



PAGOSA SPRINGS, ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO 81147

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Festival of Trees

SUN photos/Randi Pierce

The Dec. 5 Festival of Trees public viewing was an opportunity for the public to scope out the trees decorated by local nonprofits, vote for their favorites, talk to Santa Claus and grab some goodies. Between the public voting and the main event the following evening, the event raised a total of \$64,636 for the participating nonprofits.



Colorado Supreme Court issues ruling in Archuleta County case

Rules litigants can use open records act

By Randi Pierce and Clayton Chaney
Staff Writers

In a Dec. 9 opinion, the Colorado Supreme Court sided with a local attorney in a case with Archuleta County involving access to public records.

In the ruling, the court affirms that attorney Matt Roane's status as a

litigant against the county did not preclude him from requesting records related to the litigation from the county under the Colorado Open Records Act (CORA).

It also sets precedence for future similar situations.

The opinion was delivered by Justice William W. Hood III and joined by justices Brian D. Boatright, Richard L. Gabriel, Melissa Hart and Maria E. Berkenkotter.

Chief Justice Monica M. Marquez and Justice Carlos A. Samour Jr. concurred only in the judgment, but pre-
■ See Ruling A7

BoCC receives site analysis for potential locations for new admin building

Informational meeting Dec. 16

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

During a work session held on Tuesday, Dec. 10, the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) heard a presentation from Troy Bernburg, a financial director with Northland Securities, which provided a property analysis to aid in the county's consideration of purchasing land for the construction of a

new administration building.

Bernburg began by explaining that he "took a very practical approach" with his analysis, taking into consideration the availability of accessibility of utilities for each property, current and future needs, along with a price-per-square-foot comparison.

He mentioned that utility access "is extremely important to a project," noting that the cost to bring utilities to certain properties that have a lower price per square foot could potentially be more expensive than a property
■ See Admin A8

GOCO board awards \$420,000 grant to town for river recreation access

By Diane Metzger
State of Colorado

On Friday, Dec. 6, the Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) board awarded a \$420,000 grant to the Town of Pagosa Springs to expand public river access along the San Juan River's eastern gateway.

The grant is part of GOCO's Community Impact program, which develops and revitalizes parks, trails, school yards, fairgrounds, environmental education facilities and other outdoor projects that enhance a com-

munity's quality of life and access to the outdoors.

The funding will help the town acquire and improve a 4.3-acre property adjacent to the San Juan River. The project aims to expand public river access and recreational facilities while preserving the natural beauty of the area.

Once all phases are completed, the new park will provide needed public river access to the upstream portion of town, as well as additional public parking, restroom facilities, ADA river access and an extension
■ See Award A8

Town approves work with Blue Room Research for tourism board analysis

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

During a regular meeting held on Tuesday, Dec. 2, the Pagosa Springs Town Council unanimously approved a sole-source contract in the amount of \$35,000 for Blue Room Research to conduct research for the Pagosa Springs Area Tourism Advisory Board.

Tourism Director Jennifer Green

briefed the council on the matter, explaining the purpose is to address concerns expressed by lodgers in the community over the past year.

According to agenda documentation, "The Tourism Board has been discussing data and how to measure effectiveness for quite some time, with little consensus."

The agenda documentation explains that Blue Room provides data
■ See Tourism A6

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Opinion

The Pagosa Springs SUN

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OUR VIEW

Why we do what we do

Lately, our inbox and calls received have served as a wonderful reminder of why we do what we do — because it matters and our community is worth it.

On Friday morning alone, we received several emails from contributors to The SUN thanking us for running their submissions because it helps their cause and helped make their recent events successful.

A longtime columnist sent us a wonderfully sweet email reflecting on her many years of sharing with SUN readers and how it's changed her life.

This week, we received a thank-you card signed by numerous Rotarians.

We've received similar messages from advertisers who told us of the benefit they saw through advertising in The SUN and PREVIEW.

We're happy to be part of helping this community survive and thrive, and love cheering on those doing wonderful things, and we love those who share their successes with us after the fact.

But that's far from being all we do.

SUN staff spends countless hours observing and reporting on meetings and helping you understand what's going on

with local tax-funded entities, watching for trends in our community and keeping an eye on public entities.

As we write this, we're refreshing ourselves on the September arguments made in front of the Colorado Supreme Court in a case involving local attorney Matt Roane and a records request he made of Archuleta County Clerk and Recorder Kristy Archuleta.

For more on the case, see the related article on this week's front page.

This case started years ago, and it's been a fascinating and important duty to follow it because, as the Supreme Court justices pointed out, this case has far-reaching implications.

This case affects both civil litigation against public entities and the rights of citizens under the Colorado Open Records Act — both of which are options open to Colorado's citizens here and elsewhere. While the case stems from Archuleta County, it's not just about our community and our portion of the state.

The arguments by both sides and nuanced questions asked by the justices were interesting and show that there are strong points to both sides of the argument and a

lot to think about.

Ultimately, we are pleased the court sided with transparency and openness — things we're always in favor of with local government.

We've also received calls and emails from citizens bringing concerns over potential corruption and unfair treatment by governmental agencies and officials.

While we can't promise tips we receive will bear enough proof to write articles about what's alleged or that they'll lead to breaking news story shedding light on massive wrongdoings, we can promise we follow up on news tips we receive, and we appreciate that we're seen as a community partner that can make a difference.

As you see throughout our papers each week, we continue to make the pledge to be local news about local people, news that matters and the reliable source we've been since Dec. 3, 1909.

We know we've put forward a lot of thanks lately — maybe we're just feeling extra festive this holiday season — but we mean it. Thanks for letting us being a community partner, and thanks for partnering with us.

Randi Pierce

LEGACIES

By Shari Pierce

100 years ago

Taken from SUN files of December 12, 1924

According to the Colorado Magazine, the first white men to penetrate Archuleta county were the members of the Spanish expedition, headed by Friars Dominguez and Escalante, who set out from Santa Fe in July, 1776. With the padres were twelve companions and their first entrance into the boundaries of the present state of Colorado seems to have been in the vicinity of Caracas, in this county. They continued to the Mancos and Dolores rivers, going as far west as the Utah lake, where they turned south and returned to Santa Fe. The expedition was officially in quest of a short and practical route between Santa Fe and the California missions.

It is barely possible that the party, commanded by Don Juan Maria de Rivera and which left Santa Fe eleven years earlier, or in 1765, also penetrated Archuleta county. It is officially reported as having "marched to the northwest along the foothills of the San Juan mountains. In the canyons of the La Plata they secured some samples of ore and then moved on to the Dolores river."

75 years ago

Taken from SUN files of December 9, 1949

Construction was started on the new rodeo grounds just east of town this last week. The property was purchased from Leon Montroy and is located at the junction of the Chromo and Mill Creek roads. The rodeo association has purchased forty acres there and when completed will be one of the best rodeo grounds in the state.

A half mile race track is being constructed and the land is being leveled off so that work on the chutes and stands can start next spring. It will be necessary for arena and grounds to be fenced before the Red Ryder Round-Up is held there next 4th of July.

A caterpillar and carry-all belonging to Fitzhugh-Haven-Doerrie is doing the heavy dirt moving and the county commissioners have very kindly donated the use of some of their equipment at such times as it is not in use on other work in the county. The surveying and the work is being carried on under the very able supervision of H.W. (Red) Sisson.

The new site of the rodeo grounds offers a view of the front range that is unequalled and will certainly be one of the most picturesque rodeo grounds in the whole United States.

50 years ago

Taken from SUN files of December 12, 1974

It was announced this week by the Universal Telephone Company that work will start very soon on installation of a microwave system for long distance toll calls. The local manager also said the entire system is to be rebuilt, with completion of the program probably late in 1977. He also reported that all telephone lines will be underground wherever possible.

Seven inches of snow fell on Wolf Creek Pass last weekend, bringing the season total to 112 inches this year. Snow depths at Wolf Creek Ski area are 40 inches on the slopes and skiing is rated as excellent. Crowds are moderate.

Christmas lights are up over the main drag through town. Town crews, REA personnel, and telephone company employees put the decorations in place this week. The big Christmas star on Reservoir Hill is also lighted for the holiday season.

The level of water in Echo Lake is being lowered so that a boat ramp may be constructed at the lake. It is necessary that the water level be down for the construction work.

25 years ago

Taken from SUN files of December 9, 1999

Members of the Pagosa Springs Spanish Fiesta Club are struggling to ensure the traditional celebration of Hispanic culture survives, and they are calling on members of other local non-profit organizations for assistance.

According to club member Lucy Gonzales, an absence of members of the Fiesta board of directors has put the annual event in jeopardy. A meeting is scheduled for Dec. 13 at 6 p.m. in the Parish Hall on Lewis Street to discuss the situation and to find a workable remedy.

One of the aims at the meeting will be to recruit new members for the Fiesta Club board — people who are willing to spend the time and energy necessary to produce the summer celebration.

Building in Archuleta County during 1999 is following a slower pace than the record-setting building rate of 1998, based on the number of permits issued by the Archuleta County Building Department.

Through Nov. 30 of this year, 499 permits have been issued. Last year at the same time, 527 permits had been issued. The decrease is a modest 5.31 percent.

LOOKING BACK



From the December 26, 1968, Pagosa SUN — A FRIENDLY VISIT — This young admirer of Santa Claus turns on the charm as the two visit following the Christmas party for children last weekend. The biggest attraction at the party was Santa Claus.

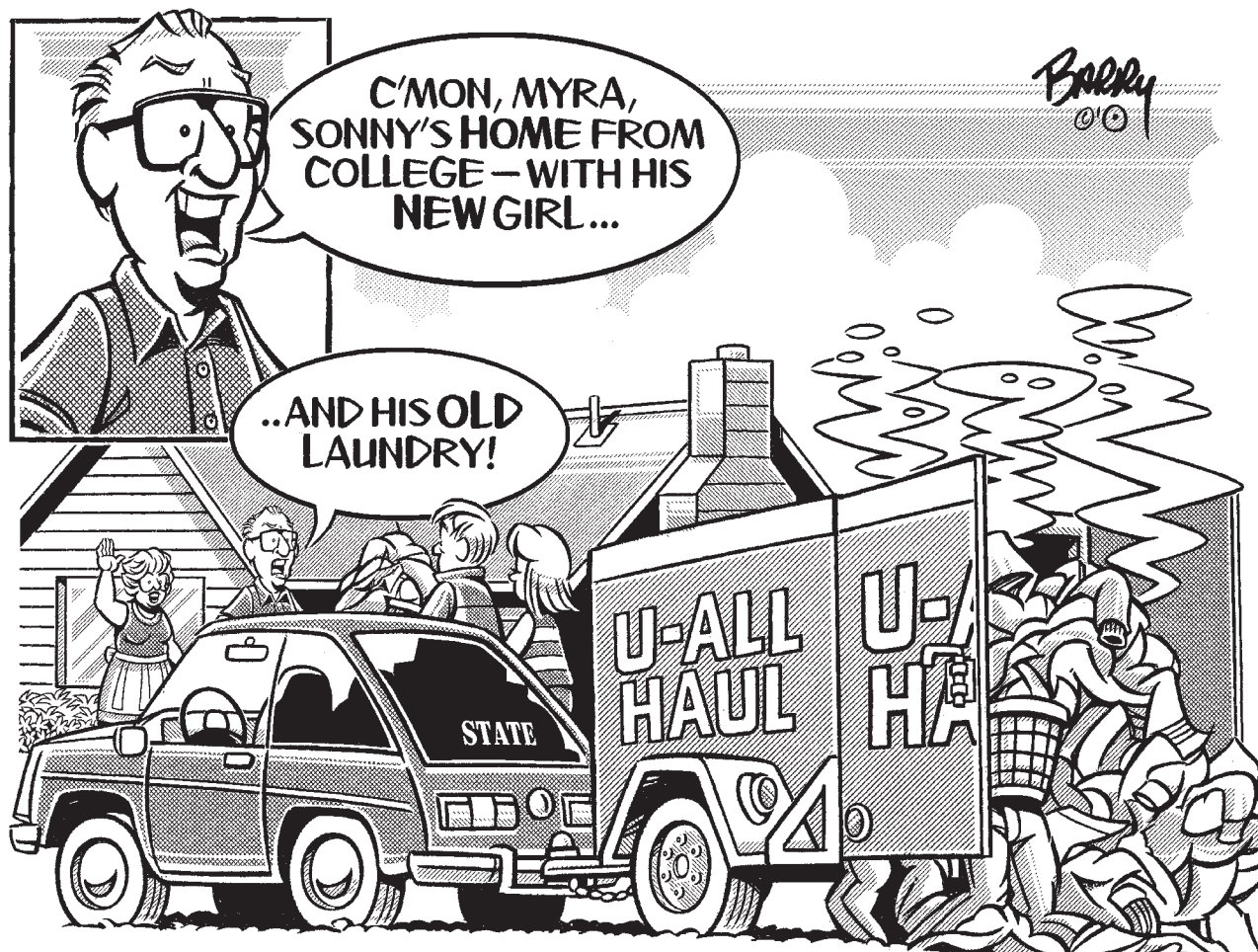
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Date	High	Low	Precipitation			
			Depth	Type	Moisture	
12/3	58	16	0.00	NA	NA	
12/4	57	16	0.00	NA	NA	
12/5	52	21	0.00	NA	NA	
12/6	52	19	0.00	NA	NA	
12/7	48	18	0.00	NA	NA	
12/8	45	18	0.00	NA	NA	
12/9	41	13	0.00	NA	NA	

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Letters

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

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

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

Different opinions

Dear Editor:
Responding to the letter titled "Unrecognizable", 11/27/24 which responded to our letter titled "Grateful Hearts", 11/21/24. Of course people can have different opinions, but, calling us out by our names directly was definite an extreme accusing presentation. Her saying "the Jesus she didn't recognize", as if we had falsified "God's Infallible Word". There is truly only one Lord Jesus Christ as we are given through our Holy Bible. Truthfully, "Jesus", not a pick and choose matter, person's opinion.

In "Grateful Hearts" we simply acknowledged publicly speaking how masses of people prayed for our nation to be saved from the evils we have witnessed the past nearly 4 years. Pres. Trump/VP. Vance, the House, the Senate, all swing states, won in massive landslide, even our 3rd district Repub. Rep. Herd won. This was historical victory as millions of Christians, like ourselves across our nation and the world prayed earnestly, massive crusades. We saw the miracles of Pres. Trump's life being spared for such a time as this! Our God is in control ultimately of all things, that includes our USA and all it's leaders. As professing Christians we take everything to Him in prayer! The author stated in reference to Jesus and political parties. We have referenced Isa. 9:6: "For a child is born unto us, a Son is given and the government shall be upon his shoulders...called the wonderful counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace."

Our prayers were answered and we're sure many, many true born again in Jesus believers are giving thanks for our 2024 landslide election, to Our Lord God along with us, just not as vocal as we are!

the government. The Left leaders with Biden/Harris/Walz were dramatically fired when masses of the people spoke dramatically!

Mercy was mentioned by that author not being shown by closing our borders and making us a legitimate country, deporting those who illegally came because of Biden illegally baiting them. Prisons were emptied to our country, our Colorado, cartel gangs, Venezuelan Tren de Aragua, worst of the worst gang like 16+ states now. Polis and other leftist liberal governors and mayors are going to try to protect them and not us. Young nursing student Laken Riley, assaulted on Univ. of Ga. campus, her skull beat to death with a rock! Over 325,000 children unaccounted for, lost at the border! All this is leftist mercy? No, plain demonic evil! We spelled this and other terrible stuff out in "Grateful Hearts". Our prayers were answered and we're sure many, many true born again in Jesus believers are giving thanks for our 2024 landslide election, to Our Lord God along with us, just not as vocal as we are!

Pres. Trump is back!
Repeating: "...the Sovereign Lord will make righteousness and praise spring up before all nations." Isaiah 61:1. Merry Christmas!
Jan and Tom Carnley

Colorado secretary of state certifies state's 2024 General Election

Colorado Secretary of State's Office

On Dec. 6, Secretary of State Jena Griswold certified the 2024 General Election, making the results of the election official and final.

"Today's election certification concludes the 2024 General Election," said Griswold. "I want to thank county clerks and election workers for their work on this year's elections."

After the election, the Secretary of State's Office worked with Colorado's county clerks to complete a bipartisan post-election audit that verified the results of the election.

After the audit, each county's canvass board certified the election results. The canvass boards then submitted the final results to the Secretary of State's Office.

Returning a mail ballot was the preferred method for voters, with 92.2 percent of voters choosing to cast their mail ballot during the 2024 General Election — a total of 2,988,864 total ballots returned — and only 7.8 percent of voters choosing to vote in-person — 251,685 total ballots returned.

2024 General Election statistics

Total active voters: 4,074,680.
Turnout among active voters: 3,240,549 (79.5 percent).

Ballots cast by unaffiliated voters: 1,457,199 (44.97 percent of total ballots cast).

Ballots cast by Democrat voters: 895,070 (27.62 percent of total ballots cast).

Ballots cast by Republican voters: 826,510 (25.51 percent of total ballots cast).

A total of 18,456 voters used TXT-2Cure to cure a signature or ID discrepancy with their ballot in the 2024 General Election.

For complete 2024 General Election results, please visit the Election Night Reporting page.

For the statewide abstract of votes cast for the 2024 General Election, visit <https://www.coloradosos.gov/pubs/elections/Results/2024/2024GeneralElectionStateAbstract.pdf>.

Letters

The SUN welcomes letters from readers.

Please submit your letter electronically in a format that can be copied and pasted to editor@pagosasun.com or via the form at www.pagosasun.com. Letters must not be in all capitals.

All letters must:

- be 500 words or less
- include the actual first and last name of the author
- include the author's address and daytime phone number
- 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.

Letters quoting other people must contain proper attribution.

There is no guarantee letters will be published.

Poetry, anonymous letters, letters that are libelous or in poor taste, or that attack a private citizen or business will not be published.

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.

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

Thank you

Dear Editor:
Thank you, John Meyer, for your letter to the editor titled JOE LIES, in the December 5 issue of the Pagosa Sun. Speaking of Joe's Democratic political party, you said, "Anyone would be a fool to believe anything their party leaders said from this day forward."

I couldn't have said it better myself. Two thumbs up, John!
Sonny Kelley

Changes likely

Dear Editor:
After Jan 20th, abrupt changes are likely to Social Security payments, Medicare and Medicaid protections, and personal freedoms and rights. Financial hardship will follow any proposed tariff, causing food scarcity and rising gas prices. After Inauguration Day, many Americans will shake off electoral numbness, noticing a pattern.

Connect the dots between major American financial events in recent history — they were all orchestrated to transfer massive wealth from workers to the very rich, shifts clearly visible on timeline charts showing wealth disparity in America. These include the Savings and Loan scandal of the early 1990s; the housing bubble and resulting recession of 2008; and the 2017 tax cuts giving a free pass to corporations, investors, and lords of finance — the ones who strategize how to empty more pockets from the decks of their yachts. The most recent plan (Senate Bill 4912) would trade some \$100B of Fort Knox gold to pay for cryptocurrency, the financier's absolutely worthless equivalent of monopoly money. Devastating trade for folks who work for a living, but rejoice — the rich would benefit immensely, yet another robbery in broad daylight inspired by obscene greed.

Television has effectively conditioned us to be passive spectators, granted. But as the devastation from eviscerated government programs wakes us up, we can own our power. Join us, your Durango neighbors this Saturday Dec 14th at 3pm at the Durango Public Library to plan how to defend against the next round of gutting our nation's wealth.

Kirby MacLaurin
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Obituaries

Duncan Lawrie

Duncan Lawrie, 81, died in the comfort of his home on Nov. 26, 2024. He died after over 30 years battling arterial sclerosis, diabetes and PXE. He grew up in South Chicago and spent most of his life in the Midwest and on airplanes. The highlight of his life was marrying the love of his life, Linda Zapf, in 1974.



He was an emeritus professor of computer science and head of the department at the University of Illinois Urbana campus. His area of interest was supercomputer software and architecture. Dr. Lawrie served on numerous advisory committees, mostly in the government, and was elected president of the IEEE Computer Society, the world's largest and oldest organization for computer professionals. He also started two companies, DHL Consulting LLC and Fort Lawrie Technical Services. He was well known as a conservative and asked once if he would accept a blood

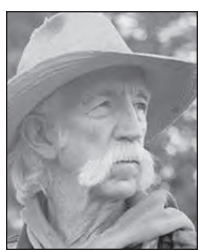
transfusion, his reply was "only from conservative donors." After "retiring" to Pagosa, he was an active volunteer for the Humane Society of Pagosa Springs, the Colorado Mounted Rangers and the San Juan Mounted Patrol. He was also a volunteer with the Archuleta County Sheriff's Office, serving for many years with Search and Rescue and the Incident Management Group, and was a special deputy. He believes everyone should have firearm safety training and was an NRA firearms instructor and chief range safety officer. He also enjoyed amateur radio and earned the highest amateur license, "Extra" (K1DHL).

He was predeceased by his parents and several dogs: Oliver, Stanley, Kukla, Willsie, Harry, Bodie, Harley, Jack, Reggie and Roxie. He is survived by his wife, Linda; brother, Jud; his dogs, Finn and Oakley; many friends; and nieces and nephews. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to St. Jude or Shriners.

Dennis Ernest Schutz

4/1/1949-12/1/2024
Dennis Ernest Schutz was born April 1, 1949, in Santa Fe, N.M. to Er-

nie and Dorothy Schutz. He passed away in Abilene, Texas, Dec. 1, 2024. Dennis lived his life in Chromo and Pagosa Springs. He graduated from Pagosa Springs High School in 1967 and Fort Lewis College in 1971. He married Nancy Sorrels in 1970 and they had two sons, Alan and Adam. After graduating he taught school, coached basketball and football, and drove the school bus.



Dennis went on to work for the Colorado Department of Highways in Pagosa and eventually on Wolf Creek Pass. He was the ranch manager at the At Last Ranch. Upon leaving At Last Ranch, he went to school to be a farrier. This allowed him to fuel his lifelong passion for quarter horses. His dream of being able to live in Chromo was fulfilled when he became the manager of the Catspaw Ranch at the base of the Navajo Peaks. He married Michelle Tate in the spring of 1994. Together they enjoyed the ranch and living in Florida during the winter months.

He was always most comfortable in the mountains. He could hike for miles, always having the energy to go a little farther. He was responsible for Banded Peaks becoming a coveted destination for guided elk hunts and was thrilled to have his sons, Alan and Adam, join him as hunting guides. Dennis touched the lives of many with his quick wit and bizarre sense of humor.

He is preceded in death by Ernest and Dorothy Schutz; Harold and Ruth Schutz; Cathy Schutz; and Michelle Tate.

Dennis is survived by brothers Don and Dick, sons Alan and Adam, and grandchildren Chase and Maci. Dennis will be returned to the mountains where he belongs.

Maurice Woodruff

Maurice Woodruff, born Sept. 25, 1939, passed away on Dec. 6, 2024.

A celebration of life is planned for the spring.

An obituary will be printed in a future issue of The SUN.



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El Pomar Foundation recognizes 20 years of Regional Partnerships program

By Erin Hannan
El Pomar Foundation

Founded in 1937 by Spencer and Julie Penrose, El Pomar Foundation was established as a private foundation to make grants in support of the well-being of the people of Colorado.

For more than 87 years, the foundation has done this through its state-wide grant-making and charitable programs totaling more than \$700 million.

In 2003, the Foundation committed to increasing its investment and relationships across the state by engaging local voices in its grant making through a unique program called Regional Partnerships.

Now 20 years in, this program has become a cornerstone of the foundation's grant initiatives and will be enhanced with additional resources in 2025.

In late 2023, El Pomar celebrated the 20th anniversary of Regional Partnerships. This trailblazing program decentralizes a portion of the foundation's grant making by engaging local community members across the state to recommend grants in their respective regions.

Currently, with more than 70 community leaders serving as regional council members in 11 regions across Colorado, the program helps the foundation build relationships with local communities and deploy resources to address and more effectively serve the needs of Colorado's varied regions.

In the 20 years of Regional Partnerships, regional councils' recommendations have led to nearly 3,300 grants to more than 1,100 individual organizations, in all 64 counties, totaling nearly \$34.5 million.

The impact has also been seen in the foundation's core competitive application process.

Recently completed analysis confirms in the 20-year period since the program's inception, the foundation's total number of rural grant applications increased by 124 percent, number of grants awarded to rural applicants increased by 209 percent, and dollars awarded to rural communities increased by 86 percent, compared with these totals in the 20-year period prior.

This has created a seismic shift in the total number of the foundation's annual grants awarded from principally urban to principally rural.

"Over the years, and in large part thanks to the Regional Partnerships

program, the foundation has been able to triple the number of grants to rural Colorado," said Maureen Lawrence, El Pomar senior vice president, general counsel and Regional Partnerships program officer. "The fundamental principle of the program is that those individuals who live and work in a particular community are going to know best what their needs are and how the foundation's resources can address those needs."

History of Regional Partnerships Program

In 2003, El Pomar Foundation sought to create a mechanism that would deepen the foundation's impact through grant making across the state, notably in Southern Colorado and rural communities, which had historically received fewer grants than more urban communities along Colorado's Front Range.

The foundation also recognized it did not have the expertise in these communities and therefore sought to build a network of local community voices to inform the foundation's grant making across the state. Over a several-year period, the foundation began establishing regional councils.

By 2012, the foundation operated 11 regional councils that cover all 64 of Colorado's counties.

"Our founders Spencer and Julie Penrose established the mission to enhance, encourage and promote the current and future well-being of the people of Colorado, and this program fueled this mission well beyond our expectations," said El Pomar President and CEO Kyle H. Hybl.

