission denying the county’s attempt to obtain a variance exempting it from the screening requirement on Jan. 10, the BoCC passed a resolution overruling the commission’s decision on Jan. 17.
 Following discussions with the town council, the town attorney responded by issuing a letter to Weaver on April 20 outlining that the town would refuse to provide a CO for the building until the situation is addressed.
 • At its Dec. 19 meeting, the BoCC

approved an alteration to the county’s Residential Property Tax Incentive, raising the value threshold for qualifying properties to \$500,000.
 • At the same meeting, the BoCC approved an indefeasible right of use agreement with La Plata County, the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, La Plata Electric Association, and Region 10 League for Economic Assistance and Planning for a \$4 million grant-funded fiber project along Colo. 151 — an agreement that was called “historic.”
 • “I was afraid they weren’t going to have a Christmas,” PaTrisha Patten said of how she felt after learning the storage unit housing the gifts for the Adopt-A-Family Christmas Project she runs had been broken into.

On the afternoon of Dec. 21, it was reported that the storage unit for the Adopt-A-Family Christmas Project had been broken into, according to a statement the Archuleta County Sheriff’s Office.
 The break-in happened two days before the project planned to give the gifts and needed items in the unit to local families in need.
 The statement notes the gifts were stolen sometime the previous evening or early on Dec. 21.
 • On Dec. 21, the town council approved an IGA with CDOT for the design and construction of a multiuse trail planned to connect downtown to Pagosa Lakes, the Town-to-Lakes Trail.
 It “involves the design and con-

struction of a ten-foot-wide asphalt or concrete non-motorized shared use path between 10th Street to Great West Ave,” per states agenda documentation on the matter.
 • In late December, it was reported that four local high school soccer athletes were selected to represent Colorado at the Far West Olympic Developmental Program Championships in Mesa, Ariz., in January: Adison Johnson, Ryder King, Milo Deitemeyer and Gavin Carter.
 They would be representing three of the 10 teams attending from the Colorado Select Mountain Region.
 • San Juan Basin Public Health closed its doors on Dec. 31 after 75 years of service to Archuleta and La Plata counties.

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Increase

Continued from front
 income over the upcoming years. He pointed to the workbooks produced by the rate study for the PAWSD water and wastewater funds as evidence of this close alignment. The water rate workbook indicates that, from 2024 to 2026, the fund is expected to have \$25,660,644 in cash inflows and \$31,597,021 in cash outflows. Over the same period, the wastewater rate workbook indicates that the fund is expected to have \$13,043,267 in cash inflows and \$13,860,048 in cash outflows. PAWSD District Engineer/Manager Justin Ramsey emphasized in an interview that the exact costs the district will face and when they will be incurred is somewhat unpredictable and will be influenced by the actions of state agencies and new wastewater regulations. He added that the district will likely conduct another rate study within five years to adjust for

changes or new expenses that have arisen. Water rates and capital investments fees (CIFs) are slated to increase as part of the rate changes. The water CIF is slated to increase from \$5,353 in 2023 to \$8,958 in 2024, with a 3 percent increase annually each year after. The water rate increased by 6 percent in 2023 for an average monthly residential bill of \$54. The rate is proposed to increase by 3 percent yearly between 2024 and 2031, taking the monthly residential bill from \$55.62 in 2024 to \$68.38 in 2031. No increase is proposed for 2032. Water availability fees are also proposed to scale with the water rate increases, taking them to \$14.73 monthly in 2024 from \$14.30 monthly in 2023. PAWSD revenues from availability fees are expected to fall from \$450,000 in 2023 to \$191,000 in 2032 due to decreases in the amount of lots being charged availability fees

as development continues. Water rates at fill stations are also proposed to scale with the increases in water rates, rising to \$12.55 per 1,000 gallons in 2024. Wastewater rates and CIFs are also projected to see substantial increases. The wastewater CIF is expected to rise from \$1,179 in 2023 to \$15,697 in 2024, with an annual 3 percent increase for each year after. The wastewater rate increased by 2.5 percent in 2023 for an average monthly residential bill of \$32.80. The rate study indicates that the rate will increase by 30 percent annually in both 2024 and 2025, taking it to \$55.43, before increasing by 5 percent yearly between 2026 and 2029, rising to \$67.38 in 2029. The rates will then rise by 15 percent in both 2030 and 2031, increasing to \$89.11 by 2031. No rate increase is slated for 2032. Short-term rental units in the

district will see a 1.40 times multiplier on their wastewater rates compared to other users due to the increased wastewater flows these properties generate, according to PAWSD. Burns notes in an email to The SUN, "These increased flows have been measured by analyzing water usage during winter months for registered short-term rental properties. This removes irrigation usage from the calculation." Wastewater availability fees are planned to scale with increases in the wastewater rate, rising to \$16.25 monthly in 2024 from \$12.50 monthly in 2023. The district's income from availability fees is expected to increase from \$290,000 annually in 2023 to \$446,000 annually in 2025. Availability fee revenues are then expected to fall gradually to \$435,000 in 2029 before rising again to \$512,000 over 2030 and 2031. Rates for septic haulers depositing sewage at the Vista Wastewater Treatment Plant are planned to scale with the rate increases for other customers, rising to \$17.26 per 1,000 gallons in 2024. The public hearing on the rate and fee increases will occur at 5 p.m. on Feb. 15 at the PAWSD administrative offices at 100 Lyn Ave. and will include opportunities for the public to comment on the proposed changes. josh@pagosasun.com

Crash

Continued from front
 It further states U.S. 160 was closed with the help of the Colorado Department of Transportation and the Archuleta County Sheriff's Office until the accident was cleared at 9:05 a.m. The investigation is ongoing and determination of the cause of the accident is pending, it notes. That afternoon, Archuleta School District (ASD) Superintendent Rick Holt sent a message to district families concerning the crash. "Thanks to the overwhelming support and professionalism displayed by our local police, fire, EMS, hospital staff, counselors and school community during the unfortunate bus incident, we were

able to safely transport students away from the scene without significant injuries to students or the driver," Holt wrote. Holt highlighted the actions of bus driver Riley Lucero in helping to keep the students safe throughout the incident and noted that, once at school, "students were provided the opportunity to meet with counselors and reconnect with families while administrators took the time to personally call each family involved." He adds, "Incidents like this one can be frightening for all those directly and indirectly involved. If you, or someone you know, is experiencing trauma as a result of today's incident please encourage

them to seek out the needed support." "While today brought unexpected challenges, it also showcased the strength and resilience of our Pagosa Elementary School community. Together, they have all demonstrated the power of unity and support in times of adversity." Holt further pledges to continue to work with the authorities "to ensure a thorough investigation and review" of the event. "The safety and security of our students remain our top priority, and we will take every necessary step to prevent such occurrences and improve our response in the future," he wrote. randi@pagosasun.com

Changes

Continued from A7
 ing an effort to do 'for-sale' workforce housing, which is what 100 percent of the people want, when you talk to the firemen, the policemen, the school teachers. They want a house," he said. He pointed out that most newly built homes in the area sell in the \$500,000 to \$900,000 range. "Those don't work for workforce housing," he said. He continued, "We think that with a project this big, with the economy of scale ... and with a lender who is actually going along with this ... we might be able to accomplish it ... It's never happened before in Pagosa Springs ... we've looked into the history, and we don't see any national builders coming here and offering to try to build homes for you for 300 and 400 thousand. "It's not easy, because you have a water district and a sewer district that are in need of being expanded, and we have to pay for that expansion. It's millions of dollars to expand your water and sewer districts and because we are the ones putting in the homes, the burden is on us," explaining the process as "climbing hills and mountains." Planning commissioner Chad Hodges expressed agreement with some of Pitcher's objections to approving the preliminary subdivision plat as it stood, mainly because of the changes to the access plan. He suggested, "We are between a rock and a hard place," because the community very much needs the workforce housing, but he didn't want it at the expense of added "traffic pressure" on 10th Street, agreeing with Pitcher. He also agreed with Pitcher that "the new phasing plan doesn't support what council negotiated." Looking for a way forward, Schultz recommended that the commission should start with a new traffic study on the impacts of the new Phase 1 proposal since the original study "was completed before they contemplated the re-arrangement of the phases, and I think having that redone, so that we do have those impacts" would answer major questions. "What is the impact gonna be on 10th Street and those other sup-

porting road networks? What does that look like? And would a traffic circle, roundabout or traffic signal intersection [off of the highway]... alleviate the impacts?" she asked. Bommarito suggested that all parties — the town, planning commission and the developer/owner — take a "step back and rethink how we can work this out." "There's been about 20 or 30 topics tonight that we really need to think through and figure out, now that we are seeing and hearing all of these concerns," he said. He requested a continuance, which would "give us some time to spend with your town planners in trying to figure out and improve and think through how we can make this more acceptable." He added he is hopeful that "different things can be done here" to address the concerns of the public and the commission and "to make all of this make sense." Pitcher asked, "If we do move to continue, how much time would you like?" Bommarito replied, "15 to 30 days." However, Schultz suggested that it would take longer than 30 days for the town's planning staff and the owner/developer to work out the kinks, mentioning that conducting a new traffic study will take longer than 30 days. Bommarito suggested, "Why don't we just leave the date open?" It was decided to push the meeting, and any decision, back to an undecided date. The official motion made by Hodges stated, "A motion for the request of the applicant to continue for the major subdivision application for Pagosa Views, Phase 1." The motion was seconded and carried unanimously by the commission. If the preliminary subdivision plat is ultimately approved by the planning commission, it would then go before the town council as a recommendation by the commission for approval. derek@pagosasun.com

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Sports

SWIM

Lady Pirates defeat Gunnison in head-to-head meet

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

According to coach Heather Miller, the Pagosa Springs High School Lady Pirate swim team did the unexpected when it bested Gunnison on Jan. 26 in Gunnison.

The team, she wrote in an email to The SUN, was “ecstatic that we were able to pull off the unexpected.”

Pagosa scored 566, compared to Gunnison’s 537.

“Overall we had a great meet with some really good swims,” she wrote.

Three Lady Pirate teams competed in the 200-yard medley relay.

Marlowe Hedgecock, Karis Blackman, Chloe Gantt and Asia Gorman finished second with a time of two minutes, 27.3 seconds. That finish earned 34 points for Pagosa.

The team of Rebecca Stewart, Leah Blackman, Grace Cram and Gemma Slingerland finished fourth with a time of 2:59.64 to earn 30 points.

The team of Natalie Talley, Lucia Rivera, Natalia Monterroso and Ruby Snell finished fifth with a time of 3:13.19, earning 28 points.

In the 200-yard freestyle, Asia Gorman led the Lady Pirates with a third-place finish. She finished with a time of 2:43.24 and earned 16 points. Hedgecock finished fourth with a time of 2:53.24 to earn 15 points.

Cram followed in fifth and earned 14 points with a time of 2:58.24. Slingerland took sixth with a time of 3:05.57 to earn 13 points. Marie Smith finished seventh with a time of 3:23.19 to earn 12 points. Bella Gutierrez took eighth and earned 11 points with a time of 3:35.93.

Miller highlights that Gorman, Gutierrez and Smith “dropped a lot of time” in the event.

Gantt took fourth in the 200-yard individual medley, finishing with a time of 3:04.08 to earn 15 points. Leah Blackman followed in fifth with a time of 3:26.95 to earn 14 points, with Miller pointing out she “dropped some good time.”

In the 50-yard free, Monterroso led the Lady Pirates with a fourth-place finish. She swam a time of 37.27 seconds and earned 15 points. Rivera followed in fifth with a time of 41.43 seconds to earn 14 points. Snell took sixth and earned 13 points with a time of 41.65 seconds. Talley finished seventh and earned 12 points with a time of 45.50 seconds.

“Lucia Rivera and Ruby Snell

also dropped significant time in the 50 free,” Miller wrote.

Hedgecock took second in the 100-yard butterfly and earned 17 points with a time of 1:40.06. Stewart followed in third and earned 16 points with a time of 1:52.19. Gutierrez swam a time of 2:05.82 to take fourth and earn 15 points.

Miller notes it was the first legal 100 butterfly for all three Lady Pirate swimmers.

“Overall we had a great meet with some really good swims.”

Coach Heather Miller

Monterroso finished seventh in the 100-yard freestyle, swimming a time of 1:27.36 and earning 12 points. Talley followed in eighth to earn 11 points with a time of 1:40.42.

Karis Blackman was the sole competitor in the 500-yard freestyle, giving the Lady Pirates 20 points for a first-place finish.

Miller notes she was able to drop time despite swimming on her own, and finished with a time of 8:26.95.

Miller adds Karis Blackman “had an amazing 500 free.”

The three Pagosa teams took second, third and fourth in the 200-yard freestyle relay.

Gorman, Gantt, Hedgecock and Karis Blackman took second with a time to 2:12.12, earning 34 points.

Cram, Stewart, Monterroso and Leah Blackman swam a time of 2:30.10 to finished third and earn 32 points.

Slingerland, Talley, Gutierrez and Smith finished fourth with a time of 2:46.35, earning 30 points.

Gorman led the Lady Pirate effort in the 100-yard backstroke, finishing third with a time of 1:27.94 to earn 16 points. Cram followed in fourth with a time of 1:30.25 to earn 15 points. Slingerland took fifth and earned 14 points with a time of 1:33.89. Snell took sixth and earned 13 points with a time of 1:53.13.

In the 100-yard breaststroke, Karis Blackman finished fourth with a time of 1:31.25, earning 15 points. Leah Blackman took fifth with a time of 1:37.27 to earn 14 points. Gantt followed in sixth and earned 13 points with a time of 1:38.27. Rivera finished seventh with a time of 1:55.57, earning



Photo courtesy Heather Miller

Karis Blackman swims during the Lady Pirates’ head-to-head meet with Gunnison on Jan. 26. Blackman competed in four events, helping the team win 566-537.

12 points. Smith took eighth and earned 11 points with a time of 2:05.54.

“Our backstrokes and [breaststrokes] did really well with Asia Gorman and Gemma Slingerland having some great time drops in the backstroke and Chloe Gantt

and Lucia Rivera dropped time in the breaststroke,” Miller wrote.