This place-based model convenes a council of local leaders within each region with a deep understanding of their communities, totaling more than 70 individuals around the state.

Regional council members have a history of community engagement; come from diverse backgrounds in the business, nonprofit and public sectors, as well as elected offices; and are knowledgeable about the needs of their communities.

Each regional council provides up to \$200,000 in grant recommendations to El Pomar's trustees annually, with the potential for a combined annual impact of more than \$2.2 million statewide.

El Pomar Northwest Regional Council member Dana Duran said, "Instead of people coming in and saying, 'OK community, here's how you can do better,' El Pomar says, 'OK,

community, how can you do better?' And how can we be a partner in that?"

A unique model

Because of the Regional Partnerships program, El Pomar has grown its rural grant making and built relationships with communities across Colorado.

The foundation's trustees, leadership team and fellows all participate in regional council work, creating meaningful connections in the regions they support. This includes quality time spent in the regions, getting to know people, places, organizations and issues.

"El Pomar has an important role to play, because of the grant dollars we can provide in the region, but also our physical presence," said El Pomar board chair Dave Palenchar. "By going out into the regions, listening to our regional council members, observing their concerns and their interests, it really helps balance out our understanding of the state."

The uniqueness of the program benefits the foundation's work in other ways, as well.

For example, when El Pomar's Colorado Assistance Fund is activated in times of crisis, such as during COVID, in response to wildfires and in the wake of the 2008 Great Recession, regional councils are invaluable in quickly identifying organizations and initiatives in each corner of the state where funding can be deployed immediately.

With a connected network of community leaders, the councils are also a resource to each other for creative cross-region solution-building.

This unique model of engaging local leaders, together with a broad base of staff and trustees, leads to valuable firsthand knowledge about the various needs of each region around the state and, ultimately, to more informed and effective grant making.

According to El Pomar Southeast Regional Council member Melanie Bravo, "The Regional Partnerships program has done so much to elevate the critical rural voice, which we absolutely need, not only in philanthropy but in all sectors."

Community news.

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Business

Make plans to recycle your Christmas tree

By Mary Jo Coulehan
Pagosa Springs Area Chamber of Commerce

We are full-blown into the holiday spirit, including decorating those Christmas trees.

Whether you are able to get out and cut your own or purchase one from several of the stores that have them for sale, unless it was a live tree that you will be replanting, you will be looking to take it out of the house and dispose of it.

Please think of recycling your tree for the annual WinterFest Bonfire to be held on Jan. 17, 2025.

The recycling point for the trees will be held again at the Archuleta County Fairgrounds at 344 U.S. 84, just south of the U.S. 160 and U.S. 84 intersection.

The entrance to drop off your trees will be the entrance off U.S. 84. If you pull into the fairgrounds, just drive about 10 yards and you will see the depository and signage just south of the entrance on your right. Just create a large pile; however, be cognizant

not to block the drive that goes back to the grouping of historic buildings.

We ask that you remove ornaments from the trees and do not recycle fake trees. Only real trees will be accepted.

We would love to see a large number of trees as the WinterFest bonfire event is expected to grow in popularity this year.

The bonfire will kick off the WinterFest activities, which will take place from Jan. 17 to Jan. 19, 2025.

Included this year will be the Bonfire on the 17th; the hot air balloon mass ascensions on Jan. 18 and 19, 2025, from the west side of town; the Penguin Plunge, Sledz on Rez and the Barkus Parade on Jan. 18, 2025; and Skijoring and Nordic Club events on Jan. 18 and 19, 2025, with a dance hosted by Skijor Pagosa the night of Jan. 18, 2025. There will also be a March for Equality held on Jan. 18, 2025.

It's shaping up to be a very busy WinterFest weekend. If your organization is interested in "taking the plunge," Penguin Plunge applications are already available online at www.pagosachamber.com.

pagosachamber.com.

Scroll down on the homepage to "More in the News" and click on the WinterFest graphic. This link will take you to the WinterFest site where all the events are listed and the forms available for some of the events.

This is a great and fun — albeit cold — time for your organization to make some money by jumping into the frigid San Juan River.

Registration is \$30 per plunger and you must raise a minimum of \$50 for the valid nonprofit agency.

Families and organizations will also want to get involved in the Sledz on Rez event. Registration forms for this activity will be on the Chamber website soon.

Contribute to the blaze that will be happening on Jan. 17, 2025. Come out for hot drinks, live music, food and lots of winter fun.

For more information, contact the Chamber at (970) 264-2360.

Holiday activities

Mark your calendars for the Old Fashioned Christmas occurring on

Saturday, Dec. 21, from 5 to 7 p.m.

A variety of community organizations and businesses will be along the Riverwalk creating the ambiance of community spirit.

The Chamber will be on hand again in the Visitor Center handing out free hot chocolate. Live music, a BB gun drawing, free ornaments and other activities will be taking place that evening.

Bundle up and head out for a walk downtown for the Old Fashioned Christmas.

Download the Visit Pagosa Springs app and tour the area for the annual Parade of Lights.

Residents, businesses and storefronts are competing for cash and cash-equivalent prizes. When you download the app, you can also vote online while you are out and about. Bundle the family into the car and drive around looking at some of the gorgeous displays all around the community.

Go to www.visitpagosasprings.com, download the app, go to the "tour" section of the website and have fun.

October sales tax revenue up nearly 14 percent

By Garrett Fevinger
Staff Writer

October sales tax collections increased by nearly 14 percent compared to last year's figures, according to reports released Dec. 9 by Archuleta County Finance Director Chad Eaton.

Eaton notes the Town of Pagosa Springs and Archuleta County received a total of \$1,718,686.22 from October tax revenues, with \$859,248.46 going to the town and \$859,437.76 going to the county.

The 13.83 percent increase from last year accounts for an additional \$226,368.658, according to the report,

which highlights the categories that are up in comparison to October 2023, including:

- Construction at 39.65 percent, or \$16,338.10.
- Retail trade at 18.26 percent, or \$162,368.38.
- Information at 6.26 percent, or \$1,634.25.

• Finance and insurance at 35.44 percent, or \$638.76.

• Real estate and rental and leasing at 14.89 percent, or \$5,596.82.

• Accommodation and food services at 8.77 percent, or \$28,668.53.

• Other services (except public administration) at 44.19 percent, or \$11,271.09.

• Miscellaneous at 10.18 percent, or \$21,117.85.

According to the report, categories that were down in comparison to October 2023 were:

• Manufacturing at 23.82 percent, or \$16,164.56.

• Professional, scientific and technical services at 39.02 percent, or \$5,100.54.

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Colorado Natural Medicine Division to begin accepting license applications on Dec. 31

Colorado Department of Revenue

The Colorado Department of Revenue's Natural Medicine Division (NMD) has completed its rulemaking for the state's new natural medicine program and will begin accepting license applications on Dec. 31.

The NMD's final rules are now in effect and will guide the licensing and regulation of natural medicine healing centers, cultivations, manufacturers, testing facilities, and their owners and employees.

The Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA) will license and regulate facilitators of natural medicine services.

The program's initial application and license compliance fees were adopted Oct. 25 and will take effect Dec. 31. Based on stakeholder feedback, the division intentionally

kept fees lower in the first year of the regulated program to lower barriers to entry and incentivize participation.

"As a new division, we are grateful for what we have learned from the diverse perspectives of stakeholders who participated in our listening sessions and rulemaking meetings," said Dominique Mendiola, senior director of the NMD and the state's Marijuana Enforcement Division. "We are only the second state in the nation to legalize natural medicine — after Oregon — so we are committed to standing up a regulatory framework that reflects both the will of the voters and the direction of the Colorado General Assembly through proactive collaboration with stakeholders."

As the division prepares to accept applications at the end of the year, most of the division staff, including the leadership team, will serve both the

NMD and the Marijuana Enforcement Division. These staffing decisions will provide relief to each agency's budget, keep costs lower for license fees and applications, and create lean, efficient regulatory agencies.

More information about the natural medicine license application process will be posted on the NMD website.

About the NMD

The establishment of the NMD follows the enactment of Senate Bill 23-290, which entrusted the Department of Revenue with the responsibility to regulate and license various aspects of natural medicine operations in Colorado.

The division will collaborate closely with DORA and the Natural Medicine Advisory Board, facilitated by DORA, to develop rules and processes.

Colorado Housing and Finance Authority donates to local nonprofits

By Matt Lynn
Colorado Housing and Finance Authority

Colorado Housing and Finance Authority (CHFA) is proud to announce its Round Two 2024 Direct Effect Award recipients. In this round, CHFA is donating \$1,476,000 to 115 nonprofits across Colorado. The average award amount is \$12,835.

CHFA's Direct Effect Awards recognize Colorado nonprofit organizations whose missions align with CHFA's work to strengthen Colorado by investing in affordable housing and community development. Eligible Direct Effect Award recipients include nonprofit and not-for-profit organizations including public housing authorities and local governments. Through its Direct Effect Awards CHFA has donated more than \$7.5 million to more than 475

Colorado organizations since 2021. Local organizations receiving funding include:

- A Safe Place in Pagosa Inc.: \$7,500.
- First Southwest Community Fund: \$20,000.
- Housing Solutions for the Southwest: \$15,000
- TARA Historical Society: \$7,500.

You can learn more about each organization and how Direct Effect will support its work on CHFA's website at bit.ly/3VAWgrl.

CHFA is not a state agency and does not receive any direct state or federal appropriations.

CHFA is a self-sufficient, quasi-governmental organization serving Colorado. The Direct Effect Awards are funded by directing a portion of CHFA's program investments and earnings to provide philanthropic support and strengthen the capacity of mission-aligned nonprofits throughout Colorado.

Please visit chfa.info.com/directeffect for more information.

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Town's Design Review Board approves blueprint for expansion and renovation of library

By Derek Kutzer
Staff Writer

On Dec. 10, the Pagosa Springs Planning Commission, acting in its role as the Design Review Board, approved the final major design application for the Ruby M. Sisson Memorial Library.

The plans are to renovate and expand the facility by more than 3,000 square feet.

The library's current footprint is an existing 7,500-square-foot building, and the proposed project includes interior and exterior upgrades, as well as "full-site improvements," which include "reconfiguring the existing parking lot, a large community reading garden and a smaller children's garden," an agenda document states.

A project overview document, prepared by the project's architects, Reynolds Ash + Associates, states, "Overall, the Library has not had a major renovation or expansion in nearly 20 years and is in need of more space for programming and service space."

On Aug. 20, the Design Review Board approved the sketch design application for the library with certain conditions, including stormwater and snow storage plans, verification from utility providers about their ability to serve the expanded facilities, and detailed lighting and landscaping plans.

Development Director James Dickhoff explained to the board that he thought the application mostly addressed these conditions, with exception to the exterior lighting plans.

But, he added, this issue could be addressed when the library seeks its certificate of occupancy and, therefore, should not hold up the approval of the final design application.

"I'm not quite sure about the compliance of those [lights] ... it's hard to tell from the specs if they'll be compliant," he told the board.

He said that he "would like to work with the design team to make sure that the light fixtures are compliant" with



Rendering courtesy Reynolds Ash + Associates, Town of Pagosa Springs

A rendering of the southeast view of the approved design plans for the expansion and renovation of the Ruby M. Sisson Memorial Library.

the town's Land Use and Development Code (LUDC) before they place an order for the lights.

Lauren Davis, representing the design team at Reynolds Ash + Associates, explained that the bulk of the expansion of the library would be directed toward the south of the property.

She told the board that there were some minor changes since the sketch plans were approved in August, including a change in location of the building's entrance, as well as a lighter color palette with blue hues.

She noted that the design team really wanted to "get away from the drab builder brown" colors of the current building and "have some fun with the blues" in the new color palette.

"Overall, we're trying to lighten the colors with taupes and grays," she said.

On designs for the new outdoor areas, including a children's reading garden, she said that the new design "really enhances that site, giving more back to the public realm of the community with the outdoor spaces."

When opened to questions, board member Chris Pitcher asked Mike Davis, the engineer for the project, about potential problems with the culvert draining into McCabe Creek.

"This summer, we had a pretty

good rain event, and where that water goes into that culvert that goes underneath a portion of the library property ... it kinda filled up that area there pretty well, and I'm just curious, from a practical standpoint, if you think the flood map is accurate?" Pitcher asked.

Mike Davis replied, "Well, we know there's a problem."

When the Colorado Department of Transportation "replaced the pipe going across the highway ... they discovered that the pipe, where it ties into the huge area drain that's on the north side of the highway, that pipe is actually lower than that huge box, and so roughly half the capacity of that pipe is taken away and is probably already full of sediment, because that situation hasn't been addressed," Davis said.

He also said that he was not sure if the "flood map delineation" was "correct or not," but that he thought a hundred-year flood would produce a "broad and shallow flood event," and that he was not too concerned that it would be a problem for the library.

On the larger problem of the drainage in the area, he said, "That whole situation is just kinda messy. It's one of those where nobody wants to fix the problem over there."

"As far as this particular project, the

library's well above the highway elevation, so I don't foresee an issue for them," Davis said.

Pitcher explained that he just wanted to make sure that library is "fully aware" of the situation over there, and that it's "certainly something to think about from the town's perspective."

When the meeting was opened to public comment, Library Director Barb Brattin said, "There has been a lot of thought and hope put into this plan, and we really love it and we're really anxious to get started and get this underway."

She added, "I believe it's been a four-year project, so the town is ready, and I think this fits the character of Pagosa and it has a strong message to the community about how important they are because the library is well-loved, as you know, and can only grow."

Before a motion was made to approve the final design, Dickhoff explained that the town had recently received plans for snow storage and stormwater management, as well as design details for a trash enclosure and dimensioned site plan, which meant that a motion could be made to approve the application with no outstanding conditions.

When a motion was made to approve the application, it was unanimously passed by the board, with board members Julie Gurule and Kristen McCollam being absent from the meeting.

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Recreation use study identifies high use areas in Southwest Colorado's high alpine

By Laura Lewis Marchino
Region 9 Economic Development District

Two planning and management regions have collaborated on a recreation use study for the Central San Juans.

The Region 9 Economic Development District of Southwest Colorado and the Region 10 League for Economic Assistance and Planning Assistance have been working with stakeholders from six counties developing and implementing recommendations from the High Alpine Resiliency and Recovery Roadmap, part of the Colorado Rural Resiliency and Recovery Roadmaps program.

This stakeholder group, which

includes the high-alpine portions of Dolores, Hinsdale, San Juan, San Miguel and Ouray counties, began meeting in 2021 to address growing challenges resulting from visitor use of public lands.

The Recreation Use Study report highlights 10 focus areas: Lizard Head Pass; Handies, Sunshine and Redcloud Peaks; Cascade Creek; Blue Lakes and Mount Sneffels; Coal Bank and Molas Pass; Cunningham Gulch; Ophir Pass; South Mineral; Upper Hermosa — Bolam Pass; and the Nellie Creek Trailhead.

These areas were identified because they display a high level of sensitivity to recreation pressure and experience high recreational use.

The study provides a geospatial analysis of recreation use, an assessment of environmental sensitivity to recreation pressure and an aggregation of recreation infrastructure data across the six-county project area.

This information helped identify where recreation pressures are high and may threaten surrounding natural resources, and where infrastructure may need to be inventoried or reassessed to suit the needs of recreation use.

The report is available on both Region 9's and Region 10's websites at <https://region9edd.org/roadmap> and <https://region10.net/community-resources/community-development/resiliency-recovery-roadmap/>.

Tourism

Continued from front

analysis of the effectiveness of destinations, evaluating tax revenues, trends and marketing campaigns.

Green explained that the purpose of requesting sole-source funding is due to the lack of providers, noting she has not been able to find another company that can do the work the tourism board is requesting.

She also explained that the tourism board would have access to more lodging data that it currently does not.

The tourism board unanimously voted for recommendation of approval for the work during a regular meeting held on Nov. 19.

During that meeting, Green also explained that a letter was sent to the tourism board from local business asking for a third party to review the work of the tourism board to see if

"what we're doing is effective."

"This company would in fact provide that resource to the community," Green said, explaining that Blue Room would be an unbiased third party.

Green mentioned that Blue Room will begin by holding a workshop with the tourism board in order to understand what kind of data the community is after, and will be able to customize its research with specifics to the Pagosa Springs community.

"This would also provide a report that area businesses can leverage," she added.

Green explained that Blue Room has access to additional lodging data that the tourism board currently does not have.

She explained that there has been some concern amongst the lodgers in the community and their willingness

to participate in an average daily rate study due to it being perceived as proprietary information.

She went on to explain that if enough lodgers are willing to participate, then Blue Room will be able to use that data in its research but has agreed not share that data.

"So, that eliminates that concern," she said.

During the town council meeting, Green explained that the agreement with Blue Room includes an exit clause, mentioning that Blue Room has worked with multiple clients in Colorado and around the world and has yet to have any client execute that clause.

Green added that the research should provide an understanding of the data and will "hopefully [be] more useful for everyone."

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Ruling

Continued from front

sent a different take on the matter.

The case

The case resulting in Monday's opinion began in the fall of 2020, with Monday's opinion providing a brief history of the events leading up to the Supreme Court's involvement.

That fall, Roane filed a declaratory-judgment action against Archuleta County Clerk and Recorder Kristy Archuleta alleging that the board should have taken minutes of its Sept. 22 "work session."

Then, instead of submitting document requests under rules related to the litigation, the history included in the opinion states, Roane submitted a CORA request to Archuleta for documents related to the Sept. 22 "meeting" and a recording of the related Oct. 6, 2020, meeting.

The county denied Roane's request, with a letter from Archuleta County Attorney Todd Weaver stating that the county did not have to produce the materials because the CORA request was seeking to support Roane's motion for summary judgment in violation of CORA and the Colorado Rules of Civil Procedure (CRCP) Rule 34.

The denial also cited a 1980 court opinion — Martinelli vs. District Court.

"The letter didn't explain how the request would violate Rule 34," the court's opinion states.

Rule 34 relates to "Production of Documents and Things and Entry Upon Land for Inspection and Other Purposes," according to the CRCP.

In January 2021, Roane filed a lawsuit related to the CORA request, asking for an order to show cause for why the Oct. 6, 2020, recording should not be made available and make the recording available to him.

"The district court granted the motion to show cause, noting that Archuleta's argument 'presupposes that [C.R.C.P.] 16.1 prohibits [Roane] from preparing his case by obtaining evidence independent of the discovery and disclosure procedures outlined in Rule 16.1.' Because Rule 16.1 creates no such prohibition, the district court ordered Archuleta to produce the recording," the opinion states.

In February 2022, the county appealed the district court's order, "arguing that the district court erroneously permitted Roane to use a CORA request to 'supplant discovery practice in civil litigation, in complete contradiction to' Martinelli and City of Colorado Springs v. White ...," the order explains.

A division of the Court of Appeals disagreed.

The opinion explains, "In a unanimous published opinion, it held that the plain language of CORA, relevant Colorado caselaw, and persuasive precedent from other jurisdictions support Roane's position that litigation against a public entity doesn't preclude a litigant's use of CORA to inspect that entity's public records."

That ruling was then appealed to the Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court takes the case

The case was argued in front of the Supreme Court on Sept. 24.

Oral arguments on behalf of Archuleta were made by Weaver with the rebuttal arguments made by Andrw Ringel, who represents amicus curiae Colorado Counties Inc.

Arguments on behalf of Roane were made by Tim Macdonald of the amici curiae American Civil Liberties Union of Colorado and Colorado Freedom of Information Coalition.

Each side was allowed 20 minutes to present arguments and answer questions from the justices.

The opinion released on Dec. 9 indicates that standard of review, commonplace principles of interpretation, CORA, rules of civil procedure, Colorado caselaw, federal precedent interpreting the Freedom

of Information Act and other states' understanding of similar open records statutes are taken into account during analysis.

In the analysis portion relating to CORA and the rules of civil procedure, the opinion notes Rule 34 governs the production of documents, but doesn't address requests for open records.

Rule 16.1, "which governs cases subject to simplified procedures such as Roane's declaratory-judgment action against the Board, limit litigants to five document requests, but it doesn't address CORA requests by litigants," it notes.

It adds, "More to the point, none of the relevant rules prohibits a CORA request during litigation. And we are not at liberty to fashion such a rule here. ... Likewise, we are not free to simply treat a CORA request as constituting a request for production of documents in related litigation. Even if we could, line-drawing problems would quickly emerge."

It further indicates that statute as a whole "indicates that both avenues — discovery requests and CORA — are available to litigants."

It later notes nothing in CORA's "plain language limits inspection simply because the public entity is being sued by the requester. On the contrary, the plain language strongly suggests that Roane's request to Archuleta was proper under CORA."

The opinion then looks at the county's argument under the Martinelli case, with the county arguing that Martinelli "interpreted CORA as preventing civil litigants from using the statute to bypass discovery procedures."

It adds, "The division observed, however, that Martinelli simply 'stands for the proposition that CORA does not bar production of documents otherwise producible in civil litigation.' ... We agree with the division."

It further notes that under the Colorado Springs case, the court concluded that CORA incorporated "common-law privileges" and that it "did not interpret them to prohibit the use of CORA by litigants against a public entity."

The opinion later states the Courts in Indiana, Tennessee and Virginia have interpreted their states' open records act to permit an individual requesting inspection from a public entity when the individual is engaged in litigation.

It notes that other states with a pending-litigation exemption "put the statutory exception on the books."

It gives Michigan and Vermont as examples and suggests that if the Colorado General Assembly wishes to add an exception, it could do so (subject to judicial review), but hasn't yet.

'Grave concern' and 'far-reaching' impacts

Portions of the 17-page opinion include differing opinions from Marquez and Samour that express "grave concern."

"I ultimately agree that Matt Roane was entitled to obtain the recording of the Archuleta County Board of Commissioners' meeting, but only because it amounted to a proper discovery request under the rules of civil procedure promulgated by this court—not because it was a proper request under the Colorado Open Records Act," Marquez wrote.

Marquez continues, "I write separately to express my grave concern with the majority's ruling today, which misconstrues CORA, misreads our decision in Martinelli v. District Court, ... and inexplicably cedes our exclusive constitutional authority to promulgate rules governing litigation in our courts. In so doing, today's decision creates a lopsided litigation environment that will disadvantage public entities subject to CORA and will undermine trial courts' ability under the Colorado Rules of Civil Pro-

cedure to actively manage discovery in civil cases involving such public entities. And it will impact not only cases governed by C.R.C.P. 16.1, but also more complex cases governed by C.R.C.P. 16.

"Moreover, today's decision does all of this unnecessarily. The same result could easily be reached by treating Roane's request as appropriate under the rules of civil procedure. Because today's decision needlessly undermines Colorado's constitutional separation of powers and distorts the litigation process for public entities across the state, I respectfully concur only in the judgment."

Marquez also addresses the court's prior ruling in Martinelli.

"The question before us is whether a party who is litigating a civil action against a public entity may rely on CORA to request documents for purposes of that specific litigation, rather than follow the discovery rules set forth in the Colorado Rules of Civil Procedure promulgated by this court. The answer is no. As we made clear decades ago in Martinelli, Colorado's open records laws are not intended to 'supplant discovery practice in litigation,'" it states.

It further suggests the Colorado Constitution is the appropriate starting point for analysis, not CORA, and discusses the court's rulemaking power under the state constitution, as well as matters relating to discovery requests.

"In sum, once the trial court's jurisdiction has been invoked through litigation, the rules of procedure promulgated by this court govern that litigation, including the rules of discovery that govern the production and inspection of documents. Nothing in CORA overrides this fundamental principle," it states.

Marquez's portion further addresses CORA and Martinelli, stating, "Contrary to the majority's reasoning, both CORA and our decision in Martinelli expressly recognize the primacy of this court's procedural rules in the context of litigation."

It notes that the majority of the court reasoned that none of the rules of procedure governing discovery prohibits a CORA request during litigation, but suggests that the state's rules of civil procedure "expressly limit the production and inspection of documents in litigation — the very subject matter of CORA."

It later explains, "More fundamentally, the majority's analysis misconstrues CORA's relationship to this court's rulemaking authority."

Marquez later writes that she disagrees with the majority's reading of Martinelli, pointing out that the point of Martinelli was that the "court's rules of procedure — not CORA — establish the applicable limits of what is discoverable in the context of litigation."

Following an analysis of non-Colorado law, which it notes is "unhelpful here," Marquez addresses the impact of the ruling.

"The impact of today's ruling is far-reaching," Marquez wrote. "Although this case involves a single request for production of documents in a simplified Rule 16.1 proceeding, today's decision will affect all civil litigation."

It adds the decision "effectively nullifies our discovery rules in civil litigation involving public entities subject to CORA."

Marquez wrote, "After today, litigants who sue public entities can file unlimited CORA requests for the inspection of documents they would otherwise have to acquire through the rules of discovery. And they can do so without regard to discovery deadlines or limitations."

After discussing the impacts to

timelines and rules of discovery, Marquez writes, "What is particularly unsettling about today's ruling is that it results in an uneven playing field in litigation for state agencies and local government entities subject to CORA. Those entities must abide by discovery limits and deadlines, but after today's ruling, their private opponents need not do the same. Indeed, a private litigant could submit a flurry of CORA requests simply to overwhelm an opposing public entity during litigation, including on the eve of trial. The potential impact on public entities cannot be overstated."

"Any suggestion that a trial court can simply manage this new environment by regulating the admission of documents on the back end is wishful thinking and is unfair to our trial courts."

It later suggests all of the impacts could have been "readily avoided," noting Roane was entitled to five document requests.

"To resolve the dispute before us, I would simply construe Roane's request as a proper discovery request and allow it," Marquez wrote.

Marquez states in the conclusion that the decision unnecessarily relinquishes power and that CORA will be used to supplant discovery practice in civil litigation.

"Our rules of civil procedure demand active management of discovery in litigation to secure the just, speedy, and inexpensive determination of every action. Evenhanded application of those rules ensures equal treatment of all parties who come before our courts, including government and public entities. Today's decision not only upsets decades of

See Ruling A8

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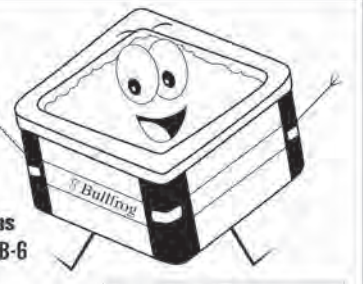
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Continued from front
with a higher price per square foot that has easier utility access.

"Since we're talking about taxpayer dollars, I really took the approach of what's the most cost effective ... for the county," Bernburg said.

He explained that the property analysis includes seven properties that the county provided as potential sites.

According to the prospective property analysis, those seven sites include a property on Alpha Drive, 2901 Cornerstone Drive, two properties on West U.S. 160, a property on Rob Snow Road, 342 Harman Park Drive and 1050 San Juan St.

Bernburg mentioned that based solely on price per square foot, there is a "pretty wide range of dollar amounts," but in general properties with a lower price per square foot have more work needed.

According to the prospective property analysis, the price per square foot of the seven properties ranges from 97 cents for the Harman Park property up to \$10.79 per square foot for the Cornerstone property.

Bernburg also mentioned that he reviewed 20 other properties currently on the market within Archuleta County, noting he found an average price per square foot to be \$8 to \$10, and that only one of those properties is larger than one acre.

Bernburg went on to mention that his report does not include the potential costs of traffic impacts that could be associated with any of the properties, noting that he is not a traffic engineer and does not have the expertise to advise the county on potential traffic impacts.

Bernburg mentioned that the properties toward the west of town are more level, which could help eliminate costs during construction.

"I think that's an important part of this. I think qualitatively," he said, noting that rock removal is costly.

He went on to explain that finding a property that has less of that type of work needed "makes more sense in the long run for the county."

Bernburg also spoke about the county's options for purchasing a property, explaining that the county could purchase a property outright with cash or go through a financing process.

Bernburg commented that "cash investment is particularly lucrative" for local governments right now.

In his report, Bernburg provides an illustrative scoring table for the seven properties being considered by the county, which reflects the Alpha Drive property as scoring the highest.

He explained that the properties were given scores in categories such as price per square foot, available infrastructure, accessibility, cost and location.

He mentioned that the properties on the west end of town saw the most difference in price points due to the "well-established infrastructure" in the area.

"While there are some properties that are very attractively priced by square foot dollars, the amount of work you would have to do would add time and money," he said.

Bernburg explained that his top two recommendations are the Alpha Drive property and the Cornerstone property, because those are the two properties that are most likely to have the least number of unknowns during construction.

He added that he is not able to foresee every potential unknown, but that, through his knowledge and experience, he is able to analyze the properties and determine which one is the most likely to produce the least number of unknowns.

"So, to the extent that we can limit that, I think makes more sense from a fiduciary standard," he said.

Bernburg then spoke more about the county's options for financing, noting that local governments typically use certifications of participation on lease-purchase financing.

"That's literally how essential asset infrastructure gets built in Colorado on a local level," he said, explaining that voters have not shown to be in favor of funding new county buildings because they don't understand the value of it.

"That's why lease-purchase financing exists in Colorado, because ultimately a lot of these things needed to get built and couldn't rely on the other options," he said.

Bernburg mentioned that the county currently has a good bond rating, which gives the county more options for financing.

"Your credit is so good that people are going to want to invest anyway," he said.

County Manager Jack Harper indicated that the new administration building is planned to be approximately 30,000 square feet and will

house all of the county's departments except for Road and Bridge, Human Services, Public Health and the sheriff's office.

Commissioner Veronica Medina asked how much land would be used for parking for a building of that size.

Bernburg explained that he would need to know how many people will be in the building, and that he would need to follow up to provide an answer to that.

Medina commented that the members of the community are saying the county is looking to build a "Taj Mahal" style administration building, which she stated is certainly not the case.

"They're all wonderful properties in my opinion, but some make more sense than others," Bernburg said, explaining that he takes his fiduciary duty seriously while considering the impacts this will have on residents.

He noted that land that is close to being "shovel ready" is priced accordingly.

"If one doesn't work, I think there's other workable options," he added.

The matter was originally listed on the BoCC's meeting agenda for Dec. 10 for the board to vote on letters of intent on multiple properties and a purchase and sales agreement with one of those companies, ArenaLabs, but was removed in order to schedule a public meeting for residents to provide comment on the matter.

During the work session, Medina stated that the matter would be removed from the afternoon meeting agenda to give the public the opportunity to speak on the topic, "because we're absolutely gonna do what we said we were going to do."

Commissioner Warren Brown commented that Bernburg's report should provide the information that the public is wanting and the county is now "much better suited to make a good financial decision."

On Monday, Dec. 16, from 5:30 to 7 p.m., Harper and County Attorney Todd Weaver will host an informational meeting in regard to the purchasing of approximately five acres of land for a new administration building, according to a press release from Archuleta County Communication Specialist Ashley Springer.

The press release notes that members of the BoCC will not be present during the Dec. 16 meeting.

Residents can also sign up to give public comment on the matter during

the regular BoCC meeting scheduled for Tuesday, Dec. 17, at 1:30 p.m. at 398 Lewis St.

The county originally approved a letter of engagement with Northland Securities during a regular meeting held on Oct. 15, "to provide advice for the funding of Capital Projects for Archuleta County," the Oct. 15 agenda states.

According to the letter of engagement, Archuleta County (the issuer) seeks to engage Northland Securities to serve as underwriter, and not as a financial advisor or municipal advisor, in connection with the issuance of certificates of participation for a new administrative building (the issue).

The letter also notes, "Northland's compensation is based on the size of the Issue and is contingent on the closing of the Issue."

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Ruling

Continued from A7
settled expectations under Martinelli, but it upends the litigation playing field and will negatively impact government and public entities subject to CORA," it states.

Reactions

In an email to The SUN, Roane writes: "This case has been going on for almost four years. The County was like a dog on a bone. It just would not let the matter drop despite adverse rulings from Judge Wilson and the Court of Appeals. Because of the County's tenacity though, we now have a final ruling from the Supreme Court that is binding on every court in the state of Colorado. There are no more appeals available. There will be no more confusion moving forward. That clarity in the law completely justifies the past four years of work."

"I am very pleased with the Su-

preme Court's decision. It's a huge win for the little guy. Public records in Archuleta County belong to the citizens. They are our records. The County simply has the job of preserving them for us until we want to use them. I think that point gets forgotten downtown, sometimes. As the Supreme Court said, citizens should be able to use public records for any lawful purpose we like, including litigation. To that end, the County is the librarian of our public records, not the guard dog.

"I think the County's concern that record requests will unfairly burden governmental entities in litigation moving forward is a strawman. The County is crying crocodile tears. A lawsuit between the government and a citizen never presents a level playing field. The government has been using its vastly greater resources to squash pro se citizens in litigation forever. To whatever extent a few pub-

lic record requests helps un-tilt that playing field, I am sure the government can handle it. It still enjoys just about every other built-in advantage imaginable in litigation. I'm glad citizens now get one small tool to use in the battle."

In his statement to The SUN, Weaver wrote, "I am disappointed in the Colorado Supreme Court's opinion as it is not the result I was hoping for on behalf of my client. However, I do take solace in the concurrence of Chief Justice Marquez and Justice Samour as they grasped the far-reaching implications of the Court's opinion and the uneven playing field faced by public entities subject to the Colorado Open Records Act in litigation. The only recourse left is to introduce legislation with the General Assembly to add a litigation exception to the Colorado Open Records Act as other states have done, such as Michigan and Vermont."

Award

Continued from front
of the Riverwalk trail.

The GOCO grant will support the first phase of the project, which includes an environmental assessment, site clean up, design planning, boat ramp installation and improved parking. The design process will help determine a second round of improvements at the site.

"The community has been searching for an opportunity to create a true public river access point on the upstream end of the town," said David Hilborn, Pagosa Springs project manager. "This project will provide that and so much more for the public's ability to access and enjoy the river corridor."

Various community surveys over the past decade informed the project, which also aligns with the Pagosa

Springs Town Council's goals for 2023-2024.

This effort complements ongoing efforts to improve the San Juan River corridor, including the Pagosa Gateway River Improvement Project, a partnership between the town, the Upper San Juan Watershed Enhancement Partnership, Trout Unlimited and others to enhance ecological health and recreational opportunities along the river.

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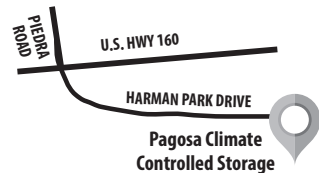


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Sports

BASKETBALL



SUN photo/Randi Pierce

Lady Pirate Ximena Garcia dribbles past a Gunnison defender during the team's 52-22 win Dec. 7 in Pagosa Springs. Garcia finished with eight points.



SUN photo/Randi Pierce

Lady Pirates Amber Snarr and Kaila Limebrook fight for possession of the ball during the team's 52-26 season-opening win Dec. 5 in Pagosa Springs.

Lady Pirates sail to 2-0 at Wolf Creek Classic

By Garrett Fevinger
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Lady Pirate basketball team enjoyed two consecutive wins at home to begin the 2024-2025 season at the Wolf Creek Classic last week, showcasing the same pressure defense that propelled the squad to an Intermountain League title last season.

The Lady Pirates defeated the Grand Junction Central Warriors 52-26 Thursday, limiting their 5A opponents to single-digit scoring for the first three quarters of the game and outshooting the Warriors throughout.

From the game's opening minutes when the squad took a 6-3 lead, offensive rebounds, steals, and chants of "defense" ringing from the bench helped the Lady Pirates dominate both ends of its home court.

It was a lead they never relinquished, and, by the end of the third, Grand Junction found itself facing a 23-point deficit.

The Warriors staged a late rally in

the fourth, notching as many points as they had in the previous three quarters combined, but the Lady Pirates met that effort with their own 16-point run — their highest of the night.

Leading the Lady Pirates in scoring were Elizabeth Currier with 15 points, Karsyn Shahan with 10 and Kylie Ketchum with nine.

"The leadership and experience they bring to our team is something we will rely on all season long," coach Sarah Osborn wrote in an email to *The SUN*, recalling the three seniors' performances. "They went out there and set the pace of the game early and it was great to see our younger varsity players follow their lead."

Shahan led the team in rebounds with four offensive and three defensive, followed by Amber Snarr's four defensive and two offensive. Kaila Limebrook brought down five for the night — one defensive and four offensive.

Charity Domingo led the team in assists, adding three to the team's 11.

Currier had the team's only block.

The squad finished with 16 turnovers, but countered that with 24 steals led by Shahan — who added five — followed by Snarr, Lexi Campbell and Currier, who each added four.

The Lady Pirates maintained Thursday's form against 3A Gunnison on Saturday, winning 52-22 in another defensive display that held the visitors to single-digit scores for the first, third and fourth quarters.

In contrast, Pagosa scored more than 10 points in every quarter — 12, 11, 13 and 16 — with Gunnison able to match that only once in the second by scoring 11.

"Our pressure and discipline on defense helped us get the lead early and keep the lead, even when Central and Gunnison got an offensive run going," Osborn wrote.

Shahan led the Lady Pirates in scoring with 13 points — including three 3-pointers — followed by Ketchum with 11 and Ximena Garcia with eight.

Shahan again led the team in rebounds with six total — four defensive and two offensive — followed by Snarr with five and Ketchum with three.

The squad went 11 for 21 from the free-throw line and ended the night with 16 turnovers, nine assists spread across the team and one block from Ketchum.

Casting a brief glance backward, Osborn wrote she and the Lady Pirates are pleased with their home-opens and will "focus on building off of the positives from our first two games."

She adds, "We will continue to focus on our defensive pressure and getting everyone involved in our offense moving into the Montrose Tournament."


The Lady Pirates are scheduled to face the 5A Montrose Red Hawks at 5:30 p.m. on Dec. 19 in Montrose for the Black Canyon Classic, where they will also face 5A Glenwood Springs at 2 p.m. on Dec. 20 and 5A Pueblo ■ See Basketball A10


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BASKETBALL

Tested early, Pirates fight back to go 1-1 at home

By Garrett Fevinger
Staff Writer

After a closely contested loss to the Delta Panthers Thursday night, the Pagosa Springs High School Pirate basketball team rallied Saturday to defeat the Gunnison Cowboys 73-22 at the annual Wolf Creek Classic in Pagosa Springs, finishing the weekend with a 1-1 record and — according to coach Wes Lewis — a lot to be proud of.

“Yeah, we hate to lose,” Lewis said, reflecting on the Pirate’s 59-68 loss to the 4A Panthers, “but there’s a lot of things to be positive about and build on. We’re gonna keep getting better as the year goes along.”

On Thursday, an edgy start from the Pirates quickly led to a 13-point deficit in the first quarter, prompting Lewis to call a timeout that helped settle the squad.

“We kind of got settled down and we started doing a lot better job of taking care of the basketball and beating the press,” Lewis said. “We played pretty well for about the second half of the first quarter, all the way through the second and the third.”

With minutes remaining in the first half, the Pirates fought back to gain a one-point lead, briefly lost it, but headed to the locker room leading 35-33 thanks to a steal by Colt Lewis, who led the team in scoring for the night with 30 points — 18 of which came from three-pointers.

The Pirates clung to a slim lead throughout the third quarter, at one point leading by six, but as the game approached its final eight minutes, the Panthers had drawn within one.

“Beginning of the fourth we were still OK; we just kind of got a little careless with the basketball again ... and again had a lot of turnovers late,” Wes Lewis said.

With Pagosa leading 52-49, those turnovers stalled the Pirates’ momentum throughout the fourth and granted the Panthers just enough opportunity to inch ahead in the final minutes — sealing the win in a game Wes Lewis called closer than the 59-68 final score would suggest.

“I feel like that game could have gone one of two ways,” he recalled. “It could have just continued to balloon and get out of control and get away from us. Or, kind of what happened: You fight your way back into it. And there’s a lot of things to take away from the game to be proud of, as far as the never-say-die attitude, having the fortitude to fight back.”

Following Colt Lewis’ 30 points, Seth Zeigler scored 11 points, followed by Ty Richey and Jaxten Schiel, who each scored seven.



Pirate Seth Zeigler scores a layup in the opening minute versus the Delta Panthers Dec. 5 in Pagosa Springs. Zeigler scored the team’s first two points of the season and finished with 11 points for the night.

The Pirates sunk 72 percent of shots from the free-throw line, converting 18 out of 25 attempts.

Schiel led the team in rebounds with seven — three defensive and four offensive — followed by Zeigler, Richey and Creede Dozier, who each brought down five.

Dozier led the team in steals with five.

Richey led the team in assists, with four, followed by Dozier and Schiel, who each finished with three.

Dozier finished with one block, as did Schiel.

The team finished with 15 total turnovers for the night.

Back on court Saturday versus Gunnison, a more relaxed Pirate squad excelled in transition and avoided the foul trouble that plagued the team two nights earlier.

“The kids ran the floor well,” coach Lewis said. “We shared the basketball, throwing the ball ahead, so that led to a lot of easy points in transition. We shot the ball pretty well from the field.”

He added, “We were a little calmer, a little more relaxed. We just settled in and played a nice game.”

Against the Cowboys, Dozier led the team in scoring with 22 points, followed by Colt Lewis with 20 and Zeigler with 11.

Zeigler led the team in rebounds, bringing down five offensive and five defensive, while Colt Lewis led in assists, totaling 10 for the night.

Dozier finished with four assists, followed by sophomore Jayton Ross with three.

The Pirates didn’t record any blocks against Gunnison.

The team converted 66 percent of shots from the free-throw line, landing eight out of 12 attempts for the night, and limited turnovers to six.

According to Wes Lewis, the leadership of his more experienced players will be instrumental as the team continues to build skills in the weeks ahead.

“Some of the older kids, rightfully so, are a little ahead of some of the younger kids, and we just got to try to bring the younger kids along defensively and get all five kids on the same page,” he said.

“We’re playing mostly seniors and juniors, but the juniors don’t have a lot of varsity experience with the”

■ See Pirates A11



SUN photo/Randi Pierce

Creede Dozier overtakes Gunnison’s Jackson Dalleck during the Pirates’ 73-22 win over the Cowboys Dec. 7 in Pagosa Springs.

Basketball

■ Continued from A9
Central at 10 a.m. Dec. 21 to close out the calendar year.

Montrose is 3-0 on the season. Glenwood Springs owns a 1-2 record. Pueblo Central is 0-1.

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A Reflection on Hot Springs Fest: Celebrating Community & Hot Springs

The Springs Resort

Hot Springs Fest 2024 was more than just a festival—it was a celebration of community, connection, and the healing power of Pagosa Springs’ world-renowned waters. Held annually in November, this beloved three-day event marked its fifth anniversary with a vibrant lineup of activities and community collaborations that showcased everything wonderful about our town and its iconic hot springs.

This year’s festival logo, designed by local graphic designer Abigail Karas through a Call to Artists, captured the spirit of Hot Springs Fest and highlighted the community’s creative talent. The Pagosa Springs Town Council further celebrated this connection by declaring November as Hot Springs Month, honoring the vital role hot springs play in the town’s culture and identity.

The 120 hot springs enthusiasts who participated enjoyed access to over 40 hot springs pools at all three local hot springs resorts: The Springs Resort, Healing Waters, and Overlook Hot Springs. From aqua yoga and contrast

bathing to a forest hike and restorative tea ceremonies, there was something for everyone. Locals enjoyed discounted tickets and free community events, ensuring everyone could enjoy the festival’s inclusive spirit. This dedication to keeping the festival accessible to all locals will remain a cornerstone of future events.

The Robe Parade was a new event this year. After a Gratitude Ceremony at the Mother Spring, participants marched through downtown, all wearing the traditional hot springs “attire” - cozy robes. The procession was led by Native American drummer Jake Vicenti and his family. Local business owners, including Mayor Shari Pierce, were on hand to judge participants in three categories, with the grand prize winner receiving a full year of soaking at all three venues.

“Hot Springs Fest 2024 was such an amazing and unforgettable experience,” said area visitor Mili Rodriguez. “This will now be [an]... annual trip. Everyone was so friendly!”

The festival also included live music from local bands Won-

derbread and Happy Campers, creating lively evenings that brought people together over shared tunes and good company. For those exploring beyond the pools, over a dozen local businesses from Riff Raff to Footprints, Pagosa Baking Company, and Hidden Track, offered exclusive discounts to festival participants, further embedding Hot Springs Fest into the town’s broader community fabric.

This festival is quickly becoming a part of the culture and fabric of Pagosa Springs. It grows in size and popularity every year. It brings people together, emphasizes social wellness, and fosters community. This festival is a true gem, and it will surely continue to give both locals and visitors a chance to celebrate our town and our love for the hot springs. We can’t wait to see how Hot Springs Fest evolves in 2025, and invite you to join us in 2025 for another incredible year.

For event inquiries, please reach out to Mary Cocke at mcocke@pagosahotspings.com to learn how you can be part of next year’s celebration.

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WRESTLING

Lady Pirate wrestlers take fourth at Wolverine Classic

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Lady Pirate wrestling team opened its season last weekend, competing in the Girls' Wolverine Classic at Bayfield High School on Saturday, Dec. 7.

The Lady Pirates were originally scheduled to travel to Farmington, N.M., to compete in a tournament, but due to last-minute scheduling changes, the Lady Pirates ended up competing in the Wolverine Classic, coach Dan Janowsky explained in an interview.

In an email to The SUN, Janowsky notes that the team has doubled its roster compared to last year and now has 10 wrestlers on the varsity squad.

Janowsky also notes that the Lady Pirates finished fourth out of eight teams at the tournament.

Laykyn Baxstrom took first place in her respective weight class for the Lady Pirates, as did freshman Bella

Jackson.

Baxstrom won both of her matches by decisions of 13-6 and 6-0.

Jackson lost her opening match by a decision of 9-6, but bounced back in her second round match, pinning her opponent after 55 seconds. She then pinned her next opponent after three minutes and 33 seconds.

Janowsky also notes that Kylie Matyniak placed second in her weight class, with Maddie Stretton and Aspen Salazar finished third in their respective weight classes.

Matyniak was able to pin her first three opponents before losing by a technical fall score of 18-2 in 3:21. She then lost her fifth-round match by getting pinned by her opponent in 3:37.

Stretton won her opening match by pinning her opponent in 3:52 and lost her second-round match by pin in 1:31.

Stretton bounced back to win her third-round match, pinning her op-

ponent in 1:13 and won the third place match with a 12-0 major decision.

Audriana Smith finished fourth in her weight class, Janowsky notes, and Katie Lucero and Dalton Hoover finished in sixth place.

Smith received a first-round bye and then won her second round match by pinning her opponent in 53 seconds. She was then pinned by her opponent in her final three matches.

Lucero was victorious in one of her five matches, pinning her opponent in the fifth round in 3:34.

Hoover won her opening match with a 13-12 decision and was then pinned by her opponent in the following round.

Hoover pinned her third opponent in 3:52 and was defeated in her last match by a technical fall score of 15-0 in 1:56.

Janowsky also notes that Makayla Beach did not place, "but picked up valuable experience and her effort

matched anyone in the field."

In a later interview, Janowsky commented that, like the boys' team, the Lady Pirates are working to get better on their feet to be able to execute more takedowns and earn more points.

Janowsky also spoke about how each wrestler has shown improvement compared to last season.

"And I really feel that way about all our kids, that whether they won or lost, they've gotten better, and we just gotta stay on that path," Janowsky said.

He also commented on Baxstrom's performance in the tournament, noting that she had a good outing and wrestled well against opponents that she went "back and forth" with last year.

"She's widening the gap a little just showing ... the types of improvements that we're all working on," Janowsky said.

The Lady Pirates will be back in action this weekend as they head to Bloomfield, N.M., to compete in a tournament being held at Bloomfield High School. Matches are set to begin at 9 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 14. clayton@pagosasun.com

Pirates place eighth in season-opening tournament

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Pirate boys' wrestling team began its season last weekend competing in the Wolverine Classic held at Bayfield High School on Saturday, Dec. 7.

"It was good to get back in competition this last Saturday," coach Dan Janowsky wrote in an email to The SUN.

Janowsky mentioned that six varsity wrestlers competed and finished eighth out of 11 in the team standings, with Monticello, Utah, taking first place.

Colton Lucero earned first place in the 150-pound weight class, Taylor Hancey took third in the 165-pound weight class, Antonio Quezada placed third in the 285-pound weight class, Anthony Manzanares finished fifth in the 118-pound weight class, Stetson Osborn placed sixth in the 132-pound weight class and Tucker Jacobson finished in sixth place in the 138-pound

weight class.

Lucero won his first match with a technical fall score of 18-1 in one minute and 42 seconds. In round 2, Lucero won again by a technical fall with a score of 15-0 in 1:22. Lucero won by a technical fall again in round three by a score of 16-1 in 2:37 and received a bye in the fourth round.

In the fifth round, Lucero won by technical fall with a score of 15-0 in 1:44 to take first place.

Janowsky commented in an interview that Lucero has been working hard to improve certain skills over the past year.

"He's worked hard on getting better in a couple of positions that gave him trouble last year," the coach said of Lucero.

Hancey won his opening match by a 20-7 major decision, then won the following round by pinning his opponent in 1:44.

Hancey then pinned his next opponent after 2:26, moving on to the first-place match, in which he was

pinned by his opponent after 4:34.

Quezada won his opening match by pinning his opponent after 40 seconds and received a second-round bye.

Quezada was pinned in his third-round match in 3:30, and was pinned in his fourth-round match after 2:40.

Manzanares lost his only match by technical fall with a score of 16-1 in 3:41.

Chris Rafferty also competed in the 285-pound weight class, losing his opening match by being pinned by his opponent in 3:30. Rafferty was pinned in his second match as well, this time after 53 seconds.

In his third match, Rafferty pinned his opponent after 47 seconds and received a fourth-round bye.

Rafferty was pinned in the fifth round match by his opponent after 40 seconds.

■ See Wrestling A12

Pirates

■ Continued from A10

exception of [Dozier]," he continued. "So, we've just got to fine-tune some of the offenses and the defenses ... knowing where to be and what to do, and that just comes with more time, more reps."

The Pirates will have a little more than one week to do just that before heading to Montrose for the Black Canyon Classic Dec. 19-21.

There, they are scheduled to face a trio of 5A squads — Montrose at 7 p.m. on Dec. 19, Glenwood Springs at 4 p.m. on Dec. 20 and Pueblo Central at 11:30 a.m. on Dec. 21 — in what will be the Pirates' final games of 2024.

Montrose is 3-0 on the season, Glenwood Springs is 1-2 and Pueblo Central holds a 2-1 record. garrett@pagosasun.com



Triple Impact Student-Athlete of the Week Colton Lucero Wrestling



Favorite subject: English
Comments from coach Dan Janowsky: "I nominate Colton Lucero for Triple Impact Award. Colton's love of wrestling motivates him to always make himself better. He has invested hours over the years building his skill and his athleticism. His results on the mat contribute heavily to the team score and the team's reputation as a tough wres-

ting program. His dominant performance this weekend is one example. He won all 5 matches by pin or by technical fall. Having graduated a large group of seniors last year has put Colton in a position of leadership and he has unselfishly accepted his new role and his new team with quiet strength and a positive heart. He is more than just a great athlete, he is a great teammate as well."