Next up for the Lady Pirates is the Western Slope Conference meet Friday and Saturday, Feb. 2 and 3, at Colorado Mesa University.

“I think we are right on track to have a great conference meet. Their

technique is looking the best it has all season now we just need to push the speed,” Miller wrote.

Prior to the conference event, Miller notes the team is focusing on relays.

“We are focusing on relays for conference to give us the best

opportunity to get to swim again in finals. So we need to have safe but fast relay starts and fast swimming,” she wrote.

Competition begins at 5 p.m. on Feb. 2 and continues at 9 a.m. on Feb. 3.

randi@pagosasun.com

RECREATION NEWS

Registration for spring rec programs open

By Matt Zaborowski
Town of Pagosa Springs

All program registrations for 2024 will be released seasonally.

For the spring season, we have several programs available, including 9- to 10-year-old instructional volleyball, 11- to 12-year-old

volleyball, adult volleyball, 4- to 5-year-old T-ball and adult soccer.

A new class has been added to the Recreation Department schedule.

Pagosa Cooks is hosting a Valentine’s charcuterie board. Learn to create the ideal snack to enjoy with your family or friends. With work-

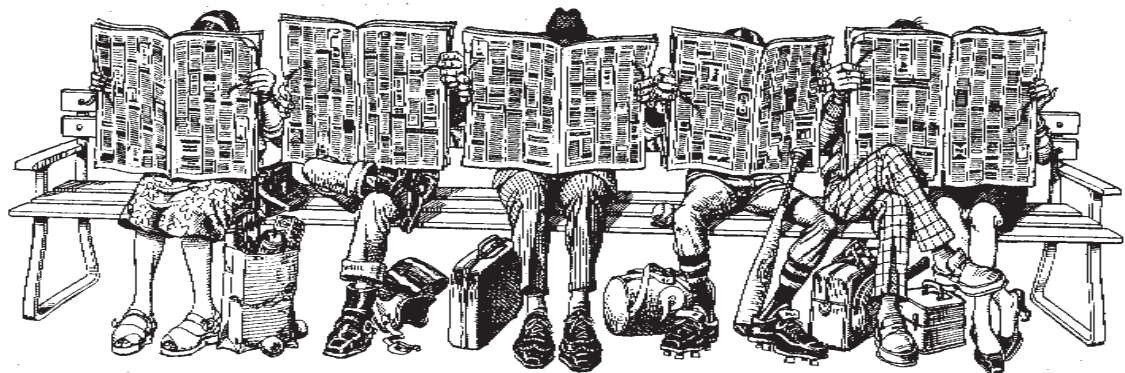
shops from Pagosa Cooks, you can learn to create and style your very own meat and cheese board time and time again. This is a special Valentine’s Night workshop and will be paired with wine and beer to complement the boards. Bring a date or come and meet others who enjoy food and conversation.

Registration is \$25 and can be done online.

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BASKETBALL

Lady Pirates defeat Panthers, Falcons

By Robert Moore
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Lady Pirates bagged two more wins over the last week as the team shot down both the 3A Montezuma-Cortez Panthers and the 3A Centauri Falcons.

The Pirates defeated the Panthers on Friday, Jan. 26, at home 62-37 and followed that with a 41-38 road win Saturday against the Falcons.

The Pagosa victory ended Centauri's current four-game win streak and also snapped the Falcons' 17-game home court win streak.

The two wins improved the Lady Pirates' overall record to 13-3, extended their winning streak to 12 games and the team remains in first place in the Intermountain league with a 6-0 record.

Centauri is second in the league with a 4-2 record.

In the Montezuma-Cortez matchup, Pagosa started slowly and the Panthers kept the game close through the first quarter, trailing the Pirates 10-8 at the end of the period.

In an email to The SUN, coach Sarah Osborn expresses some frustration with how the team played early, saying, "We came out pretty slow and undisciplined on defense, and had 5 turnovers in the first quarter against Cortez."

In the second quarter, the Pirates played better and began to exert control of the game.

"Karsyn came out hard and focused on defense and had some big shots and steals early in our offense that sparked the fire for the rest of the team against Cortez," Osborn wrote.

The Lady Pirates led the game 28-18 at halftime.

Pagosa continued to pull away in the second half and won the game by a final score of 62-37.

"We are still trying to improve as a team to show up all four quarters with the same intensity," continues Osborn. "I thought the team played a much better second half, and we worked on really running the floor in transition offense, passing ahead, and getting those extra buckets."

The Lady Pirates were led in scoring by Elizabeth Currier with 19 points, followed by Karsyn Shahan with 12 and Kylie Ketchum with 10. Daveyann Snarr scored nine, Annie O'Donnell six, Amber Snarr tallied five points and Ximena Garcia scored one.

O'Donnell and Currier led the team in rebounding with eight each, followed by Daveyann Snarr and Adelyn Hittle with four each. Ketchum and Amber Snarr had three each. Lexi Campbell logged two and Shahan had one. The team totaled 33 rebounds.

Pagosa dished out 12 assists and chalked up 17 steals, but also committed 17 turnovers. The team made three of seven free-throw attempts for 43 percent.

In their next game, the Lady Pirates won a wire-to-wire battle against the Centauri Falcons.

Osborn indicates in her email that



SUN photo/Randi Pierce

Kylie Ketchum launches a 3-pointer at the buzzer to give the Lady Pirates a 28-18 lead over the Montezuma-Cortez Panthers at halftime. Ketchum scored 10 in the Jan. 26 matchup.

she knew it was going to be a tough game, saying, "Centauri is very well coached and they are a good basketball team, we knew going in we would have to play our best for four quarters."

Pagosa put together four solid quarters in a very close game.

The Pirates led 10-9 at the end of the first quarter and 20-18 at halftime.

The two rivals battled evenly in the third period, scoring 11 points each, and the Lady Pirates took a slim lead into the fourth quarter, leading 31-29.

With the team maintaining its composure and aided by free-throw shooting, the Lady Pirates closed out the Falcons by a final score of 41-38, giving Pagosa a critical road victory.

"I thought we played in control and with composure the entire time," Osborn wrote. "I was very proud of our team for how they

handled the very physical game, and never got frustrated with the calls they were or weren't getting. They showed huge growth and maturity as a team, and it was a huge team win for us. Each player that hit the floor executed her role and contributed on offense and defense. We had some pretty even scoring from all of my 5 starters, and that is really tough to defend. We were able to seal the game with free throws, shooting 12 for 14."

The balanced scoring effort was led by Shahan with 10 points. O'Donnell and Ketchum added eight points each. Currier, Daveyann Snarr and Amber Snarr scored seven, six and two points, respectively.

Daveyann Snarr grabbed five rebounds in the game, O'Donnell added four, and Ketchum and Currier snagged two each.

All five starters contributed to the team totals of 11 assists and nine steals.

Centauri's defense contributed to the Pirates' 20 turnovers for the game. The team made 12 of 14 free throws for 86 percent.

With the two victories, the Lady Pirates improved their record to 13-3 and Pagosa moved up to No. 2 in the 4A Ratings Percentage Index (RPI) standings, which help determine postseason seedings.

The Panthers' record dropped to 6-6, and they are currently ranked 22nd in the 3A RPI standings.

Centauri's record dropped to 10-4, and the Falcons are ranked No. 6 in the 3A RPI standings.

In preparation for their next games, Osborn states, "we are preparing for Ignacio and Alamosa at home this week. We have two home games back to back and it will be nice to not travel this weekend. We hope to come out and play well all four quarters against these teams this weekend. We are working hard in practice to continue to get better each week as we are closing out the regular season and hope to be peaking at the correct time for the post-season."

The Lady Pirates will be home for the game against the 3A Ignacio Bobcats on Friday, Feb. 2, at 5:30 p.m.

The Bobcats are 5-8 on the season and ranked No. 15 in the 3A RPI standings.

Pagosa will then stay at home for a rematch with the 4A Alamosa Mean Moose at 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 3.

Alamosa's record is 10-6 for the season, and the Mean Moose are ranked No. 13 in the 4A RPI standings.



SUN photo/Randi Pierce

Karsyn Shahan scores two against the Montezuma-Cortez Panthers. Her defense also helped spark the Lady Pirates to the victory, according to coach Sarah Osborn.

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WRESTLING



Photo courtesy Pagosa Springs High School

Hudson Mazur works to drop his opponent at the Butch Melton Invitational in Ignacio on Jan. 27. Mazur took fifth place in the 132-pound weight class, contributing 11 points to the Pirates' fifth-place tournament finish.



Photo courtesy Pagosa Springs High School

Conner Kelly works to break away from his opponent during a match at Butch Melton Invitational in Ignacio on Jan. 27. Kelly placed third in the 215-pound weight class at the tournament.

Pirates win dual, take fifth at Ignacio tournament

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Pirate wrestling team won a dual against the Montezuma-Cortez Panthers in Cortez on Jan. 26 and participated in the Butch Melton Invitational on Jan. 27 in Ignacio.

The Pirates won the dual against the Panthers 63-12.

Coach Dan Janowsky explained that the Pirates wrestled well and matched favorably with the Panthers in terms of the teams' lineups.

He also noted that he expected the dual to be closer than it was, but that Cortez had more gaps in its lineup than expected.

It included six forfeits by the Panthers in the 132-pound, 138-pound, 144-pound, 165-pound, 215-pound and 285-pound weight classes, scoring Pagosa 36 points. There was a double forfeit in the 113-pound weight class.

Jimmy Elledge, wrestling in the 175-pound weight class, was pinned, scoring six points for Cortez.

The coach commented that Elledge, a freshman, did a "good job" and fought "hard."

In the 190-pound weight class, Harley Armijo defeated his opponent with an 8-2 decision, scoring

three points.

Janowsky commented that Armijo's victory was a significant moment in the dual, as he was matched against a strong wrestler from Cortez and secured a "nice win."

In the 106-pound weight class, Anthony Manzanares pinned his opponent, scoring six points for Pagosa.

Stetson Osborn, competing in the 120-pound weight class, also achieved a pin, scoring six more points.

Tucker Jacobsen, in the 126-pound weight class, pinned his opponent, earning six points for the Pirates.

Janowsky explained that the three wins in the light weights helped the Pirates continue their momentum and made the team score "lopsided."

In the 150-pound weight class, Wyatt Hoover was pinned, scoring six points for Cortez.

Seth Aucoin, competing in the 157-pound weight class, achieved a pin, gaining six points for the Pirates.

The coach commented on Aucoin's "big" win, noting that the Cortez wrestler had the lead for most of the match, but that Aucoin was "dogged" in scoring points to close the gap with his opponent

and eventually securing a pin.

The next day, the Pirates took fifth out of 18 teams at the Butch Melton Invitational, scoring 145.5 points.

The event utilized a scramble format, involving initial rounds of wrestling in pools before wrestlers entered the championship or consolation brackets with seeding determined by performance in the pool rounds.

Janowsky highlighted the number of Pagosa wrestlers who had four or more wins at the tournament as a sign of the team's progress, stating, "We're one above, in a lot of cases, where we were two weeks ago."

However, he noted that the team needs to continue working to win the matches they are currently losing as those victories may be critical for qualifying for or winning state championships.

He added that talented Pirate wrestler Luke Tressler did not wrestle at the tournament due to concerns about the number of matches involved potentially exacerbating an injury.

Manzanares placed second, scoring 21.5 points for the Pirates. He pinned his opponents in the first, second and third pool rounds before winning his first consolation bracket match by decision. He

then was defeated by decision in the first-place match.

Deegen Hoffschneider competed as a nonscoring wrestler in the 106-pound weight class, taking 10th place.

Janowsky commented that Manzanares and his experience as a junior has helped improve the team's performance in the 106-pound weight class, although he noted Hoffschneider's effort and contributions in the weight, as well.

Osborn placed eighth and scored five points for the Pirates. He won the first pool round by a major decision and the second with a pin before being pinned in the third. He then lost his first consolation bracket match by a major decision and the seventh-place match by decision.

Jacobsen placed sixth and scored six points for Pagosa. He was pinned in the first pool round before pinning his opponents in the second and third rounds. He then was pinned in the fourth and sixth to finish sixth.

Hudson Mazur, competing in the 132-pound weight class, placed fifth and scored 11 points for Pagosa. He won the first and third pool rounds with pins and was pinned in the second. He pinned his opponents in the first consolation bracket match by decision. ■ See Wrestling A12

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Lady Pirates take seventh at Ignacio tournament

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Pirate girls' wrestling division competed at the 4 Corners Women's Championship Tournament in Ignacio on Jan. 27, where all members of the division placed.

Coach Dan Janowsky commented that the tournament went "quite well," adding that this was the first time that all members of the girls' division won matches and placed at the tournament.

"And that is exciting," he added.

The 4 Corners Women's Championship utilized a scramble format, involving initial rounds of wrestling in pools before wrestlers enter brackets for final placement, with seeding determined by performance in the pool rounds.

The Lady Pirates finished in a two-way tie for seventh place out of 14 teams, scoring 59 points.

In the 105-pound weight class, Madisen Stretton placed second, scoring 22 points for Pagosa. She won the first, second, third and fourth rounds with pins before being pinned in the fifth round.

In the 115-pound weight class, Dalton Hoover placed seventh, scoring five points for the Pirates. She was pinned in the first and

second pool rounds before pinning her opponent in the third. She then lost her first consolation bracket match by decision before winning the seventh place match with a pin.

In the 130-pound weight class, Kylie Matyniak took fifth place, scoring six points for Pagosa. She was pinned in the first two pool rounds before pinning her opponent in the third. She received a bye in the first consolation bracket match before pinning her opponent in the fifth-place match.

In the 145-pound weight class, Aspen Salazar placed fifth and scored three points for the Pirates. She won the first round with a pin before being pinned in the second and third rounds. She lost the fourth round with a forfeit and the fifth with a medical forfeit to take fifth.

Janowsky commented that Salazar has a knee injury that caused the forfeits.

In the 190-pound weight class, Laykyn Baxstrom placed second, scoring 23 points for Pagosa.