SWIMMING

Lady Pirates focus on improving speeds to open season

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Lady Pirate swim team is looking to build off its experience as it opens the 2024-2025 season this week.

The Lady Pirates — with the majority of last year's squad back in the water this year — will dive into action at 5 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 13, with a meet in Delta and the following morning with a 10:30 a.m. matchup with Gunnison.

Both competitions are slated to be held at Delta's rec center.

This year's roster boasts 17 Lady Pirates, according to coach Heather Miller.

Miller notes in an email to The SUN that the majority of last year's team is back, with the team missing last year's two senior swimmers and two swimmers who moved, and gained six new swimmers — some of whom have previous swimming experience.

"So overall most of the team is pretty experienced and we had many of the new swimmers come out for preseason," Miller wrote. "This allowed us to start out the season with some really good training which the team has responded to very well."

This year, the coach explains, the team has started off with "some really challenging training to help build a good base."

That, she wrote, has already resulted in "great" improvements in

biweekly test sets and time trials.

"We will [continue] with some challenging practices but will also really focus on [improving] speed as we go into our early season meets," she wrote.

Miller also credits the team with being very motivated and an extremely hardworking group.

She notes that the team has a "very good chance" of having a relay or two qualify for state and, "with how well pre season and the beginning of the season has gone, there is also a possibility that we get an [individual] or two qualified for state."

Schedule

The following schedule was accurate as of press time, but is subject to change.

After this week's action in Delta, the Lady Pirates will have one final meet in 2024, set for 4 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 17, against Sargent at Adams State University.

The team will also open the 2025

season at Adams State University against Sargent, with the Lady Pirates set to return to competition at 4 p.m. on Jan. 7, 2025.

On Jan. 10, 2025, the team will take on Montrose at the Montrose Rec Center at 5 p.m.

On Jan. 17, 2025, the team will be back in Delta, this time taking on the Panthers at 3 p.m.

The following day, the Lady Pirates will take part in the Grand Junction Invite at Colorado Mesa University beginning at 11 a.m.

The team will be in action at the Durango Rec Center on Jan. 24 and 25, 2025, beginning at 3 p.m. on Jan. 24 and 10:30 a.m. on Jan. 25.

The team will cap off the regular season at the Western Slope conference meet at Colorado Mesa University on Jan. 31, 2025, at 6 p.m. and Feb. 1, 2025, at 9 a.m.

This season's state meet is slated for Feb. 7 and 8, 2025. randi@pagosasun.com

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The Blotter

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

Archuleta County Sheriff's Office

Dec. 3 — Driving under the influence of alcohol, DUI per se, reckless driving, Zuni Street.

Dec. 3 — Driving under restraint, improper driving in center lane, driving under the influence of alcohol, reckless driving, U.S. 160.

Dec. 3 — Agency assist, Jack Rabbit Road/Indian Land Road.

Dec. 3 — Information only, Talisman Drive.

Dec. 3 — Warrant arrest, Harman Park Drive.

Dec. 4 — Violation of protection order-criminal, driving under the influence of alcohol, DUI per se, North Pagosa Boulevard.

Dec. 4 — Theft-\$50 to \$300 from building, Cactus Drive.

Dec. 4 — Theft-\$20,000 or more from banking institution, Harman Park Drive.

Dec. 4 — Violation of protection order-criminal, harassment-strikes/shoves/kicks, vehicular eluding, Cox Circle.

Dec. 5 — Information only, Solomon Drive.

Dec. 6 — Information only, Crooked Road.

Dec. 8 — Warrant arrest, West U.S. 160.

Pagosa Springs Police Department

Dec. 2 — Shoplifting/departs or attempts to depart without payment, criminal trespass, Country Center Drive.

Dec. 2 — Harassment, Eagle Drive.

Dec. 2 — Driving under restraint-alcohol/drug-related, failure to display headlights when required, warrant arrest, U.S. 160.

Dec. 3 — Criminal trespass, East Pagosa Street.

Dec. 3 — Second-degree assault, menacing-misdemeanor, third-degree criminal trespass, disorderly conduct-fighting in public, East Pagosa Street.

Dec. 3 — Menacing-felony-aggravated-nonfamily-gun, South 9th Street.

Dec. 4 — Sexual assault on a child (warrants only), South 9th Street.

Dec. 5 — Dog at large, Eaton Drive.

Dec. 5 — Violation of protection order-criminal, Country Center Drive.

Dec. 5 — Criminal mischief-\$1,000-\$2,000, domestic violence, harassment-repeated communications invade DV, 8th Street.

Dec. 6 — Second-degree burglary-no force entry-nonresidence, criminal possession of financial device, warrant arrest, Hot Springs Boulevard/North 5th Street.

Dec. 6 — Criminal mischief, South 5th Street.

Dec. 6 — Vehicle accident with injuries, U.S. 160.

Dec. 6 — Criminal mischief, no location listed.

Dec. 6 — Owner/custodian allowed animal to run at large, South Pagosa Boulevard.

Dec. 6 — Nuisance/animal run-

ning at large, Lewis Street.

Dec. 7 — Harassment, County Road 600.

Pagosa Springs Municipal Court: Judge Anthony D. Edwards

Dec. 2 — Chong Lee, speeding 20-24 mph over prima facie limit, six points off, fine, surcharge and costs — \$278.

Dec. 2 — Samuel Weil, speeding 10-19 mph over prima facie limit, four points off, fine, surcharge and costs — \$197.

Dec. 3 — Yolanda Salas, animal running at large prohibited, vicious animal prohibited, fines and costs — \$160.

Dec. 3 — Quinton Maes, disorderly conduct, fighting in public, fine and costs — \$85.

Dec. 3 — Richard Colletti, disorderly conduct, fighting in public, fine and costs — \$85.

Dec. 3 — Daniel Castillo-Colmenero, speeding 10-19 mph over prima facie limit, four points off, fine and surcharge — \$162.

Dec. 3 — Trina Messingill, owner operated vehicle without insurance, four points off, fine — \$300.

Archuleta County Court: Judge Justin P. Fay

Nov. 25 — Steven D. Batchelor, speeding 10-19 over limit, fines and costs — \$198.50.

Dec. 2 — Austin R. Gettman, speeding 5-9 over limit, fines and costs — \$127.50.

Dec. 2 — Rebecca C. Apodaca, speeding 5-9 over limit, fines and costs — \$127.50.

Dec. 4 — Aaron B. Beaty, speeding 10-19 over limit, fines and costs — \$233.50.

Dec. 4 — Cynthia L. Carrillo Cruz, speeding 1-4 over limit, unregistered vehicle, fines and costs — \$150.50.

Dec. 4 — Juliann Cullen, tail lamps/reflector, defective stop lamps/turn signals, single beam headlight violation, restrictions on tire equipment, fines and costs — \$223.50.

Dec. 4 — Roxy R. Eaton, speeding 10-19 over limit, fines and costs — \$233.50.

Dec. 4 — Christopher Dean Ford, driver's license-driving without, registration-unregistered vehicle, fines and costs — \$207.50.

Dec. 4 — Juan Carlos Garcia, failed to use turn signal, fines and costs — \$140.

Dec. 4 — William Charles Gittings, driving under restraint, registration-unregistered vehicle, fines and costs — \$277.50.

Dec. 4 — Stefanie Nicole Harrell, driving under restraint, fines and costs — \$189.50.

Dec. 4 — Shaye E. Holiday, speeding 5-9 over limit, fines and costs — \$162.50.

Dec. 4 — Fabienne Christine Van Cappel, speeding 5-9 over, fines and costs — \$125.

Dec. 4 — Jennifer Ruth Weir, speeding 5-9 over, fines and costs — \$125.

Dec. 4 — Jeremy Dean Salter, license plates-expired, fines and costs — \$120.50.

Dec. 4 — Derrick Joel Wehrmann, registration-unregistered vehicle, fines and costs — \$161.50.

Dec. 4 — William Slager Evans, driving under the influence-with

prior conviction, 10 days jail, 48 hours community service, 24 months probation, fines and costs — \$1,965.50.

Dec. 4 — William Slager Evans, driving under the influence, five days jail suspended imposition, 24 hours community service, 12 months probation, fines and costs — \$1,254.50.

Dec. 4 — Richard C. Swepston, careless driving, fines and costs — \$238.50.

Dec. 4 — Alexandra Keilman, speeding 10-19 over limit, fines and costs — \$198.50.

Dec. 4 — Donald Bruce Kubelka, speeding 10-19 over, fines and costs — \$190.

Dec. 4 — Alek Jacob Moore, driving ability impaired-with prior, 365 days jail suspended imposition, 48 hours community service, 10 days electronic surveillance, two years probation, fines and costs — \$1,920.50.

Dec. 4 — Nicholas W. Nelson, lane usage violation, fines and costs — \$172.50.

Dec. 4 — Walter W. Nelson, speeding 5-9 over, fines and costs — \$160.

Dec. 4 — Destinie Faith Rivas, registration-unregistered vehicle, fines and costs — \$161.50.

Dec. 4 — Pavel Rodriguez-Vasquez, driver's license-driving without, license plates-expired, fines and costs — \$201.50.

Dec. 4 — Rhett J. Smith, speeding 5-9 over limit, fines and costs — \$162.50.

Dec. 4 — Richard Lloyd Snow, license plates-expired, driving under restraint, fines and costs — \$271.50.

Dec. 4 — Devan Christopher Scott, license plate improperly attached or not visible, fines and costs — \$48.50.

Dec. 4 — Lisl Greer Gunter, driver's license-driving without, registration-unregistered vehicle, fines and costs — \$172.50.

Dec. 4 — Orlando E. Valenzuela, careless driving resulting in injury, fines and costs — \$769.50.

Dec. 4 — Macie Michelle Dominique, speeding 10-19 over, fines and costs — \$190.

Dec. 4 — Audra D. Bier, speeding 10-19 over limit, fines and costs — \$210.50.

Dec. 4 — Falena Dawn Puerto, harassment-insults/taunts/challenges, 12 months probation, fines and costs — \$897.50.

Dec. 4 — Daniel X. Haire, speeding 1-4 over limit, fines and costs — \$95.50.

Dec. 5 — Falena Dawn Puerto, driving under restraint, fines and costs — \$154.50.

6th Judicial District Court: Judge Justin P. Fay
No report.

6th Judicial District Court: Judge Jeffrey R. Wilson

Dec. 2 — Christopher Dean Ford, motor vehicle theft/aggravated 1-less than \$20,000, two days jail, three years probation, fines and costs — \$2,273.50.

Dec. 2 — Brandie Jo Herrera, assault 2-peace officer, 30 months Department of Corrections, fines and costs — \$428.50.

Dec. 2 — Brandie Jo Herrera, assault 2-peace officer/heat of passion, 30 months Department of Corrections, fine and costs — \$428.50.

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Wrestling

Continued from A11

Osborn lost his opening match after getting pinned in 59 seconds. In his next match, Osborn lost by technical fall with a score of 19-0 after 4:09.

Osborn then pinned his next opponent in 58 seconds, lost the following match by technical fall with a score of 17-1 in 5:06 and then lost in the fifth-place match after getting pinned by his opponent in 58 seconds.

Jacobson lost his opening match by technical fall with a score of 18-2 in 3:48.

He was then pinned by his opponents in the next three matches, placing him in the fifth-round match, which he won by pinning his opponent in 1:23.

Janowsky explained the first tournament of the year helps identify areas that need improvement for the remainder of the season.

He mentioned that, in a broad sense, the Pirates have been working on their takedowns over the past

week.
"We're gonna get everybody better on their feet because those three-point takedowns are such a confidence and momentum builder," Janowsky said.

The Pirates will be back in action this weekend competing in a tournament held at Columbine High School in Littleton on Saturday, Dec. 14, with matches starting at 8 a.m.
clayton@pagosasun.com

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LIBRARY NEWS

Two special holiday events plus Late Night at the Library fundraiser on calendar

By Carole Howard
SUN Columnist, and the library staff

Saturday, Dec. 14, from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. we hope library fans who are aged 21 and older will join us for an evening of holiday crafts including Zentangle, with all supplies provided. Enjoy delicious hors d'oeuvres and drinks. Tickets are \$50 for this special event to support our campaign to renovate and expand our building.

Then we hope you'll join us for other special holiday events:

At two separate free adult DIY sessions next Tuesday, Dec. 17 — from noon to 1:30 p.m. and 1:45 to 3 p.m. — we'll be making holiday wreaths. Bring your greens and other items you'd like to use to decorate your wreaths. We'll supply wire wreath forms, pine cones and ribbon.

Then, next Thursday, Dec. 19, from 4 to 5 p.m. all ages are invited to a Hot Chocolate Hullabaloo when we have hot chocolate ready to help you celebrate winter and join in the fun with seasonal crafts.

Rise Above Violence teen event

Tomorrow, Friday, Dec. 13, from 2 to 3 p.m. is a special free talk for teens about impulse control from speakers from Rise Above Violence.

Teen brains are moving a mile a minute, so it can be helpful to learn some strategies to help you keep up.

Craftapalooza tomorrow

People of all ages and abilities are invited to create a variety of crafts tomorrow, Friday, Dec. 13, from 2 to 3:30 p.m.

Chess Club Saturday

Learn how to play chess with free quick lessons and game time to practice your skills on Saturday, Dec. 14, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. All ages and abilities are welcome.

Adult knitting Saturday

Join new and experienced knitters Saturday, Dec. 14, for our free Knitters Circle from 1 to 3 p.m. It is aimed at anyone over the age of 18 who would like to knit together or get some help if you are stuck on your project.

Knitting and crochet lessons

Learn to knit or crochet on Monday, Dec. 16, at our free gathering from 2 to 3:15 p.m. for ages 8 and up. All supplies are provided.

Music fun Monday

Pagosa Unplugged is free from 4 to 6 p.m. on Dec. 16 for amateur musicians of all abilities and expertise to jam and sing with others.

High school math tutoring

Next Monday, Dec. 16, high school math tutors are available for ages 14 and up from 4 to 5:30 p.m. at our last 2024 session. Registration is required.

Free math tutoring will resume in the spring, depending on demand and tutor availability.

Spanish conversation

Practice your Spanish in a free

group setting on Tuesday, Dec. 17, from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. No minimum skill level is needed. This group meets twice a month, on the first and third Tuesdays.

Dungeons and Dragons

Next Thursday, Dec. 19, 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.

Elementary tutoring

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

Family storytime

Wednesdays from 10 to 11 a.m., join a free educational hour of reading, singing and free play to build early literacy skills.

Teen/tween activity

Join us in the teen area every Wednesday after school from 4 to 4:30 p.m. this month for a fun craft or challenge. Activities will range from taste tests to art challenges to minute-to-win-it-style games.

Writers Guild

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

ESL classes

Free in-person evening classes take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays, with 4 to 5 p.m. reserved for beginners, 5 to 6 p.m. for intermediate and 6 to 7 p.m. for advanced students. Please help us share the word about these classes.

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 the library's online resources.

No appointment is needed for these drop-in sessions, but please bring your device's charger and 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. No appointment is necessary.

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.

Home-schooling books

"Homeschooling Quick Start" by Susanne Gibbs is an encouraging, practical guide to get you started successfully. "Hesitant to Homeschool?" by Jessica Solis Carpinelli and Mandi McArthur provides answers to 20 common questions. "Parents' Guide to Homeschool" by Mrs. Sam Sorbo is a step-by-step guidebook.

Gardening books

"Native Plant Gardening for Birds, Bees and Butterflies" by George Oxford Miller is a Rocky Mountains guide. "Rocky Mountain Vegetable Gardening Guide" is by Cheryl Moore-Gough and Robert Gough. "Rocky Mountain Fruit and Vegetable Gardening" is by Diana Maranhao. "Rocky Mountain Month-by-Month Gardening" is by John Cretti. "The Magic of Mushrooms" by Sandra Lawrence explores more than 100 species. "Dry Climate Gardening" by Noelle Johnson focuses on sustainable gardens in low-water conditions.

Clothing-related books

"The Tailoring Book" by Alison Smith is a guide to creating custom garments. "Knit Wild" by Anna-Sofia Vintersol contains 21 sweater designs with animal and nature themes. "Knitwear from Finland" by Minna Metsanen and Nina I. Aitonen contains 21 designs for sweaters, shawls, hats and tees. "Well Worn" by Skye Pennant is a fresh and engaging repair guide to revitalize your wardrobe. "Clone Your Clothes" by Claire-Louise Hardie shows how to make custom patterns for your favorite clothes without taking them apart.

Other how-to and self-help

"Healing What's Within" by Chuck Degroat offers tips on how to heal from hidden hurt with help from God. "Narcissistic Abuse" by Vanessa M. Reiser is a therapist's guide to escaping from toxic and manipulative people. "The Progressive Parent" by Kevin Senapathy helps you harness the power of science and social justice to raise your children. "Pre-Calculus for Dummies" is a guide by Marty Jane Sterling. "Android Smartphones for Seniors" by Marsha Collier delivers facts without tech-speak. "The Serviceberry" by Indigenous scientist Robin Wall Kimmerer is a guide based on lessons from the natural world. "The Beginner's Photography" is a DK step-by-step manual. "Nature Imprinted" by Jane Spink is a guide to lino printing with 10 nature-inspired designs. "Book Nooks" by Vanessa Dina and Claire Gilhuly provides ideas and photos for cozy reading corners.

More nonfiction

"Into Africa" by master photogra-

pher Frans Lanting documents animals and landscapes over the past three decades.

Mysteries, suspense and thrillers

"The Mighty Red" by Louise Erdrich is a suspense story by this Pulitzer Prize winner and Native American author. "The God of the Woods" by Liz Moore begins when a wealthy teen disappears, as had her brother years before. "Unforgotten" by Shelley Shepard Gray follows four friends dealing with a stalker.

Other novels

"Intermezzo" by Sally Rooney follows two grieving brothers in Dublin. "The Story of the Forest" by Linda Grant is a family saga about the European Jewish experience starting in World War I.

Material donations

Thanks to our many anonymous donors.

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.

Guidelines for donations: Yes to popular fiction books published in 2013 or later, nonfiction books published 2018 or later, and children's and young adult books — all in excellent condition, please. No to CDs, DVDs, Blu-ray, VHS or cassette tapes; textbooks, outdated travel books or reference books because they do not sell. No more than two boxes at a time because of space constraints.

Quotable quote

"It takes many good deeds to build a good reputation, and only one bad one to lose it." — Ben Franklin.

Website

For more information on library books, services and programs — and to reserve books, e-books, books on CD and DVDs from the comfort of your home — please visit our website at <https://pagosalibrary.org>.

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PagosaHumane.org | 970-264-5549

Come Home for the Holidays!

NEW LISTING
Eagle Drive
\$590,000

MLS # 819518
.40 Acre Commercial Property located on Hwy 160 off of Eagle Dr. 3,290 Square feet and 2 attached buildings. The front is a gallery and warehouse the back at one time was a clinic.

NEW LISTING
44 W Golf Place
\$560,000

3 bedroom/2 1/2 bathrooms with 1,703 sq. ft. and conveniently located uptown. This home was built in 2006 and used as a second home by the owners. All three bedrooms are located upstairs with the primary bedroom towards the back. Two covered decks — one off the primary bedroom and the other off of the living room — allow for a nice place to relax and unwind.

To tour this home go to:
<https://pspixeltree.com/44-W-Golf-Pl>

Price Reduced
1001 Soaring Eagle Court
\$925,000

MLS # 813551
2 Bed, 2 Bath, 2,073 sq foot house on 36.44 acres. Navajo River Ranch has 2 private entrances into the forest. This home has wonderful views of the San Juan Mountain Range and great decks. 2 tributaries come together to form a seasonal creek called Oil Well Creek on the property.

To tour this home go to:
<https://tinyurl.com/1001SoaringEagleCourt>

65 Caballero Drive
\$799,000

MLS # 811817
This home is perfectly located on approximately an acre of land in the Pagosa Lakes area. Open the back door and a 700 sq ft deck will provide additional space for a BBQ grill, plenty of outdoor seating, and a new hot tub for your relaxation and enjoyment. 4 beds/2.5 baths with 2,350 sq. ft.

To tour this home go to:
<https://tinyurl.com/65Caballero>

814 Ginger Circle
\$199,000

MLS # 817526
Beautiful wooded, mountain property located in a gated community. Potential building site is private with views of Broken Off Point. Well maintained roads. Elk Park Meadows is located just 10 minutes (6 miles) west of uptown Pagosa Springs.

To tour this property go to:
<https://pspixeltree.com/814-Ginger-Cir>

Cloman Industrial Park
\$380,000

MLS # 807337
.68 Acre, 1500 sq. ft. commercial building located in Cloman Industrial Park. There is enough property to build another building or make a large wrap around parking lot. There is a 3000 BU gas heater and a 40 gallon hot water heater.

Own Your Own Piece of Colorado Land!

30 High Drive — MLS # 794628, \$59,900
147 Cat Creek Overlook — MLS # 806842, 1.26 acres, \$25,000
27 D Place — MLS # 813258, \$165,000. Owner carry.
98 Saturn Drive — \$67,500



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Barbara@MountainMeadowRealEstate.com

409 Lewis Street | P.O. Box 3850 | Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
MountainMeadowRealEstate.info • office: 970.264.6673

Don't let winter chains haunt you: Be prepared as you head out for holiday travel

Colorado State Patrol

The holiday season is underway, and many of us will be traveling home to see loved ones or taking time for fun, including a fresh powder day on the slopes or a drive to see holiday lights.

Whatever your destination, remember that the weather in Colorado can be unpredictable and your vehicle needs to be prepared to handle winter weather conditions.

This season we have already had six winter storms. Colorado State Patrol troopers and Port of Entry officers have written over 400 traction law citations, as compared to 542 during the same period last year.

More frequent checks and improved messaging to the trucking industry has attributed to the increased compliance.

The movie "A Christmas Carol" and the ghost of Jacob Marley can help us prepare for our winter drives.

Jacob Marley is the first ghost to visit Scrooge. Jacob wanders the earth in chains that represent the consequences of past actions.

Not following the chain law for truckers and passenger vehicle traction laws for everyone else could forge chains of penalties, crashes and liability for drivers.

But motorists can change their

ways, just like Scrooge, and avoid the heavy weight of negative consequences by:

- Carrying and properly using chains.
- Ensuring tires have a minimum tread depth of three-sixteenths of an inch.
- Having tires designed for mud and snow.
- Checking their route before leaving at cotrip.org.
- Carrying extra washer fluid, blankets, water and snacks.
- Commercial motor vehicle drivers

should also check cotrip.org for weather conditions, chain law activations and closure updates, as well as become familiar with Colorado's expanded chain law requirements effective this year by visiting the Colorado Department of Transportation's Mountain Rules.

Just like the ghost of Jacob Marley emphasizes taking action to avoid harming others, professional drivers have the responsibility of making sure the roads remain open and safe for everyone by complying with chain law.

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SENIOR NEWS

Community Christmas party set for Dec. 18

By Rose Chavez
PREVIEW Columnist

The community is invited to attend a casual and festive Christmas party at the Pagosa Senior Center on Wednesday, Dec. 18, from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Come for lunch and stay for a joyful time together.

Plans are in the works to have music from local group Acoustic Picnic, and we will follow lunch with hot coffee served alongside house-made holiday desserts. We are planning a pseudo snow fight, possibly some shenanigans with Santa Claus and a few door prizes to jazz up the moments we share together.

To join us for lunch, make a reservation by 9 a.m. on Dec. 18 by calling or texting (970) 261-2167.

Southwest Colorado Gives Day

Southwest Colorado Gives Day was Tuesday, Dec. 10. Colorado comes together to raise funds for local nonprofits, and Archuleta Seniors Inc. (ASI) is participating this year. Every gift is tax-deductible and is matched up to \$5,000 until the end of 2024.

You can donate at www.pseniors.org by clicking the link to the Colorado Gives website, or use the following to go there directly: <https://www.coloradogives.org/story/Asi-fallfundraiser>.

Also feel free to drop off cash or a check at the ASI office at 451 Hot Springs Blvd. at the Ross Aragon Community Center Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. We are closed for lunch between noon and 1 p.m.

Thank you for your ongoing generosity and support.

Meals on Wheels volunteers needed

For more than 50 years, the Senior Center (established in 1971)/ASI (established in 2013) has been meeting the social and nutritional needs of older adults (age 60 and better) in our community.

We serve thousands of nutritious meals annually in Archuleta County, and volunteers deliver Meals on Wheels and friendly visits/wellness checks to homebound older adults.

We depend on more than 55 volunteers annually to help us serve and deliver meals and provide other wrap-around services.

The cost of each meal is \$10.50, but we only ask for a suggested donation of \$6 per meal. Meal recipients

are asked to contribute what they can afford, and no one is ever turned down.

Meals are delivered Monday through Friday. Participants must be at home to receive meals. Meals will not be left.

Meals on Wheels volunteers receive background checks and training prior to delivery. Typically a volunteer shift is one day a week from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. depending on the size of the route. Staff works closely with volunteers to allow for periodic breaks.

If you are interested in volunteering, please stop by the ASI office at 451 Hot Springs Blvd. to pick up an application. Questions? Please call ASI at (970) 264-2167.

Emotional Freedom Technique sessions

Join Judith Newman at the Senior Center the second Wednesday of each month to participate in the popular, ongoing “Tapping” class (also known as EFT, or Emotional Freedom Technique) from 10 to 11 a.m. that is free and open to all ages and walks of life.

The first half of class is learning or reviewing the technique, and the second half of the hour is practicing the technique and answering questions.

This is a supportive, fun and informative class.

EFT is an evidence-based, self-regulating technique using acupuncture trigger points as well as elements from other therapeutic practices. Extensive research shows EFT to be effective in lowering both psychological and physical symptoms of anxiety, depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, insomnia, stress and more.

This technique is easy to learn and then use any time you want to lower your anxiety, gain clarity about emotional challenges and increase your ability to work with difficult transitions in your life.

Join the class and improve your well-being; meet new people in the community; support yourself and others while learning a powerful, helpful tool; find new ways to deal with insomnia, stress and change.

For more information or questions, please contact Newman at (505) 577-0194 or ASI at (970) 264-2167.

Healthy aging and yoga therapy classes

The Healthy Aging Yoga Series continues to be offered in person at the Senior Center on Mondays from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.

It is 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 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.

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 request that individuals new to the series arrive early for intake inquiries and to please communicate with our instructor, Kimberly Anderson, directly by email at zinkgraf@gmail.com.

Stretching and mobility class

Community members are invited to attend free weekly classes every Tuesday this fall and winter from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. at the Senior Center.

The stretching and mobility classes for older adults (age 55 and up) are designed to help build balance in the body through functional exercises that aim to improve mobility and flexibility.

Participants will have the opportunity to enjoy a variety of techniques that can help enhance overall movement efficiency.

Though not necessary, a mat is recommended for this class.

The program is instructed by local ballet dance instructor Dee Pitchon, who will provide modifications to ensure the safety and effectiveness of the exercises.

Bingo

The Senior Center will be hosting bingo twice a month on Friday afternoons from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Bingo will be on Dec. 20.

Participation 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 offers T'ai Chi Chih with accredited instructor Patti Popovich each Thursday from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. to support older adults who want to discover purpose and fulfillment in this transitional phase of life. Meet in the Senior Center dining hall.

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.

No special clothing or equipment is required.

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.

Salmansohn brings to our conversations a variety of topics designed to stimulate discussions within a safe and comfortable environment as we explore our well-being and shared experiences.

This is a unique opportunity to connect with others living within the Archuleta community for friendship and togetherness.

Snacks will be provided.

Afterward, hosted by Robin Williams, is a get-together created for those who wish to continue the conversation. This opportunity is typically from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m., following Senior Conversations.

The group occasionally reconvenes as an informal gathering at various local restaurants.

Scrapbooking Club

The Pagosa Springs Scrapbooking Club holds monthly meetings the second Saturday of each month at the Senior Center.

It meets each month from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. to be creative, share ideas, connect with friends, learn new techniques, share supplies and indulge in a potluck lunch together.

Bring your scrapbooking projects — or any crafting project that you may want to work on with the group. If you would like to be added to the mailing list to receive notifications each month of the upcoming meeting along with handy tips and tricks for scrapbooking, please send your request to copenhavercreative@gmail.com.

Share lunch Monday through Friday

Join us at the Silver Fox's Den, aka ■ See Senior A15



EARLY DEADLINES

for The Pagosa Springs SUN issue of

Thursday, December 26

Display Advertising
Noon, Friday, December 20

Classified Advertising,
All Categories
10 a.m., Monday, December 23

Legal Advertising, Articles & Letters
Noon, Thursday, December 19

The Pagosa Springs SUN office will be closed
Wednesday, December 25, in observance of Christmas.

for The Pagosa Springs SUN issue of

Thursday, January 2, 2025

Display Advertising
Noon, Friday, December 27

Classified Advertising,
All Categories
10 a.m., Monday, December 30

Legal Advertising, Articles & Letters
Noon, Thursday, December 26

The Pagosa Springs SUN office will be closed
Wednesday, January 1, 2025, in observance of New Year's.



The Pagosa Springs SUN

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Public Notices

NOTICE TO CREDITORS BY PUBLICATION PURSUANT TO § 15-12-801, C.R.S.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Estate of April Lynn Owens
Case Number 2024 PR 30273

All persons having claims against the above-named estate are required to present them to the personal representative or to the District Court of Archuleta, County, Colorado on or before April 12, 2025, or the claims may be forever barred.

Daniel L. Fiedler, Attorney at Law
190 Talsman Drive, Suite D-6
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
Published December 12, 19, 26, 2024 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (252848)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS BY PUBLICATION PURSUANT TO § 15-12-801, C.R.S.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Estate of Dona Mae Sehon, a/k/a Dona M. Sehon, a/k/a Dona Sehon

Case Number 2024 PR 30068

All persons having claims against the above-named estate are required to present them to the personal representative or to the District Court of Archuleta, County, Colorado on or before April 16, 2025, or the claims may be forever barred.

Jarrod Tortorelli
17501 C.R. 87.0
Trinidad, CO 81082
Published December 12, 19 and 26, 2024 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (252814)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS BY PUBLICATION PURSUANT TO § 15-12-801, C.R.S.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Estate of Wayne S. Cimquist

Case Number 2024 PR 30082

All persons having claims against the above-named estate are required to present them to the personal representative or to the District Court of Archuleta, County, Colorado on or before April 12, 2025, or the claims may be forever barred.

Daniel L. Fiedler, Attorney at Law
190 Talsman Drive, Suite D-6
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
Published December 12, 19, 26, 2024 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (252845)

COMBINED NOTICE - PUBLICATION

CRS §38-38-103 FORECLOSURE SALE NO. 2024-007

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

On September 24, 2024, 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)
Jason Robert Dillely

Original Beneficiary(ies)
MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC. AS NOMINEE FOR LIBERTY HOME MORTGAGE CORPORATION, ITS SUCCESSORS

AND ASSIGNS
Current Holder of Evidence of Debt
SERVBANK, SB

Date of Deed of Trust
July 12, 2018

County of Recording
Archuleta

Recording Date of Deed of Trust
July 12, 2018

Recording Information (Reception No. and/or Book/Page No.)
21804215

Original Principal Amount
\$178,703.00

Outstanding Principal Balance
\$155,509.73

Pursuant to CRS §38-38-101(4)(f), 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 obligations thereon.

THE LIEN FORECLOSED MAY NOT BE A FIRST LIEN.

LOT 13, BLOCK 13, ASPEN SPRINGS SUBDIVISION NO. 3 AMENDED, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF FILED JULY 6, 1971, AS RECEPTION NO. 74567, IN THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK AND RECORDER, ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO
APN#: 569312204028

Purported common address: 383 Steep Place, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147

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

NOTICE OF SALE

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

Therefore, Notice Is Hereby Given that I will at public auction, at 10:00 A.M. on Thursday, 01/23/2025, 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 attorney's 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 11/28/2024
Last Publication 12/26/2024
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: 09/24/2024

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:

Alison L. Berry #34531

Janeway Law Firm, P.C. 9540 Maroon Circle, Suite 320, Englewood, CO 80112 (855) 263-9295

Attorney File # 24-03294

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.

Public Trustee's Association of Colorado Revised 1/2015

Published November 28, December 5, 12, 19 and 26, 2024 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (248168)

DISTRICT COURT,
ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO

Court Address: 109 Harman Park Dr, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147

Phone Number: (970) 264-8100

Plaintiff:
ERVIN ANGST

Defendants:
JAMES M. WARD, and ALL UNKNOWN PERSONS WHO CLAIM ANY INTEREST IN THE SUBJECT MATTER OF THIS ACTION.

Submitting Attorney:
Duke Eggleston, #24965

Eggleston Kosnik LLC
160 E. 12th St., Ste 7
Durango, CO 81301

Phone Number: (970) 403-1580
E-mail: deggleston@e-klaw.com

Case Number: 2024CV30061

SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

PLAINTIFF ERVIN ANGST

TO THE BELOW NAMED DEFENDANTS:
JAMES M. WARD AND ALL UNKNOWN PERSONS WHO CLAIM ANY INTEREST IN THE SUBJECT MATTER OF THIS ACTION

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to appear and defend against the claims of the complaint filed with the court in this action by filing with the clerk of this court an answer or other response. You are required to file your answer or other response within 35 days after the service of this summons upon you. Service of this summons shall be complete on the day of the last publication. A copy of the complaint may be obtained from the clerk of the court.

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

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

Lot 27 of Block 10 in ASPEN SPRINGS SUBDIVISION NO. 3, according to the plat thereof filed for record July 6, 1971 as Reception No. 74567, being an Amendment of the plat of Aspen Springs Ranch Subdivision No. 3, filed for record on April 9, 1971 as Reception No. 74284. Respectfully Submitted this 12th day of November, 2024.

Published in *The Pagosa Sun*
First Publication: November 21, 2024
Last Publication: December 19, 2024

Eggleston Kosnik LLC
f/sr Duke Eggleston

Duke Eggleston, #24965
160 E. 12th St., Ste 7
Durango, CO 81301

(970) 403-1580

Published November 21, 28 and December 5, 12, & 19, 2024 *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (251023)

DISTRICT COURT, WATER DIVISION 7, COLORADO

WATER RESUME

(This publication can be viewed in its entirety on the state court website at: www.courts.state.co.us)

TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN WATER APPLICATIONS IN SAID WATER DIVISION NO. 7

Pursuant to C.R.S. 37-92-302, you are notified that the following is a portion of all water right applications filed in the Office of the Water Clerk during the month of November 2024, for Archuleta County.

2024CW9038 Archuleta County. APPLICATION TO MAKE ABSOLUTE IN PART AND FOR FINDING OF REASONABLE DILIGENCE. Applicant: Hidden Valley Ranch Association, P.O. Box 4490, Pagosa Springs, CO 81157, frontdesk@pagosalandcompany.com.

Please direct all correspondence counsel for Applicant: LAW OF THE ROCKIES, Kendall K. Burgemeister, Atty. Reg. #41593, 525 North Main Street, Gunnison, CO, 81230, (970) 641-1903, kburgemeister@lawoftherockies.com.

Name of subject: Mountain View Dam and Reservoir (WIDB 2903849) Original decree: Case No. 93CW82 (April 19, 1995), District Court, Water Div. No. 7, Subsequent decrees: Case Nos. 01CW22 (February 28, 2003), 09CW15 (February 28, 2012), 18CW3005 (November 1, 2018), all in Dist. Court, Water Div. No. 7. Legal Description: Mountain View Dam and Reservoir is constructed at the location of the "Alternate Mountain View Dam and Reservoir," decreed in 93CW82 to be located in Section 34, Township 36 North, Range 2 West, New Mexico P.M. in Archuleta County, the axis of which is more particularly described as follows: Beginning at the proposed southerly dam axis point from whence the Southeast 1/16 corner of Section 34, Township 36 North, Range 2 West, New Mexico P.M. bears South 5 degrees, 52 minutes, 35 seconds East a distance of 2,878 feet, thence along the proposed axis North 22 degrees, 57 minutes, 53 seconds East a distance of 500 feet, more or less, to the proposed northerly dam axis point, a map showing the location of Mountain View Dam and Reservoir was filed with this Application as Exhibit A. The location is reported to be at UTM Zone 13, 318961E, 4132077N, NAD 83. Source of water: Hidden Valley Creek, tributary to the San Juan River. The reservoir will also store water from Four Mile Creek carried through the Four Mile Ditch and the Four Mile Irrigation Ditch under the 1902 adjudication for the Four Mile Ditch. Date of Appropriation: December 15, 1993. Amount: 925 acre-feet initial fill and 925 acre-feet refill. 925 acre-feet first fill is absolute for all decreed beneficial uses listed below. 925 acre-feet refill is absolute in the amount of 18 acre-feet for all decreed beneficial uses listed below, and conditional in the amount of 907 acre-feet. Uses: Domestic, residential, environmental, irrigation, stock watering, cattle ranching, commercial, fish culture, firefighting, dust suppression, recreational, piscatorial, exchange and augmentation for Applicant's land and recreational development. Application to Make Absolute in Part: "Available capacity for a refill right in a reservoir is created by evaporative and seepage losses in addition to actual storage releases." General Administration Guidelines For Reservoirs, Colorado Division of Water Resources. In 18CW3005, 18 acre-feet of the refill right was made absolute based on refill to replace diversions from the reservoir for beneficial uses. However, to date, no portion of the refill right has been made absolute based on refilling to replace evaporative loss. The normal high water line of the reservoir is at an elevation of 7540.6 above sea level, and has a surface area of 52.5 acres. During the diligence period, the reservoir has generally been maintained at the normal high water line. Applicant will defer to the Division of Water Resources' reasonable assessment of evaporative loss, but would suggest the following calculation: The reservoir is located approximately 15,000 feet below the 40° gross evaporation isoline and 45,000 feet above the 45° isoline. Therefore, 42" is a reasonable estimate of gross evaporation. The reservoir is roughly equidistant from the 20° and 25° average annual precipitation isolines. Therefore, 22" is a reasonable estimate of annual precipitation. Effective precipitation is 70% of gross precipitation, or 15.4". See Division of Water Resources Guideline 2019-03, Reservoir Accounting Guideline. 26.6" (42-15.4) is a reasonable estimate of annual net evaporation. (26.6-15.4) = 11.2. 26.6(12.52.5) is a reasonable estimate of annual refill to replace evaporation. In 2019, Applicant diverted 17.2 acre-feet from the reservoir for beneficial use, and re-filled the reservoir to replace such diversions. This is 0.8 acre-feet less than the amount of the refill right already

made absolute. Applicants seek to make the conditional refill right absolute in the additional amount of 115.575 acre-feet, for a total amount absolute of 133.575 acre-feet. Application for Finding of Reasonable Diligence: The Applicant seeks a finding of reasonable diligence with respect to any portion of the conditional refill right that is not made absolute in this case. During the diligence period, the Applicant completed the following activities that demonstrate diligence towards completing the appropriation: Continued to fill and re-fill the reservoir as allowed given available water supply and storage space. Submitted to Division of Water Resources annual reports regarding volumes of water diverted from Mountain View Dam and Reservoir for various beneficial uses. Paid annual assessments to Four Mile Ditch Company (\$657 in 2024); Incurred expenses upgrading domestic water treatment system, and installed an aeration system in the reservoir to improve water quality which protects and enhances fish culture and domestic uses, total expenses for these activities during the diligence period were approximately \$177,000. Incurred expenses irrigating common area with water diverted from reservoir, and repairing and maintaining the irrigation systems, including expenses of \$151.13 in 2021, \$430.92 in 2022, and \$1861.30 in 2023. Incurred expenses operating the domestic water system in accordance with CDPHE regulations; Paid expenses to maintain and repair Mountain View Dam and Reservoir and other water supply infrastructure serving the Hidden Valley Ranch subdivision, including but not limited to \$613.13 in 2021, \$266 in 2022, \$221.47 in 2023, and \$1255.52 in 2024 for repairs and silt removal; Mountain View Dam and Reservoir is on land owned by Applicant. (5 pages including exhibit).

THE WATER RIGHTS CLAIMED BY THE FOREGOING APPLICATION(S) MAY AFFECT IN PRIORITY ANY WATER RIGHTS CLAIMED OR HERETOFORE ADJUDICATED WITHIN THIS DIVISION AND OWNERS OF AFFECTED RIGHTS MUST APPEAR TO OBJECT AND PROTEST WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY STATUTE, OR BE FOREVER BARRED.

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT YOU HAVE UNTIL THE LAST DAY OF JANUARY 2025, TO FILE WITH THE WATER CLERK, A VERIFIED STATEMENT OF OPPOSITION, SETTING FORTH FACTS AS TO WHY A CERTAIN APPLICATION SHOULD NOT BE GRANTED or why it should be granted only in part or on certain conditions. A copy of such Statement of Opposition must also be served upon the applicant or the applicant's attorney and an affidavit or certificate of such service shall be filed with the Water Clerk, as prescribed by Rule 5, C.R.C.P. (Filing fee: \$192.00. Forms are available through the Office of the Water Clerk or on the Judicial web site at <https://www.coloradodistrict.gov/>, Jason Poyer, Water Court Specialist, 1060 E. 2nd Ave., Room 106, Durango, CO 8

Senior

Continued from A14

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.

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 \$6, 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.

To reserve your meal for the day, please make your reservation via text or phone call to (970) 264-2167 by 9 a.m. weekdays.

Community Cafe menu

Thursday, Dec. 12 — New Orleans sausage and corn chowder, ciabatta bread, Mardi Gras salad, fruit, and milk.

Friday, Dec. 13 — Beef spaghetti, broccoli, garden salad, fruit and milk.

Monday, Dec. 16 — Pork tenderloin with harvest chutney, baby baked potatoes, garden salad, fruit and milk.

Tuesday, Dec. 17 — Egg, green chile and chorizo casserole, black beans, garden salad, fruit and milk.

Wednesday, Dec. 18 — Chicken and broccoli crepes, ciabatta bread, creamed spinach, garden salad, fruit and milk.

Thursday, Dec. 19 — Tempeh chili, cornbread, sauteed zucchini, garden salad, fruit and milk.

Friday, Dec. 20 — Shrimp scampi over linguine, garlic bread, garden salad, fruit and milk.

Grab-N-Go meals

Dine-in and Grab-N-Go meal reservations and cancellations are required. Please call or text by 9 a.m. the morning of the day you want to pick up a meal. A suggested donation of \$6 helps to sustain our program. For ages 59 and younger, the cost is \$10.50. No one will be turned away for their inability to donate. Please call or text us at (970) 264-2167 to make a reservation.

Meals on Wheels

We deliver fresh Meals on Wheels five days a week (and provide frozen Meals on Wheels for weekends) to homebound Archuleta County residents. Call or text us at (970) 264-2167.

Mobile food pantry service

Older adults needing a ride to a local food pantry should contact the MET to schedule a ride with its paratransit service. For more information, contact Lavonne at (970) 264-2250.

Text reservations

Don't forget that we offer a convenient texting service for you to communicate with us. Text us at (970) 264-2167. When texting, please include your name, phone number and the days you want a meal. If you are canceling a reservation, please include your name, phone number and the days you want to cancel.

Texting services are available for dine-in meal reservations, Grab-n-Go meals and Meals on Wheels recipients.

Mahjong

Mahjong is a 19th century Chinese

tile-based game that is commonly played with four players. Each player receives 13 tiles with a goal to make matching sets and pairs (like poker). To win, a player must form four sets and one pair.

Come to the Senior Center to learn or play every Tuesday at 1:15 p.m.

Medicare call by appointment

For anyone who needs help enrolling and navigating Medicare plans, the San Juan Basin Area Agency on Aging helps with parts A, B and D. They can also help you with fraud concerns and troubleshooting any billing issues you may be having. By appointment only. Please call the Medicare line at (970) 264-0501, ext. 2.

Mindful drawing

Mindful drawing is an easy-to-learn, relaxing and fun way to create beautiful images by drawing structured patterns. Join our friendly instructor, Roberta Strickland.

Classes are every Wednesday at 1:15 p.m. in the Senior Center. This activity is open to all ages. Help us create an intergenerational community. For those under 18 and/or with disabilities, you are welcome to join us, but we kindly ask you to please bring an adult chaperone with you.

Bridge

The longest-played bridge game in Archuleta County takes place on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 1:15 p.m.

Bridge is a four-player card game with partners sitting opposite each other around a table. It is a trick-taking card game using a standard

52-card deck. Come alone or bring a partner.

Hand and foot card game

Whether you are new to hand and foot or interested in learning, please join us most Tuesdays at 1:15 at the Senior Center.

This card game involves four rounds of playing until the final round is reached — some two to three hours later. Plan to stay and meet some new friends or catch up with those you have missed over the last couple of years.

No experience is necessary, so come willing to learn.

Board vacancies

The ASI Board of Directors has multiple vacant positions open. The terms are three years with an option to renew for an additional term.

Potential candidates should be at least 21 years of age or older and must have a passion for adult and aging services.

Support the Senior Center

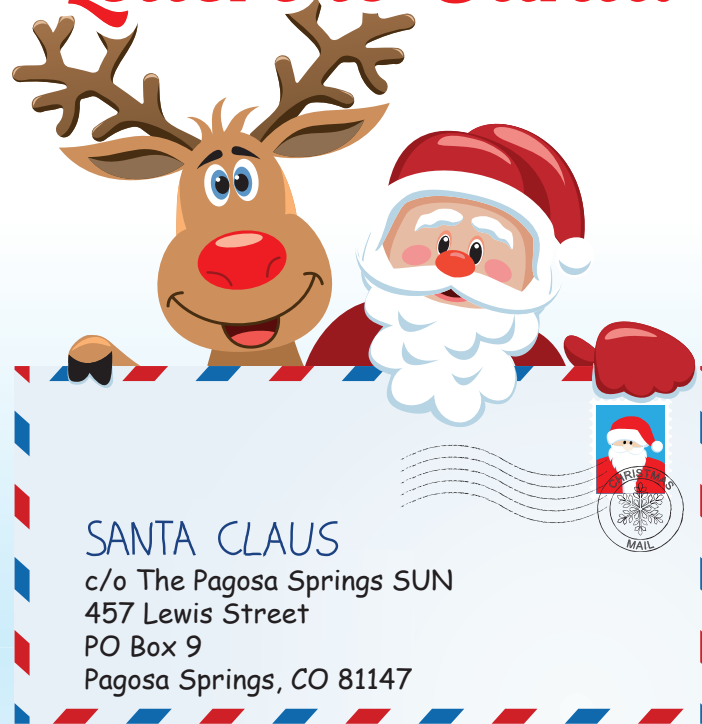
Please support our ongoing operations and programming that provide critical services to some of the most vulnerable in Archuleta County.

You may mail your donation to P.O. BOX 3444, Pagosa Springs CO 81147, or please visit our website: <http://www.pseniors.org/> (donation button).

Donation checks can be written to: Archuleta Seniors Inc.

We are located at 451 Hot Springs Blvd. For more information about ASI, please visit <http://www.pseniors.org/>.

Letters to Santa



Hey, kids!

Send us your letter to Santa and his elves at the North Pole! Your letter may be selected for publication in The Pagosa Springs SUN. Please include your first name and age on your letter.

Make sure we receive your letter by noon on Friday, Dec. 13th

You can also email your letter to editor@pagosasun.com or drop it off at the Santa mailbox at 457 Lewis Street

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Bring a flashlight & come have some fun!

Please join us for a fun and festive evening to celebrate the spirit of the holiday season.

Your source for community news:

The Pagosa Springs SUN

School district sees support for building improvements

By Garrett Fevinger
Staff Writer

Summarizing feedback from a series of community engagement meetings about the condition and future of Archuleta School District schools, Superintendent Rick Holt reported Tuesday, Dec. 10, that the message was clear.

"The big takeaway for me was that there is overwhelming support at this time to pursue what it would look like for additional resources to improve the quality of our schools," Holt said during the district's regular board meeting.

The support, gathered in part from surveys distributed at the meetings, coalesced primarily around Pagosa Springs Elementary School and Pagosa Springs Middle School, according to Holt, but extended to other buildings within the district,

as well, including Pagosa Springs High School.

"At this time, my interpretation is that we want to discuss [and] begin looking at options for increasing funds to support the schools," Holt said.

As he did during the first community meeting, Holt suggested Tuesday that the district finds itself at a fork in the road — with one path representing additional efforts and funds to maintain the current state of the schools and the other leading somewhere more progressive and, as of Tuesday, less defined.

"There's going to be a left-hand turn we can take, where the community would say, we want to add additional resources to help the schools improve — that has yet to be said what that might look like," Holt said. "And then the right-hand turn [is] we continue to draw down the general

fund budget, which includes both the dollars that we spend on our yearly amount for maintenance plus the additional nearly \$750,000 a year we're investing in capital improvements."

Early indications reflect a community ready to explore turning left, Holt told the board, with about 90 percent of survey respondents indicating the district "should consider doing something different," especially at the elementary and middle schools.

To help plot the course, Holt reported a planning advisory team made up of "a broad spectrum" of community members would soon convene — liaising with the architectural firm hired by the district to assess the schools, as well as with the community at large.

"That group will meet in January, I would say tentatively beginning to meet monthly as we move forward

through exploring possibilities," Holt said.

He added that the district is far from finished soliciting input from the community and pledged to post master plan news and updates to the district's website, www.mypagosaschools.com.

"I don't think we've reached our maximum capacity for community engagement," Holt said, noting that fewer than 200 people completed the survey the district is using to gauge public support.

"But, I think as we continue to move forward, we'll draw attention as we start discussing what our other options are," he said. "[The district] will keep the community well-informed and in the driver's seat of this decision."

Board president Bob Lynch added, "We'll keep marching on."
garrett@pagosasun.com

Students continue to be connected to critical support through Safe2Tell

By Lawrence Pacheco
Colorado Attorney General's Office

Despite a 20 percent decrease in report volume from October to November, Safe2Tell has received 12,818 reports since the start of the 2024-25 school year, a 28 percent increase compared to the same point last year.

According to the monthly report released on Dec. 10 by the Colorado Attorney General's Office, the program continues to play a critical role in student safety, with November's 2,790 reports leading to lifesaving interventions.

"Safe2Tell's growth in reports is both a testament to the trust students place in this vital resource and a sobering reminder that too many of our youth are struggling," said Attorney General Phil Weiser. "While it's encouraging to see more individuals reaching out for help, it underscores the urgent need to address the root causes of these challenges and ensure that every student has the support they need to thrive."

The most common issues reported

in November included suicide (335), bullying (289) and school safety concerns involving staff (220). The latter category is new this year and covers a range of issues, such as allegations of inappropriate staff behavior.

"Every report submitted to Safe2Tell represents a moment of connection like a student reaching out for help or a concerned individual stepping up to make a difference," explained Safe2Tell Director Stacey Jenkins. "These reports highlight the importance of listening to our youth and ensuring they have access to the resources and support they need to navigate difficult times."