She pinned her opponents in the first, second and third pool rounds before winning the first championship bracket round with a forfeit. She was pinned in the first-place match to take second place.

Janowsky noted that Stretton

and Baxstrom have frequently finished second, but have not taken first place at a tournament so far.

He commented that he believes many of their defeats are coming from the same pool of wrestlers who participate in many of the tournaments the division attends. The coach added that both being freshmen also creates a disadvantage in terms of physical maturity compared to older wrestlers.

"I love the fact that they can beat almost everybody at their stage of the game, but we of course will try to find those little things that can help them get that last match," he said.

The girls' wrestling division will participate in regionals in Grand Junction on Feb. 9 and 10 at Central High School, with wrestling beginning at 9 a.m. both days.

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BASKETBALL

Pirates capture two more wins to extend streak to 14

By Robert Moore
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Pirate basketball team captured two more victories in league play as the team dominated the 3A Montezuma-Cortez Panthers and won a close game against the 3A Centauri Falcons.

The Pirates won Friday, Jan. 26, at home against the Panthers by a score of 62-37, and followed that with a 33-29 road win Saturday, Jan. 27, against the Falcons.

The wins improved the Pirates' overall record to 15-1, extended their winning streak to 14 games, and the team remains in first place in the Intermountain League (IML) with a 6-0 league record.

The Falcons are in second in the IML with a 4-2 record.

Pagosa dominated the Montezuma-Cortez game from start to finish. The Pirates led the Panthers 16-9 at the end of the first quarter and expanded the lead to 35-17 at halftime.

According to coach Wes Lewis, the Pirates scouted the Panthers ahead of the game and devised a solid game plan, revealing, "We kind of had some scouting done on them and felt like we did a pretty good job with the way we wanted to defend it and the way the kids took the game plan defensively."

Continuing their dominance in the second half, the team held Montezuma-Cortez to six points in

the third quarter to expand their lead to 53-23.

With the reserves seeing significant playing time in the final period, the Pirates won by a final score of 62-37.

"I thought [the Pirates] executed really well on the other side of the ball. I thought we did a really good job in transition. I thought we ran the floor extremely well," Lewis said. "The kids shared the ball. We advanced the ball on the fast break, which all starts with playing defense and rebounding first. And I just thought they were really good on that side of it. And, the half-court offense wasn't bad. We didn't get into it as many times as you do in most games because the transition opportunities were there early."

On Saturday, the Pirates traveled to La Jara for an early-afternoon rematch with the Falcons.

The game was dominated by defense by both teams, with the Pirates leading 10-9 at the end of the first quarter.

The strong defensive play continued in the second period as both teams held each other scoreless until almost halfway through the quarter.

Ridge Wilson had a strong close to the first half as he hit two free throws and a 3-pointer at the buzzer to give Pagosa an 18-13 lead at halftime, which matched their largest lead of the game.

Lewis commented on the low-

■ See Pirates A14



SUN photo/Randi Pierce

Seth Ziegler chips in two points in the home win against the Montezuma-Cortez Panthers on Jan. 26. The team is now 15-1 on the season.



SUN photo/Randi Pierce

Creede Dozier is fouled going in for two against the Montezuma-Cortez Panthers. The Pirates won the Jan. 26 game 64-28.

Wrestling

■ Continued from A11

tion bracket match and the fifth-place match to take fifth.

In the 144-pound weight class, Colton Lucero finished third and scored 15.5 points for Pagosa. He received a bye in the first pool round before pinning his opponents in the second and third. He was pinned in his first championship bracket match before winning the third-place match with a technical fall.

The coach commented that Lucero's defeat in the first championship bracket match involved him falling into an odd position that resulted in his opponent managing a pin on him.

"Colton has such a record of success that ... it brings with it a lot of expectation, a lot of pressure, and everybody watches and everybody sees," he said. "He's a sophomore and he's still learning. You can forget that because he's so good in so many ways, you can forget that he's still developing. ... This is what one of our coaches told me. He says, 'You have the right to lose just like everybody else.' ... That expectation sometimes puts pressure on a kid and he might feel it differently than some others, but he's solid as can be. ... He's so good so much of the time that it's ... surprising when maybe he does make a mistake. And, we're working on him in the practice room to feel those problem areas. ... But that was a weird deal, too. It was a weird hold he got caught in."

Hoover scored three points for the Pirates, being defeated by decision in the first and second pool rounds before pinning his opponent in the third.

Janowsky explained that Hoover is improving and was defeated in close matches by opponents who would have defeated him much more decisively earlier in the season.

Gavin Lugenbeel wrestled as a nonscoring wrestler in the 150-pound weight class, losing three matches.

Aucoin placed third and scored 16.5 points for Pagosa. He won the first and second pool rounds with pins and the third by major decision. He was defeated by decision in the fifth round before winning the third-place match by decision.

Janowsky commented that Aucoin is an "emerging" strength for the team, rapidly improving his skills after three years away from wrestling, when he played basketball, and is challenging skilled opponents.

Derek Carter, competing in the 165-pound weight class, took fourth place, scoring 11 points. He won the first and third pool rounds with pins and received a bye in the second. He was pinned in the fifth round and in the third-place match.

The coach commented that Carter has shown improvement in

recent weeks.

Armijo took second, scoring 23 points for Pagosa. He won the first, second, third and fourth rounds with pins before losing the sixth round by decision.

Janowsky explained that Armijo faced the same opponent in the sixth round as he faced during the dual against Cortez the night before.

He stated that the Cortez wrestler was more focused and prepared for the rematch at the tournament and that Armijo made a "rare" mistake in giving up back points in the early stages of the match, placing him behind.

He added that Armijo made up the deficit over the match, but was still one point behind by the time the match ended.

Conner Kelly, wrestling in the 215-pound weight class, finished third, scoring 19 points for Pagosa. He won the first, second and third rounds with pins before losing the fifth round by major decision. He then won the third-place match with a pin.

Chris Rafferty competed as a nonscoring wrestler in the 215-pound weight class, taking seventh place.

In the 285-pound weight class, Antonio Quesada placed fourth and scored 14 points for Pagosa. He received a bye in the first round and

won the second round with a pin before being pinned in the third. He then defeated his opponents with pins in the fourth and fifth rounds.

The coach commented that Quesada has been improving and "finding ways to win," and has developed a strong record over the last few weeks of the season.

The Pirates' next event will be the Intermountain League (IML) championship dual against Centauri in La Jara on Feb. 1 at 6 p.m.

This dual will determine the 2024 champion of the IML.

Janowsky stated that this dual will be challenging, as Centauri is a strong team and matches well against Pagosa, with many of the team's strongest wrestlers in the same weights as the Pirates' strongest grapplers.

He noted that this puts intense pressure on many of Pagosa's otherwise-dominant wrestlers to win matches against opponents who are slightly superior to them and on many of the team's less experienced wrestlers to win matches against strong competition from Centauri.

Centauri has previously defeated the Pirates on two occasions, 47-36 at the Demon Duals event in Buena Vista on Dec. 2, 2023, and during the Randy and Naomi Keys Tri in La Jara on Jan. 20, where Centauri won 61-18.

josh@pagosasun.com

Good luck, Pirates!



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Outdoors

Getting to know snow on Jackson Mountain: Research efforts aim to better understand area snowfall

By Alex Handloff
Mountain Studies Institute

On a beautiful sunny winter day, five people trudge up Jackson Mountain to an undisclosed location. Sure, it's for fun — how could it not be enjoyable — but they're also on a scientific mission: to better understand snowfall in forested areas as part of a regional network.

"We enjoy snowshoeing and learning about the science of snowtopography. It's been a fun and informative experience," said Bob Milford, resident of Pagosa Springs, president of the Pagosa Area Trails Council and member of the San Juan Headwaters Forest Health Partnership (SJHFHP).

Milford, along with other volunteers from the San Juan Outdoor Club — Steve Earle, Mike Cianciolo, Bill Milner, Joe Tedder, Jeff Reichel and Rob Barlow — will take the trek up to the site twice a month over the winter months.

That day, they were there as part of a training on how to capture and record monitoring data. It takes approximately one hour to reach the site, tucked away behind Ponderosa pine and blue spruce where there's a line of sticks submerged in the ground, covered by the year's sparse early season snowfall. What may seem rudimentary at first glance is in fact a robust monitoring system, putting the proverbial microscope to the snow in forested areas.

"Snowtopography is an approachable method to quantify how forest structure and forest management impacts snow accumulation, retention and subsequent water yields," explained Dr. Jake Kurzweil, the hydrologist and associate director of the water program at Mountain Studies Institute (MSI). "We utilize snow stakes and game cameras to get snow depth daily, we then build regressions with the bi-monthly snow water equivalent data collected to get daily snow water equivalent. We also have soil moisture sensors at multiple depths to understand water availability for vegetation or aquifer recharge."

Kurzweil and Lenka Duskocil, water program research associate at MSI, are leading the training for the local Pagosa crew on how to gather data, preserve the integrity of the site and stay safe.

There are other sites in the San Juan Mountain — five in total — that are being managed by MSI, each with a team of dedicated data gatherers.

The Jackson Mountain site was spearheaded by the SJHFHP with the help of numerous collaborative partners. The location is of particular interest for the SJHFHP and the Pagosa Springs community given that it's a hotbed of sorts for research, community interests like recreation, forest restoration projects and elk migration.

In October, Duskocil led a group to Jackson Mountain to install the snowtopography site that has just begun capturing vital information that can eventually help natural resource managers plan for future conditions.

"These sites are designed to be low tech, but you don't realize how much work it takes to get them

installed," said Duskocil. "There's always a bit of a question if what makes sense in the summer during installation will still work when there's snow on the ground and you're sending people up and down trees in a ladder. It's really rewarding to see things running relatively smoothly after a big lift from both MSI staff and some awesome volunteers."

Snow in our forested mountain systems is the primary source of water for municipal, agricultural, recreational and industrial water demands, representing 75 to 90 percent of our water supply.

"Snowtopography is an approachable method to quantify how forest structure and forest management impacts snow accumulation, retention and subsequent water yields."

Dr. Jake Kurzweil
Mountain Studies Institute

However, we currently have very little information on how snow accumulates and melts in different forest types, such as dense areas, meadows, north- and south-facing edges, different tree species, and inside forest restoration project boundaries.

High alpine snow monitoring exists, called SNOTEL, but doesn't capture what's happening at lower altitudes and in those different forest types.

"The goal of our network is to fill in the data gaps of the SNOTEL network by quantifying snow water equivalent across a multitude of forest types, forest structures, management types, aspects, and elevations," added Kurzweil. "Having this type of data also allows us to work with forest managers to ensure our forest treatments are multi-beneficial, creating climate resilient forests and water supplies."

The project will help establish a baseline dataset that better understands the reality of snow in the forest. After that, the data can be used to forecast, plan and adapt to changing forest and water conditions notably caused by climate change.

Eventually, the data can help move beyond forecasting and planning into actions, like forest restoration, wildfire mitigation and meadow enhancement in a way that can have significant benefits to snow retention.

"We just want to help make the Pagosa area where we live and play a better place now and in the future," said Milford.

Snowtopography presents an opportunity for community members like Milford and the others from the San Juan Outdoor Club to get involved, learn and care about our natural environment while con-



Photos courtesy Mountain Studies Institute

Top: Volunteers snowshoe to the research site on Jackson Mountain for training on the effort to understand snowfall in area forests. Middle and bottom: A trail camera captures the installation in the fall of 2023 and the day volunteers and staff snowshoed to the site.



tributing to scientific research and management actions across the San Juan Mountains.

Milford and the other workers are vital to the success of the project, which speaks to the collaborative effort this type of endeavor requires to be successful.

The snowtopography network across the San Juans is made possible by funding and support from: The Nature Conservancy, Colorado Water Conservation Board, Southwestern Basin Roundtable, Southwestern Water Conservation District, SJHFHP, Dolores Watershed Resilient Forest Collaborative and the town of Silverton.

If you are interested in learning more about snowtopography, forest restoration and wildfire mitigation, and SJHFHP, reach out to Alex Handloff, the SJHFHP coordinator, at alex@mountainstudies.org or go to www.sanjuanheadwaters.org.