False reports make up 2.2 percent of all reports submitted to the program this year. False reports are those

that contain untrue information and are submitted with the intent to harm, injure, or bully another person.

November's report also highlights the impact of Safe2Tell's platform in protecting students' lives:

- **Intervention in a case of abuse:** A person reported a student was couch hopping because they were being abused at home. School teams and local law enforcement conducted a welfare check. The student is getting counseling, and the Department of Human Services is involved.

- **Addressing suicide threats:** A person reported a student expressed suicidal ideation. Local law enforcement spoke with the student and their parents, the student confirmed having thoughts of ending their life,

and the student is receiving counseling services in and outside of school.

Safe2Tell is a successful violence intervention and prevention program for students to anonymously report threats to their own, and others', safety. Safe2Tell is not an emergency response unit nor mental health counseling service provider; it is an information pathway for distributing anonymous reports to local law enforcement and school officials required by state law.

To make a report, individuals can call (877) 542-7233 from anywhere at any time. Reports also can be made at Safe2Tell.org, by texting S2TCO to 738477 or through the Safe2Tell mobile app, which is available on the Apple App Store or Google Play.

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Join LPEA's Energy Management Technical Specialist Jon Kenney for a live webinar presentation and Q&A session covering many topics like how heating affects your energy bill, the latest electric heating options, and how thermostat settings can lead to more savings.

The first day of winter may not be here yet, but the winter temperatures sure are!

Scan the QR code for a link to the webinar



ELITE RECYCLING & DISPOSAL



Route days for trash and recycling are changing.

Effective 12.9.24

Elite Recycling & Disposal is reorganizing trash and recycle routes to increase reliability and efficiency.

The route changes will not affect all customers. Recycle Routes are changing from primarily just Friday to Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

If your route service day is changing, you will receive a letter during the week of 12/2/24 that tells you what day of the week your trash and/or recycle service is changing to. Do not be alarmed if you do not receive a letter as this means that your route day has not changed.

FOR MORE DETAILED INFORMATION

- Check our website at: elite-recycling.com
- Email us at RouteChange@elite-recycling.com and include your name and service address and we will email you back with your new route day(s).
- You will receive an email from us two days prior to your new route service day which will list your trash route service day for the coming week of 12/9/24 and going forward. If you are a recycle customer, you will receive an email regarding your recycle service day. These emails will be sent out by route so you will receive the email regardless of whether your route day has changed or not. We will send additional email reminders to help you stay on track.
- Call us at 970-226-1999. We encourage you to call as a last resort. Our phones will be busy. If you receive voicemail, please leave your name, service address and return phone number and we will get back with you as soon as we can. Please allow 24 hours for a call back.

Thank you for being a customer of Elite Recycling and Disposal.

Your patience is greatly appreciated as we implement these route day changes.

preview

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Photo courtesy Visit Pagosa Springs

December 12, 2024



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THE PAGOSA SPRINGS SUN ENCOURAGES YOU TO SHOP AT THESE LOCAL BUSINESSES THIS HOLIDAY SEASON.

A Christmas message: We are all of value

By Jackie Henderson
PREVIEW Columnist

This holiday season is the most colorful time of the year. Decorating with evergreens, bright colorful lights, sparkly decorations and poinsettia flowers is meant to brighten the darkest time and give us hope for the coming year.

A Matter of Faith

Christmas is a good time to open our eyes to the goodness around us.

One night while driving home there at the top of the hill sat a house with a beautiful colored light display. So, in the quiet dark I stopped the car and took in the beauty. These lights ignited a wonderful feeling in me. What truly matters is Christmas harmony and goodwill.

During the holiday season people get together with loved ones and friends. There is much traveling and partying. Many experience joy and merriment for a while, but this season can be overwhelming with so much to do in such a short time with great expectations.

Some people put deceitful, manipulating words out for their own self-serving ideas that are like seeds that can take root in the human soul. This year there are people with such fear and disappointment that they declare they will not be spending holidays with any of their family. Deep-seated hatred and disappointment influence their emotions, and

■ See Faith on page 6



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Bonnie is retiring on Dec 24th!

Stop by and say goodbye to Bonnie on Dec. 22nd, 23rd and 24th and enjoy cake and cookies with us.



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Holy Day - January 1
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Pope John Paul II (JPPI) 353 S. Pagosa Blvd
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Faith

■ continued from page 3
the joy that can be anticipated in this season is hollow.

Christmas is a good time to open our eyes to the goodness around us. Focus on the people in our lives and appreciate the gifts they are with thanksgiving. Time to set aside our differences.

First Corinthians in the Bible guides us in this and reminds us that love is patient and kind; it is not jealous or conceited or proud; love is not ill-mannered or selfish or irritable; love does not keep a

record of wrongs; love is not happy with evil but is happy with the truth. Love never gives up. Faith, hope and patience never fail. Love is eternal.

Jesus Christ is life, and this life brings light to brighten the world and overcome darkness. He came to give us a gift of true joy, peace, hope and love. Let Him into your heart. Second Thessalonians in the Bible reveals this to us.

May our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father, who loved us and, in His grace, give us unfailing courage and a firm hope, encourage

you and strengthen you to always do and say what is good.

People in our lives are true gifts — recognize the value.

This column may include both fiction and nonfiction, and views expressed do not necessarily represent those of The SUN. Submissions can be sent to editor@pagosasun.com.

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Christmas Eve

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Give the gift of blood at Dec. 17 drive

By Sharee Grazda
Special to The PREVIEW

Decorating, gift shopping, planning meals and get-togethers are all fun things to do this time of year.

Humbly, we ask you to also consider donating your gift of blood at our next local drive.

Emergency surgery, traumatic injury and chronic conditions don't take a break for the holidays, so neither can we.

Join other caring and generous

friends and neighbors at Centerpoint Church, 2750 Cornerstone Drive, on Tuesday, Dec. 17, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Please contact local volunteer Sharee Grazda by call or text at (970) 946-2760 for more information or to schedule an appointment.

You may also go directly to Vitalant.org or call 877/25-VITAL.

Thank you for doing your part to ensure patients get what they need this holiday season, and "God bless us everyone."



Season's Greetings



Christmas in Pagosa

An old-fashioned celebration

Support our community by attending the events and sales at these local establishments this holiday season. These businesses have worked hard to make this a magical shopping season for you!

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Hey, kids!

Send us your letter to Santa and his elves at the North Pole!
Your letter may be selected for publication in The Pagosa Springs SUN.
Please include your first name and age on your letter.

Make sure we receive your letter by noon on Friday, Dec. 13th

You can also email your letter to
editor@pagosasun.com
or drop it off at the Santa mailbox at 457 Lewis Street

The Pagosa Springs SUN



Photo courtesy Jeff Laydon

The Pagosa Springs Community Choir concerts will bring "Joy to the World" Friday and Saturday night at 7 p.m. and Sunday afternoon at 4 p.m. in the Pagosa Springs High School auditorium. Admission is free.

Pagosa Springs Community Choir's 'Joy To The World' concerts set for this weekend

By Heidi Tanner

Pagosa Springs Community Choir

The Pagosa Springs Community Choir is excited to bring you this year's series of Christmas concerts themed "Joy to the World" slated for this Friday, Dec. 13, and Saturday, Dec. 14, at 7 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 15, at 4 p.m.

These concerts are free and held in the Pagosa Springs High School auditorium.

Brighten your holiday season with beautiful Christmas choral songs. Our 70+ members are looking forward to sharing this beautiful music with you, and your attendance will be sure to bring joy to your holidays.

A very special feature of our concerts is our ASL (American Sign Language) interpreter, Faith Richardson. Richardson has been signing at our

concerts for many years and watching her sign the words of our songs is both fascinating and beautiful.

Another treat you will enjoy is Soprano Marion Latimer, who will be singing a solo for you during "His Light In Us," a very lovely choral piece which sings of the renewal of hope and light which the Christmas season brings to us.

As has been the tradition of the choir for many years, we will conclude the program with George Frideric Handel's "Hallelujah" chorus from the "Messiah." The auditorium will resound with the jubilant sound of this celebratory Christmas piece.

Please join us this weekend and celebrate the Christmas season.

Our three concerts will be Friday, Dec. 13, and Saturday, Dec. 14, at 7 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 15, at 4 p.m. in the Pagosa Springs High School

auditorium.

The Pagosa Springs Community Choir is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and, though admission to this concert is free, we will welcome your donations with gratitude.

The Pagosa Springs Community Choir is looking forward to bringing "Joy to the World" through beautiful choral music for the Christmas season. See you all this weekend.

Your source for community news.

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Photo courtesy Ruby Sisson Library Foundation and Friends

Gather your friends for an evening of crafts and holiday cheer 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. this Saturday, Dec. 14, in support of your Ruby Sisson Library. Your \$50 ticket to Late Night at the Library covers all supplies and food and drink, plus supports the Mountains of Opportunity campaign to expand and renovate the library. Create winter-themed designs with the easy-to-learn art technique known as Zentangle or fashion holiday crafts from used books. Tickets, \$50 at pagosalibrary.org or \$60 at the door, include catered hors d'oeuvres, wine, beer and soft drinks. This is a 21-and-over event.

Holiday Church Events

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

Thursday, Dec. 12

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. 6 p.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church, 353 S. Pagosa Blvd. Bilingual rosary will be at 6 p.m. At 6:30 p.m. there will be special music and celebration prior to 7 p.m. Mass. There will be dinner, dancing and re-enactment immediately following Mass. For more information, visit ihmjp2.org.

Sunday, Dec. 15

Advent Service. 10 a.m., Trinity Anglican Church, 246 Harman Park Drive. Dedicated to the reflective preparation for the arrival of Jesus Christ's nativity at Christmastime.

Winter Music and Sharing. 10 a.m., Pagosa Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 301 N. Pagosa Blvd., Unit B-15. A relaxed morning of music and singing.

Tuesday, Dec. 17

'The First Advent in Palestine' Book Study. 1:30-2:30 p.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd. Meet in the Parish Hall library to read and discuss Kelly Nikondeha's book and the scripture texts it explores.

Advent Penance Service. 5 p.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church, 353 S. Pagosa Blvd. For more information, visit ihmjp2.org.

Friday, Dec. 20

Solstice Gathering. 6 p.m., Pagosa Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 301 N. Pagosa Blvd., Unit B-15. Honoring the darkness and holding the light within.

Saturday, Dec. 21

'The Longest Night' Service. 4 p.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd. A contemplative service of song, prayer and lament as we name before God our grief and our hope.

Sunday, Dec. 22

Advent Service. 10 a.m., Trinity Anglican Church, 246 Harman Park Drive. Dedicated to the reflective preparation for the arrival of Jesus Christ's nativity at Christmastime.

Tuesday, Dec. 24

Christmas Eve Service. 2:30 p.m., Grace in Pagosa, 1044 Park Ave.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Ceremony. 4 p.m., SpiritFire Inspirational Living Center, 3505 W. U.S. 160

Christmas Eve Service. 4:00 p.m., Grace in Pagosa, 1044 Park Ave.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. 5 p.m., Pagosa Bible Church, 209 Harman Park Drive. There will be a brass prelude at 4:30 p.m. The service will be in person and online at www.pagosabilechurch.com.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. 5 p.m., Open Door Church, 110 Trinity Lane.

Christmas Eve Mass. 5 p.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church, 353 S. Pagosa Blvd. For more information, visit ihmjp2.org.

Christmas Eve Pageant. 5 p.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd. Children will share the message of the angels as we gather for a nativity play, song and prayers for all ages. The worship will end with Eucharist and music offered by candlelight. Children who would like to be an animal or angel in the nativity play are welcome to come a bit early to get costumed.

Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols. 5 p.m., Trinity Anglican Church, 246 Harman Park Drive. A joyous

celebration of prophecy and promise scripture readings along with congregational singing of favorite carols.

Christmas Eve Service. 5:30 p.m., Grace in Pagosa, 1044 Park Ave.

Christmas Eve Service. 7:45 p.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd. Enjoy instrumental Christmas hymns. A liturgy of Holy Eucharist with choir begins at 8 p.m.

Christmas Eve Mass. 8 p.m., Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church, 455 Lewis St. For more information, visit ihmjp2.org.

Wednesday, Dec. 25

Christmas Day Mass. 9 a.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church, 353 S. Pagosa Blvd. For more information, visit ihmjp2.org.

Christmas Day Service. 10 a.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd. Rejoice together in prayer on Christmas morning with a quiet liturgy.

Sunday, Dec. 29

Carol Service. 10 a.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd. Share in one liturgy as we worship with our annual carol sing.

Wednesday, Jan. 1

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God Mass. 9 a.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church, 353 S. Pagosa Blvd. For more information, visit ihmjp2.org.

Sunday, Jan. 5

Epiphany Service. 8 a.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd. Celebrate the end of the Christmas season as we gather for worship, remembering the journey of the Magi, and considering our own dreams and callings.



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Photo courtesy Thingamajig Theatre Company

Thingamajig Theatre Company actors, directors and designers received an impressive 16 nominations for awards in the prestigious 2024 statewide contest currently being conducted by BroadwayWorld Denver. They include three for "All is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914," running Dec. 13-28 with many of the original cast. Voting is underway now, providing the opportunity to help the talented artists who make the live professional nonprofit theater so remarkable receive the recognition they deserve.

BroadwayWorld honors Thingamajig Theatre with 16 nominations, voting underway now

By Carole Howard
Thingamajig Theatre Company

Thingamajig Theatre Company actors, directors and designers received an impressive 16 nominations for awards in the prestigious 2024 statewide contest currently being conducted by BroadwayWorld Denver.

Voting is underway now, providing you the opportunity to help the talented artists who make our live professional nonprofit theater so remarkable receive the recognition they deserve. No purchase or payment of any kind is needed to vote.

Thingamajig Theatre is located

in the Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts.

Thingamajig nominees

Here are the Thingamajig people and productions that made it to the final ballot in this respected competition:

- Best play: "Marrow."
 - Best musical: "Beautiful."
 - Best ensemble: "All is Calm."
 - Best performer in a play: Craig MacArthur, "Marrow."
 - Best performer in a musical: Margot Grom, "Beautiful."
 - Best supporting performer in a play: Scott Morehead, "Tiny Beautiful."
- See Thingamajig on next page

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Spiritual Experiences Group to discuss developing a powerful spiritual practice

By Laurah Brock Young

Spiritual Experiences Group of Pagosa Springs

Have you ever reached out to the universe for love and answers? Need help with stress or fear?

There is a sacred sound, an ancient mantra that can manifest God's love and help in our lives. It is called HU, a universal love song to God. HU offers balance, wisdom and wonder. It brings alignment with your true purpose and highest good.

Life is a spiritual experience. Please join us on Sunday, Dec. 15, for a "Sound of Soul" experience called

"Develop a Powerful Spiritual Practice — Easy Ways to Connect with Divine Spirit Every Day."

We meet at the Pagosa Lakes Clubhouse, 230 Port Ave.

We have some exciting news beginning in January: We are offering a complimentary three-month program called "Raise Your Spiritual IQ!" This program offers 10 techniques included in a "Raise Your Spiritual IQ!" experience journal. You can choose your adventures. It includes three books that can help you unlock the power of your dreams and understand more about reincarnation and the meaning of your inner

experiences.

Eckankar, a spiritual resource for people of all faiths and backgrounds, sponsors this free event. It is an individual, creative practice to experience our unique relationship with the Divine.

Join the Spiritual Experiences Group of Pagosa Springs at <https://www.meetup.com/pagosa-springs-spiritual-experiences-group/>.

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

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Thingamajig

■ continued from previous page

ful Things."

- Best supporting performer in a musical: Cassandra Brooks, "Beautiful."

- Best direction of a play: Melissa Firlit, "Marrow."

- Best direction of a musical: Andrew Barratt Lewis, "All is Calm."

- Best scenic design of a play or musical: JD Madsen, "Margaritaville."

- Best lighting design of a play or musical: Elaine Wong, "Marrow."

- Best costume design of a play or musical: Nanette Cheffers, "All is Calm."

- Best choreography of a play or musical: Davey Burton Midkiff, "Beauty and the Beast."

- Best sound design of a play or musical: Matthew Bitner, "Marrow."

- Best music direction: Dominic Girolami, "Beautiful."

- Favorite local theater: Thingamajig Theatre.

How to vote

Online voting is underway now. It's a very narrow window for voting this year, as voting runs only through Dec. 31. Winners will be announced in January.

To vote for your Thingamajig favorites, here is the link: <https://www.broadwayworld.com/denver/article/Voting-Open-for-the-2024-BroadwayWorld-Denver-Awards-20241204>.

Be sure to fill out the required information boxes at the end of the ballot or your vote will not be counted.

Reaction from Thingamajig

The BroadwayWorld nominations provide an opportunity to celebrate the impressive talents of the actors, directors and production experts who helped us put on so many amazing live-theater shows over the past year, according to Tim Moore, artistic director and co-founder of Thingamajig with his wife, Laura.

"This summer at our theater was

nothing short of incredible, building on the remarkable momentum of our entire year that ranged from a serious drama like 'Marrow' about tolerance and respect, the meaning of true camaraderie in 'All is Calm,' and the lessons about how to really listen in 'Tiny Beautiful Things,'" said Tim Moore. "Then came our highly popular summer musicals — 'Beautiful: The Carole King Story,' Jimmy Buffett's 'Margaritaville' and 'Beauty and the Beast.' These 16 BroadwayWorld nominations from our audience are great feedback.

"We're especially pleased that 'All is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914' received three important nominations for Best Ensemble, Best Direction of a Musical and Best Costume Design of a Musical."

You get a second chance to see this remarkable true story told in the words and songs of Allied and German soldiers when Thingamajig brings back the production from Dec. 13-28, with many of the original cast.

It opens as German soldiers initiate an informal truce by emerging from the infamous trenches of the war singing 'Stille Nacht.' For one extraordinary night, the shooting stops as the enemies enjoy camaraderie, music and peace in No Man's Land.

High-caliber competition

BroadwayWorld oversees the largest theater audience awards on the globe, covering Broadway in New York, the West End in London and more than 100 key artistic locations in the U.S. and worldwide including in Australia, Canada, Central and South America, Europe, and Asia.

Thingamajig competes in the impressive Denver regional professional theater market, with nominees also coming from Rocky Mountain Repertory Theatre, Vintage Theatre, Merely Players, Front Range Theatre Company, Arvada Center, Boulder Dinner Theatre, Cherry Creek Theatre and many more.

This means that the caliber of the competition is extremely high.

SUDOKU

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

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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!

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

ANSWER:

Christmas cheer or Christmas fear: Domestic abuse escalates at Christmastime

By Jennifer Sutherland
Rise Above Violence

Domestic violence often escalates during this time of year, creating a stark contrast between the festive cheer outside and the silent suffering inside the home.

So, why does domestic violence increase at Christmas?

The reason for the rise in domestic violence during the holiday season is due to financial stress over buying Christmas gifts, heightened family expectations and the increase of alcohol consumption. The pressure of gift-giving, hosting and holiday travel can further strain households where abuse is already present.

Abusers may use the holiday as a tool for control, restricting access to loved ones or even sabotaging holiday plans as a way to exert dominance.

On average, police interventions

related to domestic violence rise by 20 percent in December compared to other months of the year.

For women and men living with domestic abuse, Christmas offers no respite and can be a time of intensified coercion, punishment and violence. The toxic mix of financial pressure, families getting together and free-flowing alcohol can, quite simply, be a lethal combination.

Excuses such as burnt dinner rolls or the wrong gift choice can quickly escalate into a very dangerous situation.

Christmas can also bring intensified feelings of misery to women and children suffering from domestic abuse, even if the abuse hasn't escalated.

Having information on resources at hand can be useful if they indicate they're ready for the next steps.

Rise Above Violence in Pagosa Springs assists victims of domestic

violence and sexual assault, offering free, confidential support and is available 24/7 at (970) 264-9075.

Follow Rise Above Violence social media platforms throughout the month of December as we open up about common misconceptions about domestic violence during Christmas and share ways to support survivors through the Christmas holiday.

Looking to support victims of domestic violence and sexual assault in more ways? Please consider making a one-time or monthly donation at www.riseaboveviolence.org or find out more about becoming a volunteer victim advocate.

Unitarian Universalists to offer two services in December

By De Anna Hoyle
Pagosa Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

As the longer nights continue and celebrations of light are drawing near, the Pagosa Unitarian Universalist (UU) Fellowship will offer two services in December to come together to celebrate this festive time of year.

On Dec. 15, at 10:30 a.m., our Sunday service will be "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day — UU Christmas Traditions," and will focus on some of the traditional songs and stories of Unitarian and Universalist forebearers who wrote several of the songs we enjoy. We will also "travel back" to pre-Christian times and learn of ancient customs of yuletide traditions.

Singing has always been a part of the celebrations we know so well, and this Sunday we will share in that tradition. Join us for a relaxed Sunday morning of music and singing, along with cider and treats.

A solstice gathering and ritual will take place on Friday, Dec. 20, from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

"Honoring the Darkness-Holding the Light Within" welcomes friends of all ages to engage with the lessons of the darkness and welcome the light. We encourage dressing warmly

in case we spend some time outside dependent on the weather.

Treats to share after the ritual will warm us as we lean into the longer days ahead.

Unitarian Universalism is a living tradition which has shifted in many ways from the heritage of its Christian roots, and continues to evolve.

Our shared values serve as guides for living out our UU faith and centers on love as the catalyst. One of those values is pluralism, which simply defined is the belief we are all sacred beings, diverse in culture, experience and theology. We draw on many sources for divine living and we invite the community to share in growing your spirit, making friends and doing good works with us (source: UUA.org/beliefs).

The fellowship's in-person services are normally on the first and third Sundays of the month at 10:30 a.m. Find us in Unit B-15 of the Greenbriar Plaza, 301 N. Pagosa Blvd., on the north side facing the Pagosa Peak.

Joining us through our offered Zoom services is also an option using the following meeting link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8991941305>

Visit our website, www.pagosauu.org, to find our current newsletter.



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From a sow's ear to a silk purse

By Betty Slade
PREVIEW Columnist

"We comin'."
"We don't want you."
"We comin' anyway. We here."
Deion Sanders dug his feet into Colorado soil and planted them on the CU Boulder football field. "God told me to come to the Buffs at Colorado University."

Football is a fickle business. It's wise to place your feet on God's word and where He wants you if you want a sure bet.

"We want a coach. We don't want a preacher." Angry parents at CU pulled their boys out from the football program. Their boys could have been a part of a miracle in the making. I wonder if they are sorry today and eating their words for being shortsighted?

In 2022, CU was known as the worst football team in the country. Under Sander's determination to be where God wanted him, it has become a silk purse full of gold coins. Merch stores are selling memorabilia and bringing an economic boost to Boulder. In six home games during the fall 2023 season, CU generated \$113.2 million. Once an empty stadium with a 50,183 capacity, it is brimming over with fans. Hollywood celebrities, occupying hotel rooms and eating at fancy restaurants, are bringing their glitter to the university town of Boulder.

The old, familiar cliché, "you can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear," needs to be rethought.

It means it's impossible to make something successful or of high quality out of something which is unsuccessful or of poor quality. If one discounts God in the mix of things, it could be true.

Sanders has made it very clear he is here in the Rocky Mountains because of God. The whole Colorado Buffaloes' coaching staff has undergone a dramatic turnaround. Foot-

Artist's Lane

The old, familiar cliché, "you can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear," needs to be rethought.

ball fans said about Sanders, "He is an enigma. Some people love to love him, and others love to hate him."

Sounds familiar. Some will never be believers.

On Saturday, Nov. 16, they played the Utah Utes. The sports announcer at the beginning of the game asked Sanders how they were going to compete with Utah's physicality.

Sanders said with without flinching, "We have our size. We're going to take what is ours."

The Colorado Buffs upset the Utah football team 49-24. The coach from Utah in the postgame press conference praised Sanders for the great team he had put together.

Sanders sees the team as sons. He is pouring godly principles into the

young football stars. His desire is to build godly men. He is doing it. He tells his guys, "Whatever you're going through on the football field, life is harder and you'll deal with harder blows. This is what you're learning in playing football."

Sanders brought his own two sons with him to the Colorado football field. He's had a lot of pushback starting Shedeur Sanders as the Buff's quarterback. The quarterback has brought his team in view of the Big 12 title and college football playoffs.

Shedeur Sanders was not ranked, and Deion Sanders was labeled as a hater for this. In the beginning, Deion Sanders said, "I'm not giving my son anything. He has to earn it."

He has earned it and is known as maybe one of the greatest quarterbacks in the country. Now that Colorado is winning games, a lot of people are yelling, "Where are all the haters now?"

It seems Shedeur Sanders is receiving plenty of "love" in the rankings this week with his big win over Utah. A quarterback's ranking is based on the "juice" they have after

■ See Lane on next page



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SpiritFire Inspirational Living Center announces upcoming events

By Shayla McClure
SpiritFire Inspirational Living Center

Spiritual topics are discussed every Tuesday at the SpiritFire Inspirational Living Center.

A Christmas bazaar benefiting charity will be held Saturday, Dec. 14, at 10 a.m.

Upcoming events

Dec. 18, noon: Health Club meeting with presentations free to the public. Please bring a lunch and meet up with others who are on the healing journey and helping others. This will be educational and inspiring.

Dec. 21, 11 a.m.: Solstice Celebration with Scott Maki, master, Himalayan singing bowls, and Shayla Azriel, sacred ceremonialist. Reserve your spot now by contacting (970) 510-0309.

Dec. 24, 4 p.m.: Christmas Eve

Candlelight Ceremony with Azriel and Jenelle Syverson. A love donation with be accepted.