Public Notices

BEFORE THE COLORADO ENERGY AND CARBON MANAGEMENT COMMISSION
NOTICE AND APPLICATION FOR HEARING
DOCKET NO. 240100010

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES AND TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Pursuant to Rule 523.d, the Colorado Energy and Carbon Management Commission Staff has applied to the Commission for an Order Finding Violation against MARALEX RESOURCES INC (Operator No. 53255), to adjudicate allegations in the Notice of Alleged Violation No. 403258575.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to: 1) the general jurisdiction of the Energy and Carbon Management Commission of the State of Colorado under § 34-60-105, C.R.S.; 2) specific powers granted pursuant to § 34-60-106, C.R.S.; 3) the Colorado Administrative Procedures Act at § 24-4-105, C.R.S.; and 4) the Commission's Series 500 Rules at 2 C.C.R. 404-1, that the Commission has scheduled this matter for hearing before a ECOM Hearing Officer at the following date, time, and location (subject to change):
Date: April 10, 2024
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Place: Colorado Energy and Carbon Management Commission
1120 Lincoln Street, Suite 801
Denver, CO 80203
The Notice and documents related to this matter can be found on our "Hearing Related System Document Search" page here <https://otco.hylandcloud.com/DN:RCOGPublicAccess/index.html>. Select "Search for Docket Related Documents" from the pull-down menu, use the above "Docket Number", and select "Search".
Published February 1, 2024 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (227513)

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
Recording Date of Deed of Trust September 06, 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 INTENT 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:

Aricyn 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 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. Public comment will be taken at the meeting.
Published January 25 & February 1, 2024 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (224900)

FOR PLANNING COMMISSION HEARING ON February 22, 2024 CHRIS MOTT, has applied for an APPEAL HEARING regarding DENIAL of A VACATION RENTAL PERMIT due to uncorrected Building Code Violations on the property at Lot 52 of the SAN JUAN RIVER

RESORT SUBDIVISION #2, known as 31 Harebell Dr. Pagosa Springs, CO (VR036590). The property is zoned RESIDENTIAL (R).
Comments regarding this appeal 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 PFlowers@archuletacounty.org prior to the public hearing by the Archuleta County Planning Commission on **February 22, 2024**, at 6:00 p.m. in the County Administration Office Meeting Room, 398 Lewis Street, Pagosa Springs and via Zoom Link. Public comment will be taken at the meeting.
Published February 1 & 15, 2024 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (227610)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Estate of Bryan Mason Hartman, Case Number 2024 PR 30002
All persons having claims against the above-named estate are required to present them to the personal representative or to
District Court of Archuleta, County, Colorado on or before **June 3, 2024** (date), or the claims may be forever barred.
Daniel L. Fiedler, Attorney at Law
190 Talisman Drive, Suite D-6
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
Published February 1, 8 & 15, 2024 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (227574)

The Town of Pagosa Springs has received two applications for the 22-acre property at the intersection of Highway 160 and Alpha Drive. The first application is to subdivide the 22-acre parcel into 7 parcels, plus a

future development tract; the second application is to develop a resultant 3.5-acre parcel for two 2-story buildings of a total of 50 apartment units which also includes the extension of Aspen Village Drive for the length of the property. This development is the only proposed development at this time for this 22-acre parcel. The apartments will be a mix of 1, 2, and 3 bedroom units available for local residents and workers, not available for short-term rentals.
The Design Review Board and Planning Commission will conduct a public hearing on **Tuesday, February 13, 2024**, at 5:30 p.m. to consider both applications.
Public Hearings and Meetings will be conducted at 551 Hot Springs Blvd and available for remote attendance via the Zoom meeting platform. To access the meeting agendas and staff reports, click the round **Minutes and Agendas** tab located along the bottom of the photo on the Town's website home page at pagosasprings.co.gov. You may also view the application at my-pagosa.org/projects-development/projects.
We encourage interested parties to contact the Planning Division prior to the public hearing dates, with any questions at either **970-585-8610** or cschultz@pagosasprings.co.gov. Written comments received 7 days prior to the meeting or public hearing will be forwarded to the Design Review Board for their consideration. Public comments will be accepted at the public hearing(s)/meeting(s).
Published February 1, 2024 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (227631)

County approves construction invoices, work order

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

At its Jan. 16 meeting, the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) approved a range of invoices and work orders related to county construction projects.

The first approval was for the approval of a work order with La Plata Electric Association (LPEA) to install electricity to the new county transit facility.

"I think it's been a long time coming," Commissioner Ronnie Maez commented after Transportation Coordinator Kevin Bruce presented the work order.

The board then unanimously approved the work order application.

The board next approved an invoice with Davis Engineering for preliminary design and engineering for paving on County Road (CR) 500 and Bristlecone Drive.

Public Works Director Mike Torres explained that the project will cover from the end of the current pavement on CR 500 to Cascade Avenue and the section from CR 500 to the end of the current pavement on Bristlecone Drive.

Torres stated the project is "something that we're just planning on doing in the future."

He added that the county had the designs and blueprints for the project completed to allow it to move forward when the county is ready.

"Not looking at doing it this year," he said, adding it may be "something

that we would be planning on next year."

Torres indicated that the invoice for the project is \$77,500 and that the design work would be planned to be completed this year, although the project and final design would not commence until a later date.

He also indicated, in response to a question from Maez, that the price would be fixed even for the elements of the project done later.

The invoice was then unanimously approved.

The BoCC also approved two additional invoices at the meeting, including a \$70,086.03 payment for a final payment to Elam Construction for work done on Piedra Road reconstruction project that was completed in 2023 and a \$56,169.01

invoice to Short Elliott Hendricksen (SEH) for engineering work on the repair of county landfill Cell 4A and the design of Cell 4B, among others tasks at the location.

Maez commented to Torres prior to the vote on the SEH invoice, "Mike, I want to thank you. You've done an excellent job on this, picking it up where it was left off at, and you got in there, you got after it and you got it done. I really appreciate your efforts, I really do."

"Agreed," said Commissioner Warren Brown.

"And I know for a fact that you were actually down there digging," Commissioner Veronica Medina added before thanking Torres for his work.

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Public comments sought on Spring Creek pipeline project

By Kristen Allen
San Juan National Forest

The USDA Forest Service is seeking a second round of public comments on a pre-decisional environmental assessment for the Spring Creek Pipeline and Associated Fruitland Coal Gas Drilling Project on the Columbine Ranger District of the San Juan National Forest through Feb. 23.

Forest leadership would like to honor requests from previous commenters to allow more time for review and public input and make

all requested project information available for the full duration of the 30-day comment period.

The proposed activity is for the Forest Service to respond to Cata-mont Energy Partners LLC's application to further develop its valid and existing federal natural gas leases in the Spring Creek area south and east of Bayfield, in La Plata and Archuleta counties.

Written comments can be submitted through the website or sent to: Columbine District Ranger P.O. Box 439, 367 Pearl Street, Bayfield, CO 81122.

Only individuals or entities who submit timely, specific written comments during identified public comment periods will be eligible to object to the proposed decision.

This comment period is the last opportunity to establish eligibility to object to this project. Comments received, including names and addresses of commenters, will be part of the public record.

For more information, or for a hard copy of the environmental assessment, please contact the Columbine Ranger District office at (970) 884-2512.

Pirates

Continued from A12

scoring game, stating, "Both teams, I thought, were really, really good defensively. We didn't shoot the ball particularly well from the field. I thought we got some open looks, and we had kids that usually make shots that didn't shoot particularly well, but some of that's a credit to them. Some of that's a credit to their environment and some of it is just, we had a little bit of an off shooting night."

In a back-and-forth third quarter, the Falcons took a one-point lead, 25-24, into the final period.

Lewis indicated that there were a number of new plays he called in the second half that helped the Pirates to seal the win, including a "back-door set ... and some inbound plays," and commented further, "I thought it was such a hard game for either team to get an open look or an easy look that I thought that those ... out-of-bounds plays that they didn't know were coming ... might've been the difference in the game."

The Pirates hit two of four free throws in the last minute to lock in the 33-29 win.

"I would've liked to have been better than that, ... but it was enough to get the job done," Lewis said.

Additional game and player statistics were not available by press time for either of the two games.

With the two wins, the Pirates improved their record to 15-1 and remain the No. 4 team in the 4A Ratings Percentage Index (RPI) standings, which help determine postseason seedings.

Montezuma-Cortez's record dropped to 5-8, and the Panthers are currently ranked No. 32 in the 3A

RPI standings.

Centauri's record moved to 9-5, and the Falcons are ranked No. 13 in the 3A RPI standings.

The Pirates will be home for a matchup with the 3A Ignacio Bobcats on Friday, Feb. 2, at 7 p.m.

The Bobcats are 6-7 on the season and ranked No. 24 in the 3A RPI

standings.

The Pirates will be at home again the next day for a rematch with the 4A Alamosa Mean Moose at 4 p.m.

Alamosa's record is 10-6 for the season, and the Mean Moose are ranked No. 23 in the 4A RPI standings.

robert@pagosasun.com



Triple Impact Student-Athlete of the Week
Annie O'Donnell
Volleyball, basketball, track and field



Favorite subject: Math

Comments from coach Sarah Osborn: "Annie O'Donnell has been an integral member of the girls varsity basketball team for all four years of her high school career. Our team would not be where it is today without her leadership, perseverance, and work ethic, both on and off the court. On the court, she leads us in rebounding, averaging 6.6 per game and recording the only double-double for us this season. She is our go-to "large," despite being only 5'7". She plays much bigger than she is. This reflects Annie's temperament and personality, both on and off the court. She is ready for any task and overcomes it with her optimistic attitude, enthusiasm, and can-do mindset. She sets an example for her younger teammates by showing up every day and giving 100%.

Her teammates admire her for her strong post moves and abilities to instruct them from the floor or the sidelines.

Annie is not only an amazing basketball player, but she has also competed on the varsity track and field team for four years and the varsity volleyball team for two years. Annie's accomplishments do not end there. She is the student body president and a member of the student council. She is also a member of four additional clubs: FBLA, HOSA, SALT, and NHS. Annie excels in all of her subjects while still making time to assist her friends by attending as many pirate sporting activities as possible. It has been a privilege for me to have the opportunity to train such an outstanding person and athlete over the last four years."

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Snowmobile accident results in death

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

A Sunday snowmobile accident claimed the life of a 50-year-old man from Texas.

According to a statement from the Mineral County Sheriff's Office (MCSO), at 3:04 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 28, the Alamosa Regional Communication Center notified the MCSO of a snowmobile accident involving a 50-year-old male from Texas.

The accident, the statement explains, occurred about 2.5 miles up Quartz Creek.

"While the patient's friends and family were transporting him from the accident, out of the backcountry, he succumbed to injuries sustained during the accident," it states.

It adds that immediate responders included Archuleta County Sheriff's Office personnel, Flight for Life, the Mineral County sheriff and a Mineral County search and rescue member.

"The patient's name is being withheld pending family notifications," it states.

randi@pagosasun.com

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preview

ARTS & LIFE

Super Bowl Party

3 p.m. • Sunday, Feb. 11 • Tennyson Building Event Center



Photo courtesy Rotary Club of Pagosa Springs

February 1, 2024

Rotary to host Super Bowl party

By Lisa Scott
Rotary Club of Pagosa Springs

The Super Bowl teams have been determined, and the fun and excitement with friends will be at the viewing party hosted by the Rotary Club of Pagosa Springs on Sunday, Feb. 11, at the Tennyson Building Event Center.

Party doors will open at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$25 per person and may be purchased online at pagosaspring-rotary.org or in person with cash or check at The Choke Cherry Tree.

Betting squares will begin at 3 p.m. and will end at 4:15 p.m., per state-sanctioned guidelines, prior to kickoff at 4:30 p.m. You can purchase squares for \$20 cash per square and there will be 100 squares available. Cash awards of \$250 will be given out at the end of every quarter, for a total of \$1,000 in prize money. Come early to get the squares you want.

Broadcasting the game, and all the great commercials and entertainment, will be from one large projection screen plus four additional large televisions around the room. Food, perfect for a spectator sport event, will be offered at the end of every quarter and includes homemade chili, a hot dog bar and snacks galore. Beer, wine and mixed drinks will be offered at the cash/credit card bar.

Door prizes will be awarded throughout the game, and all ticketed attendees have a chance to win. Prizes include passes to the geothermal springs, ax throwing, a virtual shooting range, salt cave, horse-drawn carriage ride and more. Prizes will also be awarded to the best-dressed fans — one male and one female attendee.

Proceeds from this event will benefit the Rotary Club's local scholarship program for graduating high school seniors that awards higher education support for college, and certificate and vo-tech training. This scholarship program began in 1983 with Floyd McKee as the first scholarship recipient. To date, Rotary has awarded 197 scholarships for a total of \$540,125 and is budgeted to award \$24,000 in scholarships this year.

Bring your friends for fun and viewing of the 58th NFL Super Bowl.

With more than 46,000 clubs and 1.4 million members worldwide, Rotary International is a service organization with the goal of bringing together dedicated individuals to exchange ideas, build relationships, take action and help build goodwill and peace in the world.

Exemplifying the Rotary motto "Service Above Self," the local Rotary clubs provide support for local and international projects that improve the lives of others. To learn more about Rotary, visit <https://pagosaspringsrotary.org>.

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Saturday

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

Tuesday

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

Wednesday

The Den: Karaoke, 8 p.m.

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San Juan Stargazers' meeting set for Feb. 1

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.

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.

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Jicarilla Day events announced

Jicarilla Apache Nation

Every year, the Jicarilla Apache community commemorates the establishment of the reservation by executive order by President Grover Cleveland on Feb. 11, 1887.

This day holds significant historical and cultural importance for the tribe, as it marks the beginning of the official federal recognition by the U.S. government.

Throughout the week of Feb. 11, there are several activities that take place, including a powwow, winter sports and a chili cook-off.

The Jicarilla Apache community takes great pride in their history and culture, and the commemo-

ration of the establishment of their reservation is a testament to their resilience and perseverance. It serves as a reminder of the struggles their ancestors faced and the sacrifices they made to ensure the survival of their people and way of life.

Jicarilla Day events

Following are upcoming Jicarilla Day events.

Feb. 4

Sledding Day: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Burns Hill.

Feb. 7

Snow sculpture contest: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Dulce Fairgrounds.

Frybread contest: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Dulce Community Center.

Feb. 9

Serving Apache stew and frybread: 11 a.m. until food runs out, Jicarilla Cultural Arts and Heritage Center.

Jicarilla Day Powwow: Grand entry, 7 p.m., Dulce Community Center.

Feb. 10

Darts tournament: Cut-off time for doubles is 11:45 a.m., tournament starts at noon. The singles cut-off time is to be announced, with the tournament following the doubles tournament. The location is the Dulce Community Center Game Room.

Jicarilla Day Powwow: Grand entry, noon, Dulce Community Center.

Feb. 14

Jicarilla Language Fair: 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Dulce Community Center.

Feb. 15

Chili cook-off contest: 5 to 8 p.m., Dulce Community Center.



Photo courtesy Helen Richardson

Carol Blechschmidt, right, was selected to receive a free book from the Friends of the Library, a monthly benefit for Friends members. Blechschmidt, a lifetime member of Friends, enjoys reading nonfiction history. However, she selected “Lost Roses” by Martha Hale Kelly because she knows her 98-year-old mother will enjoy it after she reads it. She is pictured with Helen Richardson of the Friends of the Library.

Pagosa Peak Genealogical Society to hear about AI and genealogy

By Carolyn Paschal
Pagosa Peak Genealogical Society

The Pagosa Peak Genealogical Society will hold its next monthly meeting on Saturday, Feb. 3, at the Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St.

The meeting will begin at 10 a.m. The business meeting will be followed by the presentation of a video that provides a brief introduction to artificial intelligence (AI) and how it may impact genea-

logical research.

In the video “When AI and Genealogy Unite,” Thomas MacEntee shares some of the ways that AI is shaping the world of genealogy and what this might mean for genealogists.