About us


SpiritFire Inspirational Living Center is a 501(c)(3). We are an all-inclusive community honoring all lifestyles, cultures and religious paths to the Divine. We are the "Good Vibe Tribe" who practices Science of Mind principles of positive thinking.

The vision of SpiritFire Inspirational Living Center is to empower each participating member to become their "best self." Our mission is to create a world that works for everyone through self empowerment and awareness of the creator's divinity.

We welcome local talents to share gifts, aptitudes, and knowledge.

SpiritFire Inspirational Living Center events are held at 3505 W. U.S. 160, on the second floor of the Pagosa

Lodge (elevator available). Obtain information by joining us; emailing pagosacommunitynewthought@gmail.com; mailing P.O. Box 1052, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147; or calling (970) 510-0309.



Trinity Anglican Church

3rd Sunday of Advent
"I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people. Born to you this day ... a Savior, who is Christ the Lord!"

246 Harman Park Dr.
trinityanglicanchurch.org

Lane

■ continued from previous page the current game.

Deion Sanders, known as Coach Prime, brought loyalty with him. Travis Hunter previously played for the Jackson State Tigers, where he was the highest-ranked prospect to ever commit to a Football Championship Subdivision school. He followed his coach to CU. Hunter is the Colorado Buffaloes' wide receiver.

Romi Bean, lead sports anchor/reporter, interviewed Coach Prime. She commented that Hunter is playing everywhere on the field and is all over the place. Deion Sanders quickly corrected her.

"Hunter is exactly where he needs to be. Never before or after, will there be a player who can play both offense and defense so successfully. He is a rarity. We design the plays around Hunter. He does what he needs to do."

After the game, the announcer asked, "What does Travis Hunter do after a win?"

"He goes home and goes to bed.

Not like some of the other players after a win, who go out on the town and celebrates. Hunter is a good guy."


He is a 2024 Heisman Trophy hopeful after a performance on Saturday that only he could do. In Colorado's win against Utah, Hunter had a rushing touchdown, five receptions for 55 yards and an interception. Hunter is a projected top-10 pick in the 2025 NFL draft, with a valuation of \$3.1 million.

Final brushstroke: Could there be any doubt about Deion Sander's faith? He has honored God and turned a pig's ear into a silk purse and given these young men a chance at success. He has ignored the naysayers blinded by their own inability to change. Only the Lord has the power to back his Word. Deion Sanders is telling the world, "If you want to be blessed, you better listen to God."

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

Views expressed do not necessarily represent those of The SUN.


Come Home for the Holidays!



Eagle Drive
\$590,000

MLS # 819518

40 Acre Commercial Property located on Hwy 160 off of Eagle Dr. 3,290 Square feet and 2 attached buildings. The front is a gallery and warehouse the back at one time was a clinic.




44 W Golf Place
\$560,000

MLS # 817526

3 bedroom/2 1/2 bathrooms with 1,703 sq. ft. and conveniently located uptown. This home was built in 2006 and used as a second home by the owners. All three bedrooms are located upstairs with the primary bedroom towards the back. Two covered decks – one off the primary bedroom and the other off of the living room – allow for a nice place to relax and unwind.

To tour this home go to:
<https://pspixeltree.com/44-W-Golf-Pl>




1001 Soaring Eagle Court
\$925,000

MLS # 813551

2 Bed, 2 Bath, 2,073 sq foot house on 36.44 acres. Navajo River Ranch has 2 private entrances into the forest. This home has wonderful views of the San Juan Mountain Range and great decks. 2 tributaries come together to form a seasonal creek called Oil Well Creek on the property.

To tour this home go to:
<https://tinyurl.com/1001SoaringEagleCourt>




65 Caballero Drive
\$799,000

MLS # 811817

This home is perfectly located on approximately an acre of land in the Pagosa Lakes area. Open the back door and a 700 sq ft deck will provide additional space for a BBQ grill, plenty of outdoor seating, and a new hot tub for your relaxation and enjoyment. 4 beds/2.5 baths with 2,350 sq. ft.

To tour this home go to:
<https://tinyurl.com/65Caballero>

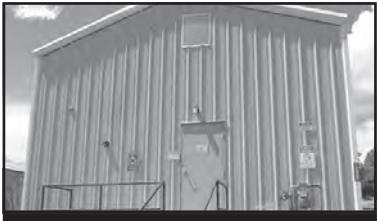


814 Ginger Circle
\$199,000

MLS # 817526

Beautiful wooded, mountain property located in a gated community. Potential building site is private with views of Broken Off Point. Well maintained roads. Elk Park Meadows is located just 10 minutes (6 miles) west of uptown Pagosa Springs.

To tour this property go to:
<https://pspixeltree.com/814-Ginger-Cir>




Cloman Industrial Park
\$380,000

MLS # 807337


.68 Acre, 1500 sq. ft. commercial building located in Cloman Industrial Park. There is enough property to build another building or make a large wrap around parking lot. There is a 3000 BYU gas heater and a 40 gallon hot water heater.

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30 High Drive — MLS # 794628, \$59,900
147 Cat Creek Overlook — MLS # 806842. 1.26 acres. \$25,000
27 D Place — MLS #813258, \$165,000. Owner carry.
98 Saturn Drive — \$67,500



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585 Shenandoah Dr
184 Sweetwater Dr
305 Snow Cir
155 Pike Dr
18 Bienvenido Cir
601 Stevens Cir
954 Monument Ave
660 Apache St
344 Capricho Cir

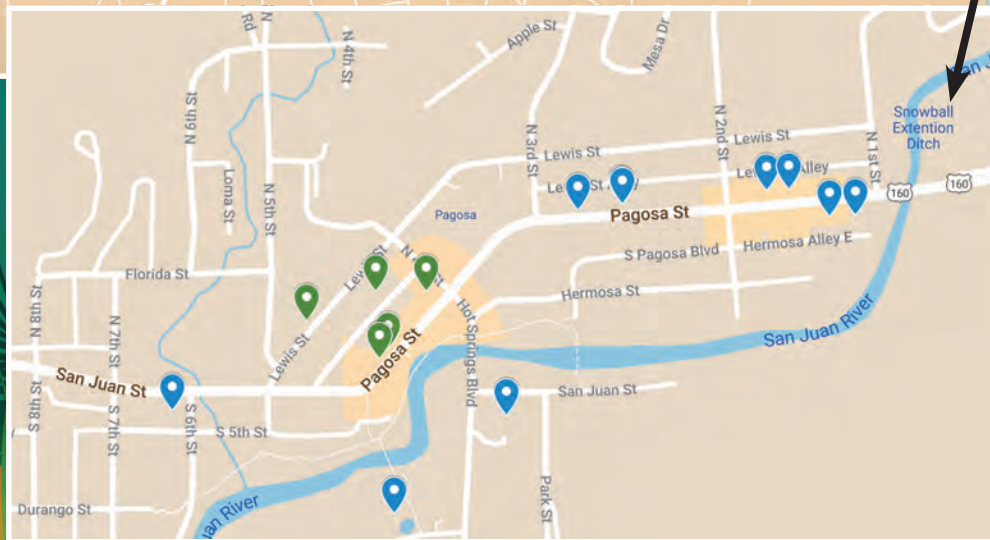
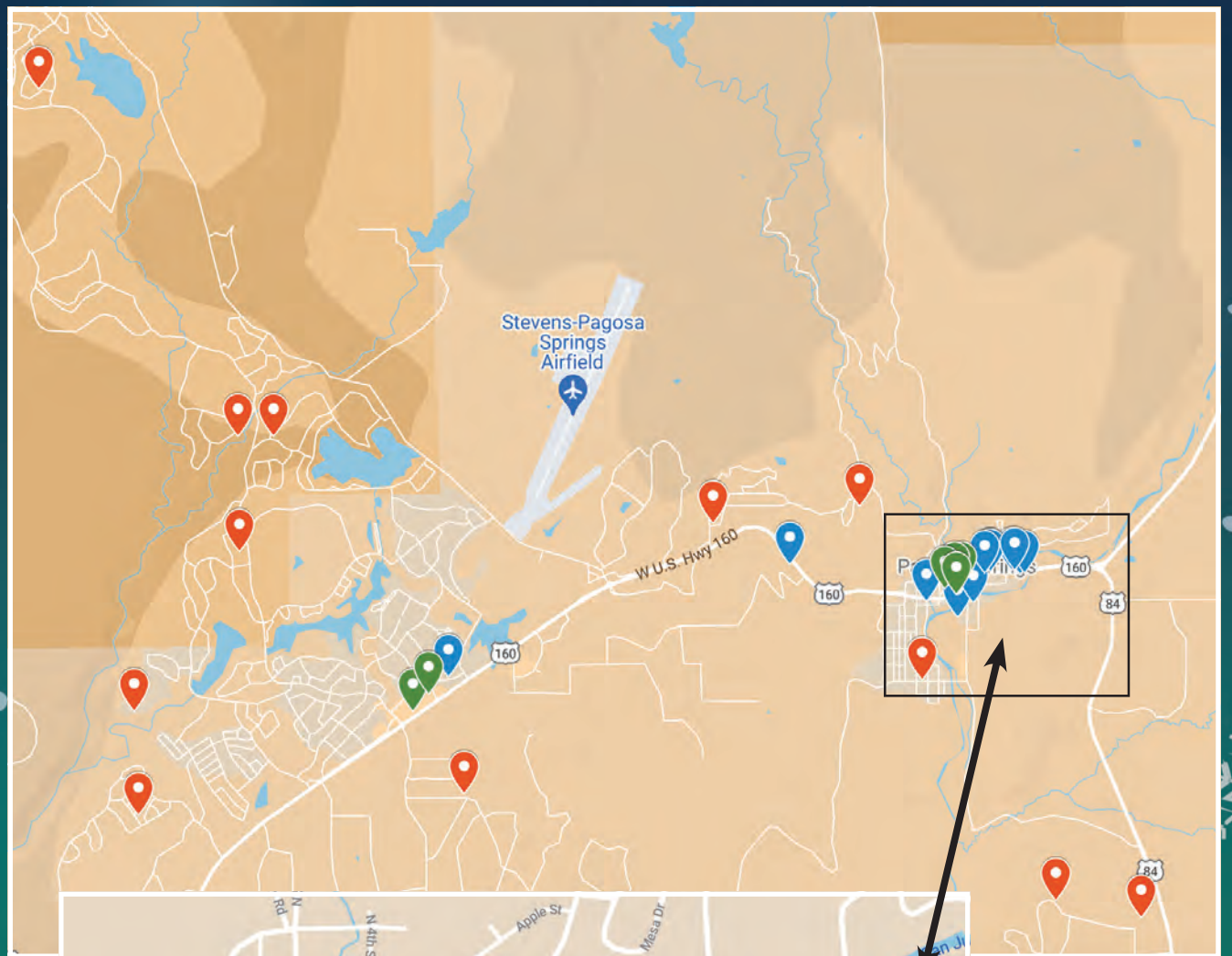
Entrants for the 2024 Pagosa Springs Area Holiday Lighting contest have been announced, with participants turning on their lights for viewing every evening from 6 to 8 p.m. between Nov. 29 and the end of the year.

Vote for your favorite between Nov. 29 and Dec. 22

Contest winners will be announced in The Pagosa Springs SUN on Dec. 26.

Business

Wyndham - 538 Village Dr
The Springs Resort - 323 Hot Springs Blvd
Healing Waters Resort & Spa - 140 Hot Springs Blvd
Pagosa Mountain Sports - 162 Pagosa St
PJ's Fine Bamboo Rods - 262 Pagosa St Unit 103
Kips Grill & Cantina - 121 Pagosa St
Pagosa Springs House of Jerky - 262 Pagosa St Unit 102A
Rainbow Gift Shop - 611 San Juan St
Engel & Volkers Pagosa Springs - 286 Pagosa St
You Deserve This Massage + Wellness - 103 Main St
Cork & Board - 150 Pagosa St
Pagosa Craft - 127 Goldmine Dr



Storefront window

Happy Trails Ladies Boutique - 454 Pagosa St
Goodman's Dept. Store - 402 Pagosa St
Community United Methodist Thrift Store - 427 Lewis St
Two Old Crows - 468 Lewis St
Chow Down Pet Supplies - 100 Country Center Dr A/B
Foot Prints - 456 Pagosa St
Uncle's Bar & Social Club - 56 Talisman Dr Unit 8C

Vote here



Bird of the Week



Photo courtesy Charles Martinez

This week's Bird of the Week, compliments of the Weminuche Audubon Society and Audubon Rockies, is the ring-necked duck.

In the time of American western exploration during the 1800s, it was common practice to name bird species for the place where they were collected or to honor a person.

Some of those species are named for people associated with the racism and violence of that period. In an effort to make the appreciation of birds more inclusive, a decision has been made to change the names of all birds which are named for people.

Even those bird names that relate to physical characteristics are often not very helpful in identifying the bird. Such is the case with the ring-necked duck, whose cinnamon-colored neck ring is rarely visible. Both males and females have a visible white ring just behind the black tip on the gray bill, making the name ring-billed duck seem a better choice.

Males are colored glossy black on the head, front, rear and back. The clean white patch on their sides is whale-shaped. The female is brownish with a gray face and white strip behind the bill. She sports a prominent white eye ring. In both sexes the head has a peaked shape.

Although the ring-necked is classified as a diving duck, they are frequently found in small, shallow wetlands with water 4 feet or less deep. They may even move into flooded fields to feed. On ponds and lakes they dive with a leap forward into the water and propel themselves underwater using only their feet.

These ducks feed primarily on the leaves, stems, seeds and tubers of submerged plants. These include pondweed, water lilies, wild celery, wild rice and others. Especially during the breeding season, mollusks, snails and insect larvae are added to their diet. During fall migration, flocks of several thousand can stop to feed on wild rice in Minnesota lakes.

Even though the use of lead shot for waterfowl hunting has been banned since the 1990s, ring-necked ducks are still vulnerable to lead poisoning from the ingestion of shot that has accumulated on wetland bottoms.

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

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A Reflection on Hot Springs Fest: Celebrating Community & Hot Springs

The Springs Resort

Hot Springs Fest 2024 was more than just a festival— it was a celebration of community, connection, and the healing power of Pagosa Springs' world-renowned waters. Held annually in November, this beloved three-day event marked its fifth anniversary with a vibrant lineup of activities and community collaborations that showcased everything wonderful about our town and its iconic hot springs.

This year's festival logo, designed by local graphic designer Abigail Karas through a Call to Artists, captured the spirit of Hot Springs Fest and highlighted the community's creative talent. The Pagosa Springs Town Council further celebrated this connection by declaring November as Hot Springs Month, honoring the vital role hot springs play in the town's culture and identity.

The 120 hot springs enthusiasts who participated enjoyed access to over 40 hot springs pools at all three local hot springs resorts: The Springs Resort, Healing Waters, and Overlook Hot Springs. From aqua yoga and contrast

bathing to a forest hike and restorative tea ceremonies, there was something for everyone. Locals enjoyed discounted tickets and free community events, ensuring everyone could enjoy the festival's inclusive spirit. This dedication to keeping the festival accessible to all locals will remain a cornerstone of future events.

The Robe Parade was a new event this year. After a Gratitude Ceremony at the Mother Spring, participants marched through downtown, all wearing the traditional hot springs "attire" - cozy robes. The procession was led by Native American drummer Jake Vicenti and his family. Local business owners, including Mayor Shari Pierce, were on hand to judge participants in three categories, with the grand prize winner receiving a full year of soaking at all three venues.

"Hot Springs Fest 2024 was such an amazing and unforgettable experience," said area visitor Mili Rodriguez. "This will now be [an]... annual trip. Everyone was so friendly!"

The festival also included live music from local bands Won-

derbread and Happy Campers, creating lively evenings that brought people together over shared tunes and good company. For those exploring beyond the pools, over a dozen local businesses from Riff Raff to Footprints, Pagosa Baking Company, and Hidden Track, offered exclusive discounts to festival participants, further embedding Hot Springs Fest into the town's broader community fabric.

This festival is quickly becoming a part of the culture and fabric of Pagosa Springs. It grows in size and popularity every year. It brings people together, emphasizes social wellness, and fosters community. This festival is a true gem, and it will surely continue to give both locals and visitors a chance to celebrate our town and our love for the hot springs. We can't wait to see how Hot Springs Fest evolves in 2025, and invite you to join us in 2025 for another incredible year.

For event inquiries, please reach out to Mary Cocke at mcocke@pagosahotsprings.com to learn how you can be part of next year's celebration.

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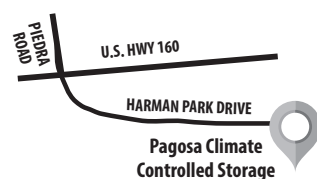


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Preview Calendar

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

Thursday, Dec. 12

Ruby's Writers Guild. 9-11 a.m., Sisson Library. Ruby's Writers Guild welcomes writers who are looking for opportunities, support and camaraderie with other writers. Members will provide support, resources and guidance for each other.

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.

Christmas Bird Count Bird Identification Class. 6-8 p.m., Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St.

Friday, Dec. 13

Indoor Pickleball. 8-11:30 a.m., Ross Aragon Community Center.

Good News Club. 1:15-3:15 p.m., Pagosa Springs Elementary School. A weekly club for kids in kindergarten through the fourth grade where the Bible is taught with songs, stories, object lessons, games and more. For more information, email Frank and Connie Porter at ceflitttlekids@gmail.com.

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

Impulse Control with Rise Above Violence. 2-3 p.m., Sisson Library. Teen brains are moving a mile a minute and sometimes it can be hard to keep up. Learn some strategies for impulse control with guest speakers from Rise Above Violence.

Craftapalooza. 2-3:30 p.m., Sisson Library. Join for a variety of crafts

for people of all ages and abilities.

Pagosa Springs Community Choir Christmas Concert. 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School auditorium.

'All is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914.' 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts. For tickets and show information, see pagosacenter.org or call (970) 731-SHOW (7469).

Saturday, Dec. 14

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.

Wreaths Across America Ceremony and Wreath Laying. 10 a.m., Hilltop Cemetery. Join for a missing man aerial formation, ceremony and wreath presentation. There will be hot beverages and holiday snacks to keep everyone warm while placing the wreaths.

Pi Beta Phi Christmas Angel Luncheon. 11:30 a.m., home of Carole Howard. San Juan Alumnae Club members are invited. Guests are asked to dress in holiday attire. Please bring an anonymous wrapped angel gift (does not have to be an ornament) to exchange and a monetary contribution to Healthy Archuleta for food banks. RSVP to Carole.

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

Late Night at the Library. 4:30-7:30 p.m., Sisson Library. Explore the art of Zentangle or learn to transform used books into holiday crafts while enjoying food and fun. Tickets are \$50 and support the Mountains of Opportunity campaign to expand and renovate the library. Tickets are available at pagosalibrary.org or at the door. This is a 21-and-over event.

Pagosa Springs Community Choir Christmas Concert. 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School auditorium.

'All is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914.' 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts. For tickets and show information, see pagosacenter.org or call (970) 731-SHOW (7469).

Sunday, Dec. 15

'All is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914.' 3 p.m., Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts. For tickets and show information, see pagosacenter.org or call (970) 731-SHOW (7469).

Pagosa Springs Community Choir Christmas Concert. 4 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School auditorium.

Bingo. 5:45 p.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church, 353 S. Pagosa Blvd. Doors open at 5 p.m., early-bird bingo at 5:45 p.m., bingo at 6 p.m.

■ See Calendar on next page

The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

- 1 Aberdeen native
- 5 Sickly-looking
- 9 Tanker mishap
- 14 Hardly racy
- 15 In ___ of (rather than)
- 16 "My Three Sons" son
- 17 Remove from a computer
- 19 Cruise flick, "All the Right ___"
- 20 "Fat chance!"
- 21 Disposition
- 23 Points, for example
- 25 Poetic adverb
- 26 Wallet fillers
- 27 In great shape
- 28 Schedule abbr.
- 31 Time gone by
- 34 Wrecking ball job
- 37 Winning

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13		
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62								63				64		
65								66				67		

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- 39 One for the road
- 40 Sing like Bing
- 41 Fertilized, in a way
- 44 Play opener
- 45 Sailor's affirmative
- 46 November honoree
- 47 Like some mattresses
- 49 Cornfield invader
- 51 Rift-causing
- 55 Put on a show
- 58 Hollywood's Knotts
- 59 Make like
- 60 Set apart
- 62 Ludicrous
- 63 Mellows, maybe
- 64 "Excuse me..."
- 65 Uptight
- 66 Read (over)
- 67 Small boat

- 3 Fails to mention
- 4 Royal flush card
- 5 Did a tailor's job
- 6 Blue-eyed feline
- 7 Lends a hand
- 8 Festive time
- 9 Of word meanings
- 10 Trailer
- 11 Whitney's cotton gin, e.g.
- 12 Property claim
- 13 "___ we forget ..."
- 18 Leave slack-jawed
- 22 Staircase part
- 24 Wreck but good
- 27 Thumb's neighbor
- 29 Give the heave-ho
- 30 Poet Sexton
- 31 Family man
- 32 Yawl call
- 33 Town officer, in New England
- 35 Yoga need

- 36 Airport shuttles
- 38 Person no longer hitched
- 42 Pond swimmer
- 43 Widely varied
- 48 Tease mercilessly
- 50 Checks
- 51 San ___, Calif.

- 52 Coeur d'Alene locale
- 53 Ballot caster
- 54 2001 film, "___ at the Gates"
- 55 Put forth
- 56 Supreme Court count
- 57 Rush order?
- 61 Roam (about)

Answers to Previous Crossword:

A	L	S	O		B	L	U	S	H		M	A	R	K	
B	O	O	N		Y	E	N	T	A		E	L	A	N	
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Preview Calendar

■ continued from previous page

Monday, Dec. 16

Indoor Pickleball. 8-11:30 a.m., Ross Aragon Community Center.

Women's Fellowship. 9 a.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church classrooms.

Line Dancing. 9:30-11:30 a.m., PLPOA Clubhouse, 230 Port Ave. Beginners meet at 9:30 a.m. and the advance group meets at 10:15 a.m. If you haven't attended before, please call Beverly at (970) 264-2064 for more information.

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

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

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

High School Math Tutoring. 4-5:30 p.m., Sisson Library. Math tutors are available for ages 14 and up. Registration is required.

Pagosa Unplugged. 4-6 p.m., Sisson Library. Musicians of all abilities are invited to jam and sing with others.

Deepening the Faith Classes. 6-8 p.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church classrooms.

Tuesday, Dec. 17

Stretching and Mobility Class. 9:30-10:30 a.m., Senior Center. A stretching and mobility class for those age 55 and up.

Pagosa Springs Stitches. 10 a.m.-noon, Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St. Bring your current stitching project and a snack/drink if you wish, and enjoy the fellowship of other stitchers. All are welcome.

Veterans for Veterans of Archuleta County. 10 a.m., Pagosa Bible Church, 209 Harman Park Drive. Veterans and family members are invited to share experiences with vets of all ages. Find out about the latest in vets benefits, vets news and community-focused events. Contact (970) 880-8387 for more details. A holiday potluck lunch will follow the meeting.

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.

Community Blood Drive. 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Centerpoint Church, 2750 Cornerstone Drive. Contact Sheree Grazda by call or text at (970) 946-2760 for information or to book an appointment. You may also go directly to Vitalant.org or call 877/25-VITAL.

Adult DIY: Holiday Wreaths. 12-3:30 p.m., Sisson Library. Make your own holiday wreaths. Bring your

greens and other items you'd like to use to decorate your wreath. The library will provide wreath forms, pine cones and ribbon. Registration is required.

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.

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

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

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.

Men's Fellowship. 6 p.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church classrooms.

Wednesday, Dec. 18

Indoor Pickleball. 8-11:30 a.m., Ross Aragon Community Center.

Introduction to Pickleball. 8:30-11 a.m., Ross Aragon Community Center. Register on the Pagosa Springs Parks and Recreation page at <https://secure.rec1.com/CO/pagosa-springs-co/catalog>.

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.

Kids Kare. 9:30-11:30 a.m., Pagosa Bible Church, 209 Harman Park Drive. A weekly club for 3- to 5-year-olds where the Bible is taught with songs, stories, object lessons, games and more. For more information, email Frank and Connie Porter at ceflittlekids@gmail.com.

Family Storytime. 10-11 a.m., Sisson Library. Join us for great stories, fun songs, and plenty of reasons to get up and move. It's a great way for kids to have fun while building the skills they need to become independent readers. For all ages. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information.

Pagosa Senior Center Community Christmas Party. 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Senior Center. Go for lunch and stay for a joyful time together. Make a reservation for lunch before Dec. 18 by calling or texting (970) 264-2167.

Teen/Tween Activity. 4-4:30 p.m., Sisson

Library. Head to the teen area every Wednesday after school for a fun craft or challenge. Activities will range from taste tests to art challenges and minute-to-win-it-style games.

■ See Calendar on next page



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If your heart could speak, it would probably encourage you to get more aerobic exercise, or it would thank you if you are already doing so.

The heart does speak, actually. Its strength and rhythm are its means of communication, and it loves exercise. Today's excerpt explains why.

Your heart is a muscle, and it gets stronger and healthier if you lead an active life. It's never too late to start exercising, and you don't have to be an athlete. Even taking a brisk walk for 30 minutes a day can make a big difference. Once you get going, you'll find it pays off. People who don't exercise are almost twice as likely to get heart disease as people who are active.

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First, think about what you'd like to do and how fit you are. What sounds like fun? Would you rather work out on your own, with a trainer, or in a class? Do you want to exercise at home or at a gym?