Visitors are welcome to join us as we explore this new aspect of genealogical research.

For more information, please contact Carolyn Paschal at carolyn-paschal@gmail.com or visit our website, pagosapeakgs.org.

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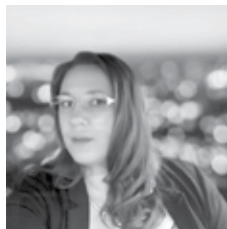
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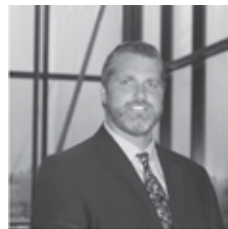
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- ♥ Spanish Fiesta, Senior Center
- ♥ Christmas Bazaar, Senior Center
- ♥ Halloween Hootenanny
- ♥ Park the Bus School Supplies
- ♥ Festival of Trees, Senior Center
- ♥ Toys for Tots
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- ♥ Scholarships in Escrow
- ♥ Bucks for Bikes
- ♥ Aspen House Pagosa
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- ♥ Rotary Club of Pagosa Springs
- ♥ Sullivan Foundation
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- ♥ We've bought and sold a lot of properties over the years and I can tell you that I've never worked with Realtors as professional and knowledgeable as the ones at EXIT Realty. Our broker went above and beyond in every phase of the sale. The network of contacts was nothing short of exceptional. Our whole family enjoyed working with them!



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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 director 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.

Upcoming Healthy Archuleta events to focus on food production and more

Healthy Archuleta

Healthy Archuleta is planning several events in the next couple of months that focus on advancing local food production.

These activities build on our efforts in 2023, which included educational activities for youth and adults through the Seed to Supper Program and partnership with Pagosa Springs High School and San Juan Mountain School.

Other activities have included supporting local growers to donate extra produce to the Food Distribution Center to share with the seven food pantries, and local food purchases from farmers and ranchers that also support our neighbors who access food through a local

food pantry.

As part of our community education efforts, regular Growers and Producers Forums help with a dual function: they provide our local food growers and producers with a venue where they can share their vision, successes and challenges while at the same time educating consumers of local food with information regarding what is available and where it is to be found.

The next gathering of the Growers and Producers Forum will be held in late February/early March. This gathering will feature a presentation by farmer Chris Frederics as he discusses the successes and opportunities he has experienced with his farm and the unique partnership he

has with the owner of the land that he works so productively. All are invited to attend, more information will be shared shortly.

Additionally, Healthy Archuleta has begun to ramp up preparations for its next biannual Food Summit on May 11. Save the date. The Food Summit of 2022 was attended by just over 100 participants and generated great interest in the offerings of the event as well as in making it a recurring event. Stay tuned for more specifics as planning progresses.

To learn more about the efforts of Healthy Archuleta and for more information, please visit our website, <https://www.foodcoalition4archuleta.org/>, or send us an email at fsfearchuleta@gmail.com.

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Stats show library continues to flourish

By Carole Howard
PREVIEW Columnist, and the library staff

Annually at this time of year, Meg Wempe, library director, prepares an annual report for the library's board of trustees summarizing the highlights of the past year.

The information also is used when your library applies for grants and it is required to be shared with state, county and town governments to keep them informed.

Here are details about your library's 2023 operations. They show your library continues to flourish and 2023 was another banner year.

You can pick up the infographic version of this report at the library.

- **Collection development:** Providing our patrons with materials that are current and relevant to the diverse interests of the community is one of our principal goals.

- **Usage stats:** We checked out 92,594 physical items, up from 89,447 last year. As well, patrons downloaded 12,301 items — 6,621 e-books and 5,680 e-audio books

- **Volunteers:** We are very fortunate to have the ongoing support of the community.

Library News

— up from 9,816 last year. We welcomed 18,229 website visits.

- **Programming:** Providing programs for all ages is a very high priority. In 2023 we hosted 635 programs with 7,190 attendees, up significantly from 550 programs with 4,739 attendees last year. Examples of popular programs: 192 adult GED sessions, 535 English-as-a-second-language (ESL) sessions, and 181 Tech Time sessions.

- **Resource sharing:** The Colorado Library Consortium courier service provides five-times-a-week delivery to subscribing libraries throughout the state. In 2023 we borrowed 10,702 items, up from 9,913 last year, and loaned 2,430 items, up from 2,358 last year.

- **Online New York Times**

Our volunteers contributed 1,845 hours valued at \$63,394, up from 1,575 hours last year.

“These numbers make clear

that we have a community that really uses their library, and that makes all of us on staff feel very good,” Wempe said. “We strive to inspire, inform and entertain both locals and tourists. We had more than 72,000 people come through our doors in 2023, and if you were not one of them, we hope you'll become a patron in 2024.”

And finally, here's a fun fact: Our most-checked-out adult fiction book last year was “West with Giraffes” by Lynda Rutledge. Inspired by true events, the novel tells of the 1938 cross-country 12-day road trip of two giraffes, one seasoned zookeeper and one desperate orphan. Unlikely companions, endurance, coming of age and overcoming obstacles are highlights of the story.

Fans of The New York Times will be pleased to know that we have purchased an online subscription that allows you 24/7 free access to the online version of the newspaper from your home or any personal device.

Go to the library website at <https://pagosalibrary.org>. Click on Online Resources on the gray top line on the home page. Scroll

■ See Library on next page

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■ **continued from previous page**
 down to the Ns for New York Times and click on that icon. Your access code will automatically be generated, good for 24 hours each time you sign on. You then will be asked for your email address to log in or to create an account.

Two new free programs this month

“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 preregistration 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.

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 on Hot Springs Boulevard. Preregistration is required.

Teen violence dating workshop

Rise Above Violence will lead a “Love Shouldn’t Hurt” dating violence workshop for teens next Thursday, Feb. 8, from 4 to 5 p.m. in honor of Teen Violence Awareness Month.

This class will provide advice on how to deal with and avoid violence in teen relationships.

Pop up book sale Feb. 10

On Saturday, Feb. 10, the Friends of the Library will host their first book sale of the year, a Cabin Fever popup event from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the 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 email friends@pagosalibrary.org.

Virtual author talks

Our highly popular free online author talks continue with three more opportunities for you to interact with New York Times best-selling authors and ask questions in February.

For details and to register, go to <https://libraryc.org/pagosalibrary/upcoming>.

Thursday, Feb. 8, at 6 p.m. will feature rom-com multi-book author Tessa Bailey.

On Tuesday, Feb. 20, at 2 p.m. we

will explore identity, love and being Black in America with Jason Mott.

Wednesday, Feb. 28, at noon will showcase Kim Scott, author of “Be a Kick-Ass Boss Without Losing Your Humanity.”

Dungeons and Dragons

Today, 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.

Tween/teen takeover

We are setting aside the large meeting room and some of the computers for teens and tweens to use and spend time with friends tomorrow, Friday, Feb. 2, from 2 to 3 p.m.

Video gaming

Play free, age-appropriate video games on an Xbox tomorrow, Friday, Feb. 2, from 3 to 5 p.m.

LEGO Club Saturday

Kids aged 6-11 are invited to bring your imaginations on Saturday, Feb. 3, from 11 a.m. to noon

■ See Library on next page

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Library

■ continued from previous page

for the free LEGO Club. Bring your own LEGOs or use ours.

Knitting and crochet lessons

Learn to knit or crochet on Mondays, Feb. 5 and 12, at our free gathering from 2 to 3:15 p.m. for ages 8 and up. Supplies will be provided. Note this gathering will now happen twice a month.

Shakespeare Read-Aloud

The Shakespeare Read-Aloud Club features “As You Like It” on the agenda Mondays, Feb. 5 and 12, from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Call Jenny at (240) 426-7887 for more information. This is an all-ages event.

Teen/tween art camp

Each month we explore a different style or medium at this free event. In February, it's pastels. Join us Mondays, Feb. 5, 12 and 26, from 4 to 5 p.m. Registration is required.

Music fun

Pagosa Unplugged is free from 4 to 6 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 5, for amateur musicians who would like a safe, supportive, non-bar setting to play, sing or both with other people. For more information, contact Susan at (970) 946-3396.

Avalanche awareness

Come hear from Matt Huber on Tuesday, Feb. 6, from 2 to 3:30 p.m. about what to know, what to bring and how to stay alive in the mountains during snow season.

Spanish conversation

Practice your Spanish in a free group setting on Tuesday, Feb. 6, from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. No minimum skill level is needed. This group now meets twice a month, on the first and third Tuesdays.

New basic quilting classes

Adults are invited to a free quilting class next Wednesday, Feb. 7, and every Wednesday until March 6 from 1 to 3 p.m. led by Wanita Martin, a local quilter and member of the quilters' guild.

Preregistration is required and classes are limited to six participants who 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.

Therapy dog visit

Next Wednesday, Feb. 7, from 11 to 11:45 a.m., come to the library for a free visit with a certified therapy dog. Visits are limited to 10-15 minutes — just the right amount of time to pet the dog, read to the dog or just say “Hi.” This is an all-ages activity.

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.

Elementary tutoring sessions

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.

Family storytimes

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.

Writers' guild

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

ESL

■ See Library on next page

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19th Hole Concerts nonprofit grant application open

By Rachel Rosenthal

Community Foundation serving Southwest Colorado

The Community Foundation serving Southwest Colorado announces a grant opportunity for Archuleta County nonprofits to participate in this summer's ninth annual 19th Hole Concerts at the Pagosa Springs Golf Club.

The nonprofit application opens on Feb. 8, and the deadline to apply is March 7.

The concert series features local musicians and provides a vital opportunity for nonprofits to earn

funds while sharing their work with community-minded attendees.

The cover charge for each concert is a \$10 donation to support the four selected nonprofits. Earnings will be pooled and distributed equally to the organizations. In 2023, each participating organization received \$2,625.

The concerts will take place on Thursday evenings in June, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. The official dates are June 6, 13, 20 and 27. An updated list of participating musicians and bands will be released shortly.

"The Community Foundation's 19th Hole Concerts is a wonderful

event for the community and our nonprofits," said Tracy Pope, deputy director of the Community Foundation. "Last year's record turnout generated the largest grants in the eight-year history of the concerts, raising nearly \$3,500 more than the previous year. We look forward to seeing everyone at the Golf Club again this year."

The nonprofit application for the 19th Hole Concerts can be found online under the "Nonprofit Resources" tab on the Community Foundation's website, swcommunityfoundation.org. The selected nonprofits will be announced in late March.



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Library

■ continued from previous page

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

Tech Time

Free in-person slots are available from 10 a.m. to noon Tuesdays and 2 to 4 p.m. Thursdays. Judy helps you with basic questions relating to computers, smartphones and tablets, and also provides assistance in accessing any of the library's online resources.

No appointment is needed for these drop-in sessions, but it is important that you bring both your device's charger and also your device passwords with you.

Pagosa Adult Learning Services (PALS)

Join Mark or Sally for free PALS sessions Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:30 to 8 p.m. to help with high school equivalency, GED, college prep, financial aid, tutoring and more. PALS stands for Pagosa Adult Learning Services.

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

"The Holdovers," about a teacher forced to stay at a prep school with several students over the holidays, won three Golden Globes and is nominated for five Academy Awards, including best picture. "Succession," which has won Golden Globes and Emmys in multiple years, is the complete series. "Fremont" is a cross-cultural comedy about a former Afghan translator living in California.

Mysteries, thrillers and suspense

"What Waits in the Woods" by Terri Parlato follows an injured professional ballerina who returns home to a murder. "The Helsinki Affair" by Anna Pitoniak features a young CIA officer in a globe-trotting thriller. "The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store" by James McBride is a mystery about small-town secrets. "Dead of Night" by Simon Scarrow is about two seemingly unconnected murders in 1940s Berlin. "The Berry Pickers" by Amanda Peters begins when a 4-year-old disappears.

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 cas-

sette 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

"People are drawn to hope ... They just want to be pushed in the swing set of life every once in a while and say, 'Whee!'" — Deion Sanders, University of Colorado-Boulder head football coach.

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://pagosa.library.org>.

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The Pagosa Springs SUN

UUs to ponder the religious experience

By **Pauline Benetti**
Pagosa Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

What is “the religious experience” for Unitarian Universalists (UUs)?

One could justifiably consider that an impossible question to answer given that our uniqueness lies in our lack of an accepted creed and our acceptance of a “living tradition” that allows for change as the times change.

1984 marked a time of sea change for Unitarian Universalism as UU leaders came together and acknowledged that the sources of our faith are indeed varied and documented six sources of inspiration drawn from areas as diverse as science, poetry, scripture, words of prophetic persons and personal experience.

This Sunday we will stream

the Rev. Angela Herrera, senior minister of First Unitarian of Albuquerque, as she hones in on the sixth source of inspiration, “Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder ...,” and then widens her search to include transcendentalism, nature and the cosmos in an effort to get at what UUs might identify as a religious experience.

We invite you to join us to see if your religious experience is included in her line up.

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

In-person services are normally on the first and third Sundays of the month at 10:30 a.m. and

are available by Zoom. Use the following link to join our Zoom meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8991941305>.

Regarding COVID-19 protocol, masking continues to be optional while social distancing is encouraged; please note that U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention tracking of the COVID-19 hospital admissions level in Archuleta County has returned to low.

Find us in Unit B-15 of the Greenbriar Plaza 301 N. Pagosa Blvd. on the north side facing Pagosa Peak. Join us, won't you.

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

New Thought Center to meet Sunday

By **Shayla McClure**
New Thought Center for Inspirational Living

Sunday service on Feb. 4 at 11 a.m. with Jenelle Syverson, chocolatier, will focus on “Spiritual lessons of the Heart from Chocolate,

a gift from Heaven.”

“Cacao opens your heart, the gateway to hear your inner spirit and wisdom. You will experience the world of meditation at a higher spiritual level. Choosing to live with cacao means you are bringing

peace to your mind and soul daily.” — Aztec/Mayan saying.

There will be strawberry and chocolate dipping after.

Upcoming events

■ See Center on next page

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Trinity Anglican Church to hold Sunday service

By Joe Fockler
Trinity Anglican Church

“While a large crowd was gathering and people were coming to Jesus from town after town, he told this parable: ‘A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path; it was trampled on, and the birds ate it up. Some fell on rocky ground, and when it came up, the plants withered because they had no moisture. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up with it and choked the plants. Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up and yielded a crop, a hundred times more than was sown.’

“When he said this, he called out, ‘Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear.’

“His disciples asked him what this parable meant. He said, ‘The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of God has been given to you, but to others I speak in parables, so that,

“though seeing, they may not

see; though hearing, they may not understand.’

“This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is the word of God. Those along the path are the ones who hear, and then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. Those on the rocky ground are the ones who receive the word with joy when they hear it, but they have no root. They believe for a while, but in the time of testing they fall away. The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life’s worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature. But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop.” — the Gospel According to Luke 8:4-15.

Join us this Sunday as we “connect the dots” of our lives with the glad tidings of the Kingdom of God.

The Holy Communion Service at Trinity Anglican Church, 246 Harman Park Drive, is at 10 a.m.

Center

■ continued from previous page

SpiritHeart Band practice is Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. We welcome musicians and singers to join the SpiritHeart band. Please text Bruce at (970) 507-0739 for band information.

Feb. 11: Open heart ceremony to celebrate the heart and universal love with Shayla White Eagle.

March 17: St. Patrick’s Day celebration with live music, food and fun. The date is to be announced.

April: New Mexico spiritual retreat.

May 5, 11 a.m.: Wolfwood Ref-

uge tour and picnic.

About us

The New Thought Center is a 501(c)(3) and promotes philosophies similar to Centers for Spiritual Living and Agape Centers.

The SpiritHeart Band provides live music every Sunday. We welcome local talents to share gifts, aptitudes and knowledge. Participate, learn or contribute your insights, beliefs, knowledge and skills.

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

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

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

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When God won't turn loose

By Betty J. Slade
PREVIEW Columnist

When God won't turn loose of us it's a good thing. He wants something more from us. He becomes redundant, like a gnawing, a constant reminder in our hearts until we say, "OK."

He wants our attention and reminds us, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Mathew 6:21, NKJV). The Passion Translation reads, "For your heart will always pursue what you value as your treasure."

Probably what I value most is leaving my love for Jesus to my children in a book. It sounds high and mighty. It sounds boring. It sounds ambitious and very complicated. Maybe I should've lived a better life in front of them; then I wouldn't have to write to them.

What God values most and pursues is us. He asks us to give our utmost for Him. He wants His words in us to be tied to the altar as a sacrifice for Him. There we let Him burn the dross out of our words to be a pure witness (Hebrews 13:15,16, NIKV).

So, God's gnawing continued. This project that keeps me up at night is very important to me. Will it be that important to anyone else? Who knows. It must be important to God, because He won't let it go.

I've thought of this study and

Artist's Lane

devotional for months. The theme is an intimate relationship with God through Jesus. The journey begins the day we meet the Lord and ends when we see him again.

Many Christians today are missing a deep relationship with God. The power we need to battle the devil is found at the throne. In these last days, it's going to take a deeper faith than we've ever experienced before.

There are more than 100,000 devotional titles listed on Amazon. What is a niche topic that hasn't been used? How will this be different? What could be different from what has already been written? Wrong questions.

It doesn't matter what has been written; this is what God wants from me. He reminds me with nightly thoughts and morning challenges that plague my mind. He is ready for this message to be written, whether I'm ready or not.

He jumped the gun on me. As I talked about the idea to a couple of writer friends, He had already lined up the people who would

edit, format and design a cover. The gnawing became clear and there was nothing stopping me from writing it but me, myself and I.

I knew this devotional had to be more than a feel-good moment for someone to read in the morning, a

■ See Lane on page 16

JIM GARRETT

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Protein and Weight Loss (Part 2)

Switching to healthier protein sources is important. Adults often get enough protein, but it's not always from the right foods. In fact, we get around 40 percent of our protein from discretionary foods—foods that may add variety to a person's diet but do not provide the nutrients the human body needs, such as processed meats, fast foods, pastries, cookies, crackers and cakes. The reason so much protein comes from these foods is not that they are high in protein but that people eat a lot of them. These discretionary foods may contain some protein, but they also come with a lot of added sugars, salt and saturated fats. For healthier protein options, stick mostly (or completely) to whole foods and such plant food sources as legumes, peas, nuts and seeds; soy products such as tofu, soy milk, and soy yogurt; and whole grains. That way, you're getting your protein with a whole lot of vitamins, minerals, and protective plant phytochemicals!



Nuts with the highest amount of protein: Peanuts contain the highest amount, followed by Almonds, Pistachio nuts, Cashews, Walnuts, Hazelnuts, Brazil nuts, with Pecans and Macadamia having the lowest amounts of protein.

Seeds with highest amount of protein: Hemp tops the list, followed by Pumpkin (Pepitas), Sunflower, Flax, Sesame and Chia.

Remember, it is best to eat raw, organic seeds and nuts. Avoid salted, processed nuts and seeds.

Next Week, we will finish up with a few more suggestions about protein and which grains are highest in protein

"Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship." Romans 12:1

Fun Bible Facts: Johannes Gutenberg produced the first printed Bible in 1455 A.D. One was purchased for \$350,000 by the Library of Congress. Only 49 are known to exist today.

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Bird of the Week



Photo courtesy Jeff Reichel

This week's Bird of the Week, compliments of the Weminuche Audubon Society and Audubon Rockies, is the belted kingfisher.

If there was a poster bird for the punk rock music movement it would most certainly be the belted kingfisher. With its proud blue Johnny Rotten crest, aerial tactics (hovering and diving for fish with reckless abandon), and "don't bother me" mentality, one can only chalk up semi-rare sightings of this truly unique bird with admiration. A species whose entire lifespan relies on access to aquatic food sources, the belted kingfisher finds refuge alongside the geothermally infused water of our downtown San Juan River and proximate wetlands year-round. Kingfishers have unique habitat requirements, consisting of steep, pocketed river or shore banks conducive to both aerial perches for spotting and predating on fish fry, as well as for covert bank burrowing for nesting. During breeding season, a pair of kingfishers may claim a near half mile of riverfront property for their associated responsibilities and defend this territory from other interlopers. They typically form new mates each year.

These birds are not much larger than a robin with a roundish body and pointed wings. Both sexes appear slate blue when viewed from behind, lesser a white collar. In this instance, females have more coloration than the males, donning two belts: one blue and one chestnut brown across a white breast. Males only have the single blue stripe. If you look close, the space between their oversized pointed bill and dark black eye or "lore" has a single white spot. But, more times than not, it will be their seemingly agitated-sounding rattle that gets your attention, as if to say, "Why'd you have to come and spoil a good time?" These birds are found east to west across North America, its cousin to the south being the ringed kingfisher in Central and South America.

Admirably, belted kingfishers dig tunnels up to 6 feet deep into earthen banks to secure safe nesting locations, often requiring a week to excavate. Both mates share incubation duties of five to eight eggs (average one brood per year), feeding young partially digested fish until they are old enough to feed on whole fish. Interestingly, adult birds are known to regurgitate pellets, in the same vein that a number of raptors do, consisting of fish scales and bones. This species also predares on crayfish, insects, small amphibians, reptiles and birds, and is even known to eat berries in season.

Keep an eye (and an ear) out for this species as you stroll along the river. During the warm months, these birds are often spotted near the Ross Aragon Community Center ponds looking for a snack. Though currently stable, the biggest concerns regarding belted kingfishers and their ongoing population involve habitat degradation and human disturbance.

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

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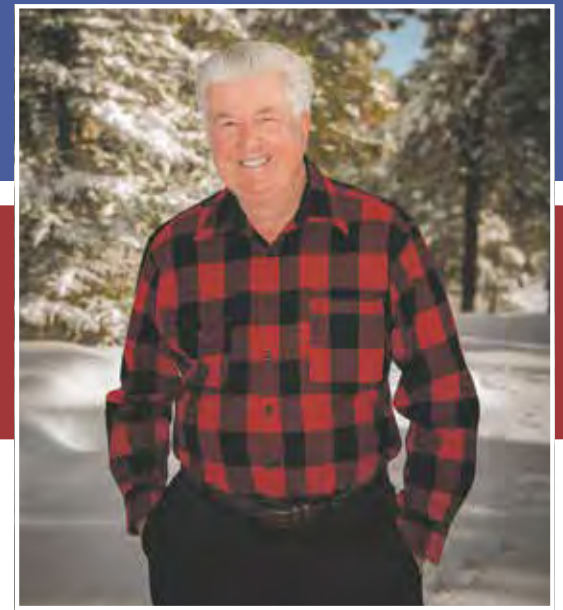
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Hi, My name is Lee Riley and I work for Jann C. Pitcher Real Estate, I am an expert in my field, and I have been helping Pagosa families buy and sell Pagosa real estate for 34 years. I learned first hand about customer service with my very first job as a shoeshine boy.



THE LATEST REAL ESTATE NEWS reveals that 2023 was pretty soft.

Total number of sales were down 20%, home sales were down 11%, condos and town home sales were down 35%, and land sales were down 20%.

SOME GOOD NEWS is inventory was up 4% in both the home and land category, and condo and town home inventory was up 340%.

As I look at my stats, there are a couple of notable numbers.

Condo and town home inventory is at 22 compared to 5 last year, getting us near the pre-pandemic number of 26 back in 2020.

The increase in home inventory is all coming at the top end of the market, with inventory above \$750,000 up 35%.

THE BIGGEST ISSUE affecting both sales inventory in the residential market this year was interest rates.

Back in October, rates got up to 8.25%, a far cry from the 3% rates we saw a few years ago.

Rates have started to decline and are hovering in the high 6% range. Today the average rate for a 30-year fixed-rate mortgage is 6.69%, and a 15-year is at 5.95%.

The economists are predicting that rates will fall, maybe as early as March, but I think it will be closer to June before we see anything.

Hopefully by the end of 2024, rates will be closer to 6% and in the 5% range by 2025.

MY PREDICTION for the local real estate marked this year is that prices will be relatively flat.

One wild card could be inflation going down sooner than expected, allowing the Fed to ease rates sooner than later.

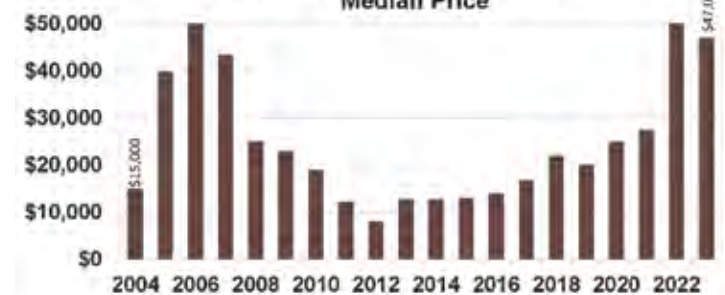
A second wild card might be political problems out there in the world. This is an election year, and anything could happen!

Typical Pagosa Lakes Home Median Price



Typical Pagosa Lakes Home is defined as stick built, 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom, 2 car garage on under 1/2-acre in the Pagosa Lakes area

Typical Pagosa Lakes Lot Median Price



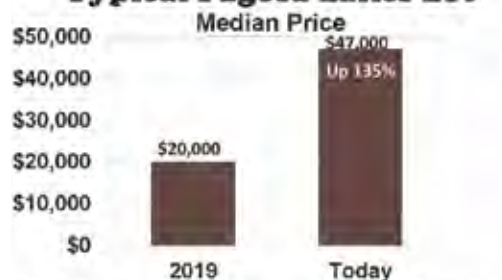
Typical Pagosa Lakes Lot is defined as under 1/2-acre in Pagosa Lakes

Typical Pagosa Lakes Home Median Price



Typical Pagosa Lakes Home is defined as stick built, 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom, 2 car garage on under 1/2-acre in the Pagosa Lakes area

Typical Pagosa Lakes Lot Median Price



Typical Pagosa Lakes Lot is defined as under 1/2-acre in Pagosa Lakes



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Empowering education: \$1,000 grant available for adult learners

By **Rose Chavez**
PREVIEW Columnists

Are you a BIPOC adult age 55 or better living in Archuleta County eager to pursue further education? Here's your chance.

Archuleta Seniors Inc. (ASI), in coordination with the Spanish Fiesta Committee, is delighted to announce a \$1,000 educational grant available exclusively for these adult learners in our community.

The grant aims to support individuals seeking to enhance their skills, pursue new career paths or simply satisfy their thirst for knowledge. Whether you aspire to enroll in a vocational program, attend workshops or pursue a degree, this grant can provide the financial boost you need to turn your educational dreams into reality.

ASI and members of our local Spanish Fiesta Committee believe that education is a lifelong journey and it's never too late to invest in oneself. This grant is designed



to remove financial barriers and empower adults in our community to pursue their educational goals.

To be eligible for the grant, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Reside in Archuleta County.
- Be 55 years of age or older.
- Be Black, Indigenous or a person of color.
- Demonstrate a commitment to furthering their education.
- Submit a compelling application outlining their educational goals and how the grant will be utilized.

Applications are now open and will be accepted until March 20. A

■ See Senior on next page

Lane

■ continued from page 13

cliché of scripture that's been used over and over. This book will be for those who want a deeper journey into God's Word.

This devotional will be based on the most controversial and misunderstood book in the Bible. Religious scholars have said this book shouldn't be in the Bible — Solomon's Song of Songs.

I say, "Hogwash. How dare anyone think they have the right to delete God's words from the Bible? It's a love letter from God and bids us to come into a relationship with Him."

I talked to one of my friends who has studied and taught the Bible for more than 60 years. I related my ideas to her that this book has

17 metaphors depicting Jesus. She said this was all new to her. I couldn't believe it. It was my track to run on.

There's been a lot of prayer and, after three attempts, formatting and re-formatting, I started writing this book for the fourth time. These words will be laid on the altar for God to burn the dross away in order to have a pure witness.

Final brushstroke: When God makes plans for our lives, all our reasoning is thrown out the window. It doesn't compute. And when God won't let go of us, it means He wants more for us.

Send your comment to bettyslade.author@gmail.com.

Views expressed do not necessarily represent those of The SUN.

The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

- Heron or flamingo
- Vaulted recess
- "Arf!" equivalent
- Positive pole
- Palindromic time
- Skin soother
- Pub offering
- Treat, as meat
- For each person
- Pumps and clogs
- Have a bug
- Evaluate
- Glasgow's home
- Pressured, with "on"
- Crafted on a loom
- Bird in a holiday song
- Ginger ____
- Pitching style
- Fly catcher
- Albania's northern neighbor
- Force
- As originally placed
- Ones who have class
- Shoe style
- Nothing
- Like new dollar bills
- Without consideration
- Tipping point
- Dance around, as an issue
- Lascivious look
- Qatar's continent
- Twilled fabric
- Jury member
- Lean (on)
- Took a shot at

DOWN

- Big stinger
- Neat anagram

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14						15					16			
17						18				19				
20					21					22				
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26	27	28				29	30		31			32	33	34
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62					63					64				
65					66					67				

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|--------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 3 Way out | 34 Unpaid bills | 51 See red |
| 4 What teachers do | 37 Like some apples | 52 Vacation destination |
| 5 Consumers' price | 39 Frame jobs | 54 Picture holder |
| 6 Nay sayer | 42 Bettor's adviser | 55 Traveling |
| 7 Yeats or Keats | 43 Keep one's promises | 56 Madras dress |
| 8 Whale finder | 46 Dump, as stocks | 57 Periphery |
| 9 Call off | 48 Prize money | 58 Monopoly card |
| 10 ICBM part | 50 Hoofbeat sound | 60 La Brea goo |
| 11 Varied mixture | | |
| 12 Move like molasses | | |
| 13 Bank charges | | |
| 19 Respect | | |
| 21 Record sales status | | |
| 25 Versatile | | |
| 26 Mystic | | |
| 27 List introducer | | |
| 28 Hot spots | | |
| 29 Artist's subject | | |
| 30 Bottom of the barrel | | |
| 32 Bad kind of situation | | |
| 33 Calendar entry | | |

Answers to Previous Crossword:

B	A	S	I	S		O	V	E	R		F	I	S	H
E	V	E	N	T		V	I	L	E		O	N	C	E
S	E	R	V	I	C	E	M	A	N		S	T	A	R
T	R	A	I	N	E	R		P	E	R	S	O	N	S
				T	E	N	S		S	W	A	I	N	
S	P	A	R		T	I	M	E		P	L	A	N	K
C	O	L	O	N	I	Z	E		P	I	S	T	O	N
A	L	L		E	M	E	R	A	L	D		I	I	I
R	I	P	P	L	E		G	L	A	S	N	O	S	T
Y	O	U	L		P	E	A	T		O	N	E	S	
				R	A	I	S	E		C	O	R	N	
U	M	P	T	E	E	N		R	O	A	S	T	E	D
S	O	O	T		I	N	F	I	N	I	T	I	V	E
E	L	S	E		N	E	A	T		L	O	R	E	N
S	E	E	R		E	D	D	Y		S	P	E	N	T

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Senior

■ continued from previous page

scholarship selection committee composed of community leaders will review all applications and select the most deserving candidates.

ASI encourages all motivated BIPOC, 55-and-older adults in Archuleta County to take advantage of this opportunity. Whether you're looking to advance your career, explore new interests or simply expand your horizons, this grant can be the catalyst for your educational journey.

Don't let financial constraints hold you back from pursuing your dreams. Apply for the \$1,000 educational grant today and take a significant step toward a brighter future.

For more information and to access the application form, contact the ASI office at (9700 264-2167 or stop by the office at 451 Hot Springs Blvd.

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.

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

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., 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 is not a martial art, but rather a tool for self-healing. Softness, flow and effortlessness are the guiding principles in this practice.

All classes will be free for older adults (age 60 and better) and will last approximately one hour in the

■ See Senior on next page



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Senior

■ continued from previous page

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.

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, 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.

Monday, Feb. 5 — Crunchy hot honey chicken, asparagus hollandaise, garden salad, fruit, blueberry muffin and milk.

Tuesday, Feb. 6 — Pork tenderloin with harvest chutney, mashed potatoes, dinner roll, garden salad, fruit and milk.

Wednesday, Feb. 7 — Eggplant Parmigiana, wilted spinach and onions, garlic bread, garden salad, vanilla yogurt, fruit and milk.

Thursday, Feb. 8 — Cod Veracruz, brown rice with quinoa, roasted cauliflower, garden salad, fruit, lemon bar and milk.

Friday, Feb. 9 — Philly cheesesteak sandwich on hoagie roll with peppers, onions and provolone, garden salad, fruit, chocolate brownie and milk.

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,

■ See Senior on page 20



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Reynolds Ash + Associates is excited to announce the opening of their new location in Alamosa. RA+A’s new office is located in the Historic Railroad Depot at 610 State Avenue, Suite 120.

RA+A is proud to introduce Andréa Bachman & Deron Granville of Alamosa. Please stop by and say hello! Andréa has been designing in the San Luis Valley since 2017 and recently joined RA+A in Fall of 2023. Deron is a licensed Architect who recently relocated from Denver to Alamosa and brings with him over 25 years of experience in all aspects of building design. He recently joined RA+A in Spring of 2023.

The opening of the Alamosa location will better serve our San Luis Valley clients and contractors. The firm is the largest locally-owned architecture and engineering firm in the Four Corners with offices in Pagosa Springs, Durango, and Phoenix AZ.

Please visit www.RA-AE.com for more information.

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 N C B E N T E R L B K S N E T C E T U P Y
 E A H F I D B I N N N O S G I I L S L Y
 V W R R F T S E D P E A R A U I A A V N S
 O P G T F D S D V P O O H B C O E O R S
 C G L K U E M I L A S E L A S L R T B P F
 I T D O M H T S A O T K N M I Y E H Y F
 N S N G I C A U C D E D U D B A C C K D
 I C C G O A N I F F U M H S I L G N E L M
 M I T R E O K A S M E F O P E H O E A M
 T I E D A P C E K U K A K C G T U R Y O
 H S R O L M K D T B T F S M E N P F K R
 A M A D S A B E V M G E H Y S A U C K N
 S B F F C E S L E W O T G V H S T M M I
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 T P A U I A L E A D T F P R Y I D T C G
 R P D K N V E T R K R H F G O O G A W E
 U A C B F C O R B C T V C L T R N R G E
 V L Y Y L P H O B B A N K P E C D G R D
 S F W B U B I G D R E T T U B S S B I K

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

WORDS

- BAGEL
- BISCUITS
- BREAKFAST
- BRUNCH
- BUTTER
- CEREAL
- CREPES
- CROISSANT
- EGGS
- ENGLISH MUFFIN
- FRENCH TOAST
- FRIED
- GRAVY
- GRITS
- HASH
- MORNING
- MUFFINS
- OATMEAL
- PANCAKES
- POACHED
- POTATOES
- SCRAMBLED
- TOAST
- WAFFLES

If you or someone you know might be at risk of suicide, there is help.

Call the **National Suicide Prevention Lifeline** at 1-800-273-8255, text a crisis counselor at 741741 or visit suicidepreventionlifeline.org.



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Preview Calendar

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

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.

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.

Dungeons and Dragons. 4-5:30 p.m., Sisson Library. Join the adventure. Preregistration is required because space is limited. Contact Josie@pagosalibrary.org to join.

English as a Second Language. 4-7 p.m., Sisson Library. Your library offers English as a second language classes. These classes are free. Call (970) 264-2209 or email for more information. Beginning students are encouraged to attend from 4-5 p.m., intermediate students from 5-6 p.m. and advanced students from 6-7 p.m.

PALS Adult Education. 5:30-8 p.m., Sisson Library. Pagosa Adult Learning Services, or PALS, can help you with high school equivalency, GED, college prep, financial aid, tutoring and more. Mark can help you develop a plan to achieve your education goals. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information.

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.

Senior

■ continued from page 18

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.

Supporting ASI

Please support our ongoing operations and programming that provide critical services to some of

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.

Gaming. 3-4 p.m., Sisson Library. For all ages. Enjoy video gaming on the Xbox with all of your friends and family. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information.

Pagosa Springs Varsity Girls' Basketball. 5:30 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School. Pagosa versus Ignacio.

Pagosa Springs Varsity Boys' Basketball. 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School. Pagosa versus Ignacio.

Saturday, Feb. 3

Pagosa Peak Genealogical Society. 10 a.m., Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St. The business meeting will be followed by the presentation of a video about artificial intelligence and genealogical research.

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. 2:30 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School. Pagosa versus Alamosa.

Pagosa Springs Varsity Boys' Basketball. 4 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.

Wolf Creek Christian Writers Network-Critique Groups. 9-11 a.m., Grace in Pagosa Community Room, 1044 Park Ave. A meeting to fellowship, inspire, encourage, critique and study the practice of writing.

Senior Conversations. 1:15 p.m., Senior Center.

Learn to Knit or Crochet. 2-3:15 p.m.,

Sisson Library. Learn to knit or crochet. For ages 8 and up. Supplies are provided.

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

Shakespeare Read-Aloud Club. 3:30-5 p.m., Sisson Library. Call

Jenny at (240) 426-7887 for more information.


Tween/Teen Art Camp. 4-5 p.m., Sisson Library. Registration required. Art classes for tween and teens. Each month will explore a different style or medium.

Pagosa Unplugged. 4-6 p.m., Sisson


Library. Musicians of all abilities are invited to jam and sing with others. Call Susan at (970) 946-3396 for details.

Deepening the Faith Classes. 6-7 p.m., John Paul II Catholic Church classrooms.

■ See Calendar on next page



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.



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Preview Calendar

■ continued from previous page

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.

Avalanche Awareness. 2-3:30 p.m. Matt Huber will share about what to know, what to bring and how to stay alive in the mountains during snow season.

English as a Second Language. 4-7 p.m., Sisson Library. Your library offers English as a second language classes. These classes are free. Call (970) 264-2209 or email for more information. Beginning students are encouraged to attend from 4-5 p.m., intermediate students from 5-6 p.m. and advanced

students from 6-7 p.m.

Conversational Spanish. 4:30-5:30 p.m., Sisson Library. Practice your Spanish conversation skills in a group setting. No minimum skill level required.

PALS Adult Education. 5:30-8 p.m., Sisson Library. Pagosa Adult Learning Services, or PALS, can help you with high school equivalency, GED, college prep, financial aid, tutoring and more. Mark can help you develop a plan to achieve your education goals. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information.

Wednesday, 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

■ See Calendar on next page



The Chamber Staff Thanks You!

Executive Director: Mary Jo Coulehan
 Events Coordinator: Naomi Lindquester
 Membership Coordinator: Kim Hartfiel

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 Penguin Plunge Participants
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 The Lost Cajun & Rugby's Rescue House with the Barkus Parade Pagosa
 Nordic Club/BB Gun Biathlon
 Jeff Laydon with Pagosa Photography
 Pagosa Springs Fire Protection District & Swift Water Rescue
 Pagosa Springs Medical Center EMS
 Pagosa Baking Co.
 Motel SOCO
 Pagosa Springs Visitor Center
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 Healing Waters Resort & Spa
 Jackson Mountain Ramblers/Carl Mori
 Pagosa Weather
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ALL INDOOR

3x5 | 5x10 | 10x10 | 10x15

Preview Calendar

■ **continued from previous page**
hour of reading, singing and free play while building early literacy skills together. For all ages. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information.

Therapy Dog Visit. 11-11:45 a.m. Stop by and visit with a certified therapy dog.

Strategize Change in Your Life in 2024. 1-2:15 p.m., Sisson Library. Registration required. Learn proven techniques to identify and change unwanted behaviors.

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.

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. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information.

Teen Violence Dating Workshop. 4-5 p.m., Sisson Library. Rise Above Violence will lead a "Love Shouldn't Hurt" dating violence workshop for teens in honor of Teen Violence Awareness Month. This class will provide advice on how to deal with and avoid violence in teen relationships.

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.
Virtual Author Talk: Tessa Bailey. 6 p.m., virtual. Listen live or recorded. Featuring rom-com author Tessa Bailey. For details and to register, go to <https://libraryc.org/pagosalibrary/upcoming>.

■ **See Calendar on next page**



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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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The Pagosa Springs **SUN**

Publishing Visitor Guides in Pagosa Springs for over 30 years
Publishing the Official Newspaper of Archuleta County since 1909

Preview Calendar

■ continued from previous page

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.

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Virtual Author Talk: Tessa Bailey. 6 p.m., virtual. Listen live or recorded. Featuring rom-com author Tessa

Bailey. For details and to register, go to <https://libraryc.org/pagosalibrary/upcoming>.

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.

Free Legal Clinic. 2-3 p.m., Sisson Library. Meet with a volunteer civil attorney via Zoom at the library. Registration required. Registration opens on the first day of each month. Space is limited. Call (970) 264-2209 or email ruby@pagosalibrary.com.

Craftapalooza. 2-3:30 p.m., Sisson Library. Create a variety of crafts for all ages. Several different craft stations will be set up. Stop by anytime during the program.

Booster Club Basket Silent Auction. 4 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School. Bid on awesome and unique baskets of diverse themes full of amazing goodies created by each high school teams' families. The silent auction will end during

halftime of the varsity boys' game. **Pagosa Springs Varsity Girls' Basketball.** 5:30 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School. Pagosa versus Bayfield.

Pagosa Springs Varsity Boys' Basketball. 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School. Pagosa versus Bayfield.

Saturday, Feb. 10

Cabin Fever Book Sale. 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Sission 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.

Chess Club. 9:30-11:30 a.m., Sisson Library. Learn how to play chess with quick lessons and game time or practice your skills. All ages and abilities are welcome.

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.

Knitters Circle. 1-3 p.m., Sisson Library. Join new or experienced knitters to get help with your project, or sit and knit.

Sunday, Feb. 11

Rotary Super Bowl Party. 3-8 p.m., Tennyson Building Event Center, 197 Navajo Trail Drive. The doors open at 3 p.m. Kickoff is at 4:30 p.m. Betting squares ends at 4:15 p.m. Tickets are \$25 per person and available online at pagosapagosa.org or in person with cash or check at The Choke Cherry Tree. There will be food, prizes and a cash bar.

Community news.
The Pagosa Springs SUN
264-2100

264-2100

Classifieds

264-2100

Office Hours: Monday — Friday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Classified Deadline: Tuesday 10 a.m.

TOO LATE TO CLASSIFY

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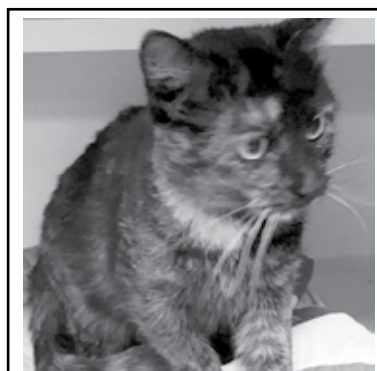
I'm Jack, an independent chubby 46 lb., 7-year-old Ridgeback mix fellow who loves to go on long hikes. I'm great on a harnessed walk, and would make a wonderful buddy to stroll through the woods and take in nature's beauty. Call the Shelter (970)731-4771 to apply.

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I'm Marinara, a sweet laid back 7-month-old girl who is good with other cats, dogs and even kids! I'd be a great companion for any family, so come and meet me, and let's see if I would make the perfect addition to your family. Call the Shelter (970)731-4771 to apply.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

BEFORE TAKING ANOTHER BITE of lead and cadmium (heavy metals) in chocolate (and cocoa), please research this, especially for children.

PAGOSA AA: M-W-F 5:30P.M.; Sunday 10a.m, Tuesday and Thursday at noon, Saturday at 10a.m.. Zoom Sunday 10a.m., ID 858 319 763, password 754 234, 315 N. 2nd St., County Road 200 (.2 miles off 160). Information, call Kathi (970)946-1482, or Central Office (888)333-9649.

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Classified Deadline: Tuesday 10 a.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE PAGOSA SPRINGS AREA TOURISM BOARD has funds available for 2024 Events and Infrastructure projects. Please email Becky Engel at coordinator@visitpagosasprings.com for an application. Funds are limited. Deadline to apply for the first round of funding is 2/14/24.

THERE IS A SOLUTION GROUP of Alcoholics Anonymous meets Tuesdays and Thursdays, 5:30-6:30p.m. at the Restoration Fellowship Church, 264 Village Drive. Questions? Contact Richard at (970)903-1456 or Diamond at (970)264-1073. More resources at www.aa.org, www.aa-westerncolorado.com, (970)245-9649, or (888)333-9649 (24 hours).

SERVICES WANTED

ERRAND BUNNY TO HELP with any and all errands. Available for a wide range of business or personal tasks. Email: errandbunnyps@gmail.com or call (970)903-6715.

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BAZ THE HANDYMAN PAGOSA Springs is your one stop shop for wide range of home maintenance and repair solutions. Just call Baz (480)433-1776.

CALL BRYCE'S CONSTRUCTION for your next bathroom remodel, tile job, or handyman odd job. No job too big or small, no grout about it! (309)714-4004.

CHOICE CLEANING, LLC. Commercial, STR/LTR, post construction and move outs. Licensed and insured. Call (970)507-1399.

CLEANING WITH ATTENTION TO DETAILS. Residential and commercial. Please call Julie (970)946-8229.

CONSTRUCTION SOLUTIONS. Remodel, Repair, New. Home, business, space improvement, simple fix-it. Clean up, snow removal, interior, exterior, paint, water seal decks, insulated windows, kitchens, baths, tile flooring, roof repair. Professional, responsible, 20 years in area, references. Happy to help. Any project small or large. (970)317-9280.

CUSTOM PICTURE FRAMING. Reasonable prices. Linda Lerno, (970)731-5173.

EXTERIOR AND INTERIOR HOUSE painting and staining. Kitchens, bathrooms, decks, granite countertops and more. Call Josh Soniat (970)903-5892.

KRITTER GITTERS, SKUNK AND BAT Busters. We specialize in capturing and removing unwanted rodents and varmints. We don't trap pigs. 50 years experience, lifetime resident. Dan Snow (719)849-8873.

LOCAL MOVING SERVICES. Reasonable and reliable. (970)946-2061.

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SKID STEER EXCAVATOR, DUMP trailer for hire. Driveways, foundations, gravel, septic systems, etc. Call Josh Soniat (970)903-5892.

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DENTAL ASSISTANT WANTED. We will train you. We work hard and make a great living serving our patients. We are blessed to have weekends and holidays off. Beautiful facility, modern equipment, excellent pay. Get the satisfaction of helping people! E-mail resume to PagosaSmiles@yahoo.com.

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (ESL) INSTRUCTOR. Part-time, Ruby Sisson Library. T/Th 4-7 p.m. Send letter of interest and resume to meg@pagosalibrary.org.

GENERAL LABORER NEEDED - Asst. duties. Please send job history or resume to frontdesk@pagosalandcompany.com, phone (970)264-5000.

HIRING AN EXPERIENCED CONSTRUCTION SUPERVISOR. Ideal candidates would be experienced in residential and commercial excavation- be comfortable reading plans and grade stakes. Top pay, DOE. Call (970)946-3966.

HYGIENIST WANTED. Come help us serve our patients! We are blessed to have family oriented hours with weekends and holidays off, great pay (Could you make \$60/hr?), 401K & bonuses in a beautiful facility. Colorado dental hygiene license required. E-mail resume to PagosaSmiles@yahoo.com or drop it off.

IMMEDIATE OPENING FOR CDL DRIVER Experience in forestry equipment helpful. Must pass drug test. Local driving only. Please send your resume to frontdesk@pagosalandcompany.com.

INTEGRATED WALLWORKS IS SEEKING HELP for local projects. We are hiring Plasterers, Lathers, Laborers, & Masons. Would consider applicants with light carpentry experience as well. Excellent Pay based on experience. Please send applications to integratedwallworksjobs@gmail.com.

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PAGOSA THERAPEUTICS AND THE GREEN HOUSE are looking for friendly and enthusiastic people who are eager to share their knowledge and help customers navigate the wide world of cannabis. Must be 21 years of age. A Marijuana Enforcement Division badge is required to start work. Come join a growing company with opportunities for advancement and involvement in outreach events. Please email your resume to employment@jandjinc.net.

PHYSICAL THERAPY TECH. Rocky Mountain Physical Therapy has an opening for a full time Physical Therapy Tech. We are looking for a dependable, energetic multitasker who will enjoy helping people recover from surgeries, injuries, accidents and other health issues to join our team. No prior experience necessary. We offer competitive pay, \$16-18 per hour, and benefits including paid holidays, paid sick leave, 401k plan, and a profit sharing program. Please submit resume to RMPT, 35 Mary Fisher Circle or email to rockymountainpt@yahoo.com

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

THE TOWN OF PAGOSA SPRINGS is seeking to hire a dynamic professional **Planning Manager** in our Community Development department. This position requires an experienced planner who can focus on multiple priorities - the work week is never dull! Our public engagement link for proposed and current projects: <https://mypagosa.org/>. This position performs a variety of **managerial, professional, and technical duties** as needed to plan, organize, direct, and coordinate the daily operation of the planning division. Oversees the development and implementation of comprehensive current and long-range master planning. Oversees the enforcement of town regulations and codes. This is a full-time position with benefits. For more information on the position and to apply, go to the Town's website at www.pagosasprings.co.gov and select Employment.

THE TOWN OF PAGOSA SPRINGS is seeking to hire a **Streets Maintenance Tech** in our Public Works Department. The individual selected for this position performs a variety of entry-level semi-skilled duties related to the construction, installation, maintenance, upkeep, and repair of town buildings, streets, cemeteries, sidewalks, and other Town infrastructure. This is a full-time position with benefits. For more information on the position and to apply, go to the Town's website at www.pagosasprings.co.gov and select Employment.

THE TOWN OF PAGOSA SPRINGS is seeking to hire an **Equipment Operator I, II, or III** in our Public Works Department. The individual selected for this position performs a variety of skilled and technical duties related to the construction, installation, maintenance, and repair of town streets, sidewalks, alleys, irrigation, geothermal water, and sewer systems. CDL is preferred but not required for the Equipment Operator I position. CDL is required for Equipment Operator II and III positions. This is a full-time position with benefits. For more information on the position and to apply, go to the Town's website at www.pagosasprings.co.gov and select Employment.

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PRIME LOCATION NEAR NAVAJO State Park. Gas station, liquor store, convenience store, restaurant, motel, post office. \$1.7 million. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

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AMAZING CABINETRY/ DOORS Custom design, highest quality, unlimited options. FREE consultation. (303)995-8833, www.posirado.com.

FOR SALE

DRY FIREWOOD- PINE. Pick up \$240 a cord. Delivery available. Call for prices. Bayfield. Gabe (970)403-2784.

FIREWOOD FOR SALE. Pine and aspen. Cut about 16" long, split. Delivered by longbed truckload (about 1 cord). Call (970)946-4450.

FIREWOOD FOR SALE. Split and delivered, two cords, \$400. (970)317-4933.

FIREWOOD. One cord, split, delivered and stacked in the immediate Pagosa Springs area. Only \$300. Call now. (970)903-0731.

FOR SALE. Gehl 362 mini excavator 2000. Thumb, Peter, side 5 cab tilt. 24" bucket. Recent rebuilt hydraulics. Too much to list. \$13,500.(970)507-0240.

LIVE EDGE SLABS/ COUNTERTOPS Pond Pine 2.5" thick, 20"-26" w. 15' long. DRY! Will fabricate or custom cut to specs: up to 40" wide. (303)995-8833 www.posirado.com.

NEED FIREWOOD?! Pine/Aspen mix \$300 a cord. Contact FIRE&ICE at (970)582-0006.

NEW 20' CONTAINERS FOR SALE or rent. We deliver to homes or businesses. Pagosa Springs Storage (970)731-0007.

OUTDOOR VEHICLE STORAGE SPACES available. 16', 20', 25', plus indoor 12'x20'. Winter specials starting at \$60. Pagosa Springs Storage. Gated with security cameras. (970)749-1500.

SELL OR TRADE YOUR GUNS. We buy for cash or trade it. No hassle. Licensed, bonded, insured. San Juan Trading Post, 635 San Juan St. (970)731-PAWN (7296).

SNOW BLOWER Yard Machine 2 Stage Residential 24" Snow blower, Tecumseh 8HP Engine, 6 speeds forward, 2 speeds reverse. Manual pull-start only, recently professionally tuned-up. Located in PS - Cash only \$175. (505)681-0431.

GARAGE SALES

BE SURE TO CHECK for more yard sales in the Too Late To Classify section.

PETS

ADOPT FROM THE Humane Society. Stop by or call (970)731-4771. You'll be amazed at what we have to offer. www.humanesociety.biz.

AKC 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.

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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

LARGE OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT Ground floor, store front office available. Lots of natural light. Open floor plan with two enclosed offices. Call us today at (970)731-4344 to schedule a tour! www.sunethaproperties.com. Offering 1 month free rent on a 12 month lease. 1155 sq. ft. Office #2. Monthly Rent \$1500, CAM Charges \$527.84 monthly, Gas \$43.89 Monthly. Total Monthly Rent \$2071.73.

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, all utilities included. 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.

SECOND FLOOR OFFICE SPACE 2nd floor office, #6B, 184 sq. ft. Utilities not included. Rent \$395, Security Deposit, \$395. Call us at (970)731-4344 to schedule a tour! www.sunethaproperties.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

HOMES FOR SALE

HOMES FOR SALE

HOMES FOR SALE

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OVER THE GARAGE APARTMENT. Furnished. 1 bedroom. Living, Dining and Kitchen. Bonus room. Large deck overlooks mountains, sunsets and lakes. Furnished outside deck. Includes WIFI, electric, gas, water, sewer, trash pickup, cable TV, washer and dryer. Walk to City Market and bus. No pets. No smoking. Annual lease. Last month rent plus \$500 deposit. \$1500 month. (970)398-0023.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

UNFURNISHED 3 BED 2 BATH HOUSE with 2 car garage. Quiet neighborhood in uptown Pagosa. \$2000 per month. Call (512)585-3316.

BEAUTIFULLY FURNISHED 2 bedroom 1.5 bath w/loft condo at Hatcher Village Condos. Available now. \$1800/month. TP-10 Call Team Pagosa (970)731-8599 for more information. teampagosa.com.

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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.

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COMMERCIAL

10 BEAUTIFUL COMMERCIAL ACRES. 50x167 metal building with concrete floor, 3 phase electric, well and more. \$650,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties LLC a call (970)903-2817.

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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HOMES FOR SALE

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NEWLY REMODELED, BEAUTIFUL LODGE HOME, hobby farm on the Stollsteimer Creek. Three bedrooms, two bath. Detached two car garage carport, fenced in yard small barn, motivated Seller!! \$675,000. 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.

MOUNTAIN VIEWS, MEADOWS. Unique high elevation and complete privacy. 5.6 acres bordering national forest, (970)769-3588 blancoretreat@gmail.com.

NO-WATER-NO-PAY WELL LOCATIONS, offered by Joel Hellwege - The Connector, LLC, CO Lic. Driller 1333. TheHoleyConnector.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.

HOMES FOR SALE

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3 BEDROOM, 2 BATH, 1 ACRE with great cell service, country views and 10 minutes from town. \$235,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties LLC a call (970)903-2817.

64 ACRES, 3 BEDROOM, 2 BATH HOME, 3 garages and shed, 46 shares of irrigation water, 3-3 phase electric outlets and beautiful views, too many extras to name them all. \$995,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817

LAND/ BUILDING SITES

1.19 ACRES WITH VIEWS OF NAVAJO LAKE. All utilities near. \$99,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

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.

1.48 ACRE COMMERCIAL LAND. Highway frontage. \$99,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

1.62 ACRES IN THE RANCH COMMUNITY with views of the San Juan Mountains. All utilities available. \$220,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.



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