If you want to do something that's harder than what you can do right now, no problem. You can set a goal and build up to it. For example, if you want to run, you might start by walking and then add bursts of jogging into your walks. Gradually start running for longer than you walk.

Don't forget to check in with your doctor. He'll make sure you're ready for whatever activity you have in mind and let you know about any limits on what you can do.

Source: "Exercise for a Healthy Heart." <http://www.webmd.com>

Bonus Tip: Visit <http://www.AmazingFacts.org> for spiritual refreshment every week!

"Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life." Proverbs 4:23 ESV.

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Preview Calendar

■ continued from previous page

Elementary Tutoring. 3:30-4:30 p.m., Sisson Library. After-school tutoring in reading and math for grades 1-3. Registration required. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information or to sign up.

Pagosa Springs High School Booster Club. 5:30 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School.

'A Merry Little Christmas Concert.' 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts. For tickets and show information, see pagosacenter.org or call (970) 731-SHOW (7469).

Thursday, Dec. 19

Ruby's Writers Guild. 9-11 a.m., Sisson Library. Ruby's Writers Guild welcomes writers who are looking for opportunities, support and camaraderie with other writers. Members will provide support, resources and guidance for each other.

End-of-Life Education. 1 p.m., Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St.

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.

Hot Chocolate Hullabaloo. 4-5 p.m., Sisson Library. Celebrate winter through seasonal crafts. The library will have hot chocolate ready.

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.

'All is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914.' 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts. For tickets and show information, see pagosacenter.org or call (970) 731-SHOW (7469).

Friday, Dec. 20

Indoor Pickleball. 8-11:30 a.m., Ross Aragon Community Center.

Good News Club. 1:15-3:15 p.m., Pagosa Springs Elementary

School. A weekly club for kids in kindergarten through the fourth grade where the Bible is taught with songs, stories, object lessons, games and more. For more information, email Frank and Connie Porter at ceflittlekids@gmail.com.

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

PAWS to Read. 2-3 p.m., Sisson Library. For all ages. Read with Maple, a therapy dog who loves stories.

Steam Engines. 2-3:30 p.m., Sisson Library. Science fun for ages 6-10.

Jingle Bell Bingo. 6:30 p.m., John Paul II Catholic Church, 353 S. Pagosa Blvd. The doors will open at 6 p.m. and bingo starts at 6:30 p.m. This is a religious education fundraiser that will be fun for the entire family. Win assorted prizes and gift cards to local businesses. Packets for adults will be \$5 and packets for kids under 14 will be \$3. For more information, visit ihmjp2.org.

'All is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914.' 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts. For tickets and show information, see pagosacenter.org or call (970) 731-SHOW (7469).

Saturday, Dec. 21

LEGO Play. 11 a.m.-noon, Sisson Library. For kids 6-11 years old. Bring your own or use the library's LEGOs to free build. Contact the library at (970) 264-2209 for further information.

Pokémon Club. 12:30-2:30 p.m., Sisson Library. For ages 6-11. Bring your cards to battle against others who love Pokemon too. No experience is required.

Fourth Annual Old-Fashioned Christmas. 5-7 p.m., downtown. Take a walking tour along the Riverwalk for a fun and festive evening. Celebrate the holiday season with live music, hot chocolate, treats, holiday displays, Santa Claus and more.

'All is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914.' 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts. For tickets and show information, see pagosacenter.org or call (970) 731-SHOW (7469).

Sunday, Dec. 22

'All is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914.' 3 p.m., Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts. For tickets and show information, see pagosacenter.org or call (970) 731-SHOW (7469).

Monday, Dec. 23

Indoor Pickleball. 8-11:30 a.m., Ross Aragon Community Center.

Line Dancing. 9:30-11:30 a.m., PLPOA Clubhouse, 230 Port Ave. Beginners meet at 9:30 a.m. and

the advance group meets at 10:15 a.m. If you haven't attended before, please call Beverly at (970) 264-2064 for more information.

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

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

Deepening the Faith Classes. 6-8 p.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church classrooms.

'All is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914.' 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts. For tickets and show information, see pagosacenter.org or call (970) 731-SHOW (7469).

Tuesday, Dec. 24

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.

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.

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

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'Get in this truck, now'

By James R. Van Liere
PREVIEW Columnist

In the spring of 1957, after being discharged from active duty in the Army, I took a job as a rodman for the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS).

As a rodman, it was my job to assist a field engineer in checking the accuracy of topographical maps by going to the map site and physically verifying the elevations of various locations as previously determined from aerial photography. We also verified the locations of section corners, buildings, well sites, fence lines, railroad lines, transmission lines, et cetera.

All of this was accomplished through the use of a plane table and alidade. Before proceeding, a short description of how topographical maps were made is probably in order, at least in the day I was working for the USGS.

I am sure everyone has seen white plastic crosses along various highways and roads throughout their travels. These crosses consist of two white strips of plastic about a foot wide and 6 feet long perpendicular to each other. Their location is precisely located and their elevation established from a previously known elevation that had been accurately set. Once these crosses have been set over a determined area, aerial photographs are taken. Then these photos are placed side by side and, through the use of photogrammetry, can be viewed in three dimensions.

The alidade is an instrument similar to an engineer's transit, which is mounted on a flat blade about 3 inches wide and about a foot long. With the alidade set on the plane table over the map, and the map oriented correctly with respect to north, the alidade is to be sighted toward various items on the ground to verify that item's location on the map.

Inside the telescope of the alidade are three lines, a vertical hairline and three horizontal hairlines. With the telescope perfectly level, a rod graduated in feet and tenths of feet is sighted with the center horizontal crosshair in the telescope.

With the rod placed on a previously established elevation point, such as a USGS brass cap, a reading on the rod is taken with the center horizontal crosshair.

If the reading is 8.4 feet and the known elevation of the brass cap is 100.0 feet, then the height of the center crosshair is 108.4 feet. This number is referred to as the HI, or height of the instrument.

Now that the height of the instrument is established, the rod can be moved to various locations and new sightings can be taken. Of course, the HI cannot be changed between sightings. Thus, if the rod is placed at a small rise of the ground and a sighting is taken with a reading on the rod of 3.2 feet, and this reading is subtracted from the HI of 108.4 feet, then the elevation of the ground is 105.2 feet.

The map, printed on Mylar with a

The Writers' Circle

kicked in, so I threw the rod in the back of the pickup and hopped into the passenger seat. As we were driving toward Jack, the guy picked up a microphone from the dashboard and said, "All clear, fire away." The next thing I knew I heard

■ See Circle on page 23

yellow background and the contours and items listed above printed in red, is placed on the plane table and taken out in the field for verification of various items, such as elevations, contours, location of houses, bridges, wells, et cetera.

While working on the Golden Quadrangle one day, Jack, the current engineer I was working with, sent me out into a large field to locate and take an elevation shot.

The field was located on the south side of highway 93 between Golden and Boulder near the old Rocky Flats Plant where nuclear bomb parts were made.

I had just located the section corner when out of nowhere an old rancher drove up in his fancy Cadillac. He was not very friendly and told me to get off of his property before I could explain what I was doing there.

"And if you don't," he said, "Ole Betsy here will take charge" as he patted a Winchester 30-30 leaning against the front passenger seat.

I immediately took his advice, hopped a barbed wire fence, and returned to Jack, who had set up along the highway and asked what the problem was. Of course, I told him that guy threatened to shoot me if I didn't get off his property.

So, we waited a few minutes to be sure the old rancher had left and was out of sight and then I quickly hopped the fence again, ran out to the section corner, and Jack got his shot.

The next day we headed up to the top of South Table Mountain just outside Golden. As we drove to the top, I noticed a quarry to my right and thought nothing of it. Once we reached top, Jack drove about a hundred yards from the rim of the quarry to set up the plane table and alidade.

While Jack was setting up, he asked me to walk over to the edge of the quarry where a small triangular section of the rim of the quarry protruded out about 15 or 20 feet from the rim. I walked to the very point of the section and stood about 3 feet from the edge, which I felt was close enough for a contour shot. As I stood there waiting for Jack to take a reading, I could look down into a very large hole.

Right after Jack got his shot and waved me off, a pickup truck appeared out of nowhere.

A man dressed as a construction worker — hardhat, flannel shirt, jeans and worn leather boots — jumped out of the truck and yelled, "Get in this truck, now."

Of course, I had no clue as to what was going on, but perhaps my recent military training (being yelled at)

Merry Christmas!

I want to thank Pagosa and beyond for decades of patronage. Wishing you love, health, joy and peace for this season and throughout 2025.

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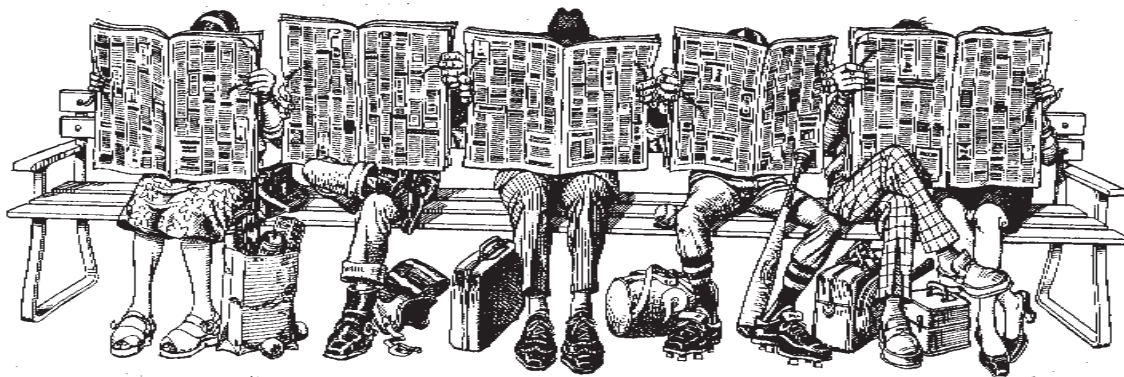
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Possible origins of the Friday the 13th legend

Special to The PREVIEW

The number 13 is widely considered unlucky, so much so that certain buildings do not list a 13th floor. It's hard to avoid 13 when it makes up a day each and every month, and even more so when the 13th falls on a Friday.

Every year people are treated to at least one Friday the 13th on the Gregorian calendar, but some years there can be as many as three such days. It is difficult to pinpoint when superstitions surrounding Friday the 13th first came to be, but it may have something to do with Christianity.

The New York Historical Society says the unlucky connotations may be traced back to The Last Supper. In attendance were 13 people: Jesus as well as his 12 apostles (one of whom betrayed him). The following day (Friday) Jesus was crucified. Superstitions cropped up among Christians that a table of 13 "courted

death" and that having 13 people around a table or in a group was unlucky, according to the BBC.

The number 12 often is seen as a sign of completion. The 12 months of the year, 12 zodiac signs, 12 apostles, 12 days of Christmas and 12 gods of Olympus perhaps bolster that reputation. That belief may have given rise to foods being sold in multiples of 12, as in a dozen doughnuts. Thirteen is then incomplete.

Friday also has a reputation for being unlucky. It was said to be the day Eve gave Adam the apple from the Tree of Knowledge as well as the day Cain killed his brother, Abel.

The Christian connection is not the only potential source of superstition surrounding the unlucky nature of 13.

History.com says the ancient Code of Hammurabi reportedly omitted a 13th law from its list of legal rules. Also, National Public Radio says the Knights Templar were con-

demned on a Friday the 13th.

Although there are many past examples of when Friday and the number 13 have been linked to potential bad luck, word of mouth also may have contributed to this unfortunate relationship. Things have a tendency to be misremembered, which is known as the "Mandela Effect." It is possible someone misremembered or incorrectly indicated that Friday the 13th was unlucky, and then it has since been remembered that way.

Thirteen is not always considered unlucky.

Prior to World War I, the French traditionally considered 13 a lucky number. In Italy, 13 was the lucky number in football pools. The Italian expression "fare tredici" meant "to hit the jackpot" and is translated as "make thirteen." Also, Colgate University has long considered 13 a lucky number, as the school was founded by 13 men with \$13, 13 prayers and 13 articles.

Circle

■ continued from page 21

this tremendous explosion behind us and rocks and dirt starting falling around us, and when I looked back all I could see was a large cloud of dust.

That protrusion I was standing on was gone — I mean completely gone.

As the driver dropped me off where Jack was standing all he said was: "Kid, you came within five seconds of being blown to hell; if I hadn't taken one last look at the point before telling my powder monkey to push the plunger, you wouldn't be here now."

With that, I grabbed the rod and he jumped back in his truck and drove away. And all Jack had to say was, "That sure messes up my contour map."

As I look back on the event today, I'm very thankful that that gentleman was the cautious type. I suppose I could have argued with him because I had no idea who he was or what his intentions were.

Certainly, the anxiety in his voice was a subconscious warning in my mind that I should probably do what he says. Obviously, I had no medical reason or religious beliefs not to

obey this man, especially because there must have been some unseen or unknown danger of which I was not aware.

It makes me wonder why some people today feel that getting a COVID or flu shot, or, for that matter, any kind of a shot, flies in their best interest? We may not know the reason or have the knowledge behind the request, but we must accept the request (or order in the military, do it or else), relying on the fact that it is probably for our own good. (As one old World War II Army sergeant remarked in basic training: "If we say duck, don't stand there like a dummy and ask why; you had better duck, or you might end up dead.") Of course, a valid medical reason would preclude getting a shot, but I am not sure about a religious reason.

Unfortunately, there have been a few people who chose not to get a COVID shot, and, of course, some of these people are no longer with us. I suppose, if it were possible, these people would be lying in their graves thinking to themselves, "Damn, I should have gotten that shot."

This column may include both

fiction and nonfiction, and views expressed do not necessarily represent those of The SUN. Submissions can be sent to editor@pagosahun.com.

JIM GARRETT

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Photo courtesy Rick Freimuth

Firefighters plot out their day.

Observations of a fire lookout

By Rick Freimuth
PREVIEW Columnist

The writers Edward Abbey, Gary Snyder and Norman McLean all staffed high-elevation fire lookouts in the West — their experiences rich fuel for their work. But Jack Kerouac's reaction makes me smile.

After he searched for smokes from Desolation Peak Lookout in Washington during one summer in the 1950s, Kerouac complained that his brain was "in rags."

He added, "I thought I'd die of boredom or jump off the mountain."

I couldn't disagree more. My wife, Linda, and I have worked for the last seven years at Benchmark Lookout in the San Juan National Forest, a fire tower in the southwest corner of Colorado, and we love being there.

We're on the job from mid-May until mid-September and mostly alone — except for the abundant wildlife, rare visitors and firefighters who get to see our side of the combined effort to thwart wildfires. The fire crews look forward to examining this huge swath of the West that's their firefighting turf.

We start our trip in southern Colorado, leaving the town of Dolores and driving 30 miles on rough gravel up to the tower at 9,264 feet. We haul our own food for 10-day stretches, with four days off. Linda brings wool to spin, we both choose lots of books, and I spend the days scanning the land and the sky above.

We think we're suited for the job, never finding the isolation a problem. Because once we climb our timber tower at season's start, we become eyes in the sky for the vast Four Corners

Opinion: Writers on the Range

I usually spot smoke out of the corner of my eye, or when doing dishes or even while reading a book. Vigilance gets built in during a workday that usually lasts as long as there's daylight.

Everything stops while I plot the location of the smoke on the 80-year-old Osborne Fire Finder and on maps. Then I radio in my find to Durango

■ See Writers on page 26

area, looking for what we don't want out there — smoke indicating wildfire.



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Bring a flashlight & come have some fun!

Please join us for a fun and festive evening to celebrate the spirit of the holiday season.

Writers

■ continued from page 24

Interagency Fire Dispatch. This is my 15 minutes of calculated frenzy in an otherwise quiet existence. Dispatch uses the information I supply to send engine crews, helitack crews or aircraft to the fire.

Some days I spot two smokes, once five, more often none — though after a rain, mist rising out of canyons can mimic smokes and try to fool you. We call them waterdogs. What's always entertaining is the weather itself.

Out of thin air, clouds seem to materialize right above Benchmark Lookout, and with our 360-degree view, thunderstorms here are dramatic and loud.

Once, a lightning bolt hit so close that the hair on our arms stood straight up.

We're often asked why we staff a fire lookout. Our reasons aren't easy to convey. Most of the time, our quick reply is "we like being alone" or "we enjoy being in a remote spot." That's too simple and doesn't reflect how we and many other fire lookouts feel about their jobs.

For one thing, we know we're still necessary, not yet outmoded by satellites and aircraft. Our job isn't just fire detection. We provide critical weather and fire behavior observations



Photo courtesy Rick Freimuth

Rick and Linda Freimuth.

to the fire crews on the line.

Looking out, our view encompasses Mesa Verde National Park, Canyons of the Ancients, Bears Ears National Monument, Shiprock, the San Juan Range and much more — a four-state area where Arizona, Colorado, Utah and New Mexico meet.

Our view is ever-changing as the sun makes its arc and the weather makes its moves. And time seems to slow down when manmade distractions disappear. Our tower has been visited by horned lizards, elk, mountain lions and a mama bear with two cubs.

Hummingbirds fly thick through masses of wildflowers beneath us,

and we see flickers, swallows and turkey vultures. Sandhill cranes, white pelicans and the odd osprey also fly past. Quiet surrounds us as we have this magnificent view to ourselves.

Winter is deepening now as I write this. We're already dreaming of next year's fire season atop our 42-foot tower.

Rick Freimuth is a contributor to Writers on the Range, writersontherange.org, an independent nonprofit dedicated to spurring lively conversation about the West. He is a former wildland firefighter and carpenter, now retired. He lives in Paonia in western Colorado. Views expressed do not necessarily represent those of The SUN.



EARLY DEADLINES

for The Pagosa Springs SUN issue of
Thursday, December 26

Display Advertising
Noon, Friday, December 20

Classified Advertising,
All Categories
10 a.m., Monday, December 23

Legal Advertising, Articles & Letters
Noon, Thursday, December 19

The Pagosa Springs SUN office will be closed
Wednesday, December 25, in observance of Christmas.

for The Pagosa Springs SUN issue of
Thursday, January 2, 2025

Display Advertising
Noon, Friday, December 27

Classified Advertising,
All Categories
10 a.m., Monday, December 30

Legal Advertising, Articles & Letters
Noon, Thursday, December 26

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Wednesday, January 1, 2025, in observance of New Year's.

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December Colorado Proud Recipe of the Month: Korean Style Pork Chops

By Danielle Trotta

Colorado Department of Agriculture

Prepare your taste buds for a unique flavor-packed trip to Seoul.

These Korean pork chops are not just a dish, but an experience waiting to be savored.

Sweet, savory, a little spicy, and addictive — this dish will have you bidding farewell to bland dinners and welcoming a burst of flavor that excites your palate.

These chops marinate in a blend of soy sauce, garlic, ginger and just the right touch of heat to transform your kitchen into a K-BBQ hot spot. So, grab your chopsticks (or fork — no judgment here) and get ready for a culinary adventure.

Raising pork in Colorado is not just a big deal, it's a nutritional powerhouse. The pork industry supports

nearly a thousand jobs in Colorado and adds \$95.5 million to the economy. Pork is the most consumed meat globally, perhaps because it's a treasure trove of nutrients. Pork is an excellent source of protein, thiamin, vitamins B6 and B12, niacin, and zinc. It also provides iron, magnesium, potassium and phosphorus, making it a smart choice for your health-conscious meals.

Korean Style Pork Chops

Shared by The National Pork Board and Christina Hitchcock.

Yield: 4 servings

Prep time: 10 minutes

Cook time: 20 minutes

Ingredients:

4 New York (top loin) pork chops

1/2 cup soy sauce

4 tablespoon honey

12 cloves garlic, minced

2 teaspoons sesame oil
4 teaspoons fresh ginger root, grated

2 tablespoon sweet chili sauce

2 tablespoon olive oil

Green onions for garnish

Directions:

In a medium bowl, whisk together soy sauce, honey, garlic, ginger, sesame oil and sweet chili sauce.

You should have just over 1 cup of marinade. Reserve half the marinade and set aside. Pour the other half of the marinade over the pork chops and marinate for at least 10 minutes.

Heat olive oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Add pork chops to the skillet, discarding the remaining marinade.

Cook for 5 minutes or until the

chops have browned on one side.

Flip the pork chops and add the reserved marinade to the pan; cook for 5 more minutes or until the pork reaches an internal temperature between 145 degrees F. (medium rare) and 160 degrees F. (medium). Let rest for 3 minutes before serving.

Visit ColoradoProud.com for more recipes.

Avoid a fire in your home over the holidays

By Josh Egbert

American Red Cross

The holidays are a wonderful time to get everyone together. Unfortunately, they can also mean a greater risk of a fire in someone's home.

This holiday season, the American Red Cross of Western Colorado encourages everyone to follow simple steps to prevent home fires from holiday decorations.

"December is the peak time for home fires involving candles and holiday decorations," said Christie Caster, executive director, American Red Cross of Western Colorado. "Help protect your family by using battery-operated candles and practicing your two-minute escape plan with everyone in your household."

Holiday decorating safety tips

Follow these safety tips and visit redcross.org/fire for more information. You can also download the free Red Cross Emergency app by searching "American Red Cross" in app stores.

- If you must use candles, keep them away from anything that could burn, and place them out of reach of pets and children. Never leave burning candles unattended.

- Check all holiday light cords to ensure they aren't frayed or broken. Don't string too many strands of lights together — no more than three per extension cord.

- Ensure outside decorations are for outdoor use and fasten lights securely to your home or trees. If using hooks or nails outside, make sure they are insulated to avoid an electrocution or fire hazard.

- If buying an artificial tree, look for a fire-resistant label. When putting it up, keep it away from fire-

places, radiators and other sources of heat. Never use electric lights on metallic trees.

- If getting a live tree, make sure it's fresh and keep it watered. To test if the tree is fresh, bend the needles up and down to make sure no needles fall off.

- Don't light the fireplace if hanging stockings or other decorations on the mantel.

- Install smoke alarms on every level of the home and outside each sleeping area. Test them once a month and replace the batteries at least once a year. If you cannot afford to purchase smoke alarms or are physically unable to install one, the Red Cross may be able to help. Contact your local Red Cross for help.

Home fire campaign saves lives

Since October 2014, the Red Cross Home Fire Campaign, working with community partners, has saved at least 2,196 lives by educating families about fire safety, helping them create escape plans and installing free smoke alarms in high-risk areas across the country.

To learn more about the campaign and how you can get involved, visit redcross.org/homefires.

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NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS MEETING. Wednesdays, 5:30 at Pagosa Bible Church. Use side entrance. Call Bailey for details at (719)588-7572.

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

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THERE IS A SOLUTION GROUP of Alcoholics Anonymous meets Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, 5:30-6:30p.m. Pagosa Bible Church, 209 Harman Park Drive. Questions? Richard: (970)903-1456. Diamond: (970)264-1073. More resources: www.aa.org, www.aa-westerncolorado.com, (970)245-9649, (888)333-9649 (24 hours).

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BIG GREEN EGG +accessories, \$400. 2 Old Town fishing kayaks +accessories, \$400 each. Outdoor LPG tower heater, \$50. Yakima cargo box, \$50. Yakima roof rack rack, \$50. Patio umbrella with base, 10x10ft, \$50. Call/ msg/text (512)695-2397.

DRY FIREWOOD MIX For Sale. (970)317-4933.

DRY FIREWOOD- PINE. Pick up \$255 a cord. Delivery available. Call for prices. Bayfield. Gabe (970)403-2784.

DRY PINE. \$250/ cord. (970)903-0731.

DRY, SEASONED DOUGLAS FIR for sale. Ryan Whitlow (970)585-4578.

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

FIREWOOD LOGS FOR SALE. \$50.00 per ton, must have trailer. Sawmill Scrap \$30 per self-load pickup truckload. Forest Health Timber Products sawmill located on Cloman Blvd.

FOUR BRIDGESTONE Blizzak WS90 studless snow tires, 195/65R15. Used one winter. \$250. Call (832)364-2906.

INDOOR SHELF SECTIONS 12" deep, 4 ft wide, 5 ft tall. 5 available. 4 shelves per section. \$25/ each. (719)588-2872.

NEED FIREWOOD? Pine mix, \$350 a cord split and delivered. GUARANTEED to be full cords! Contact Dan with FIRE&ICE at (970)582-0006.

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

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.

SEASONED FIREWOOD FOR SALE. \$350/ cord. Free delivery. (970)317-3120.

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).

STORAGE UNIT SALE. Quality stuff. Indoor/ Outdoor misc. U-take all, U haul all. \$900.00. (970)382-1285.

PETS

ADOPT FROM THE Humane Society. Stop by or call (970)731-4771. You'll be amazed at what we have to offer, www.PagosaHumane.org.

DOGGY DAY CARE 81147.COM. Open 365 days of the year! Full day and half day doggy day care and overnight boarding. Conveniently located just 1 mile from downtown Pagosa. Call (970)264-9111.

FOR POOCH SAKES GROOMING. Appointments available with Kelly (303)819-2015. Mobile appointments with Barb (970)903-1290.

LOVING DOG CARE BY LESLIE N. Text Pet Info to (469)667-4480. Boarding, day care, drop ins, house sitting. References and reviews available. Look for info on: leslieslittles.com.

AUTOS

1969 TOYOTA FJ LAND CRUISER. Runs good, original. \$10,000. (970)264-6840.

1998 SUBARU LEGACY. Ran beautifully before head gasket failed. \$500. Call/text (970)426-6380.

2001 BUICK LESABRE 122k miles. FWD. Sold as is. Mechanically sound. Body in great condition. \$2,650 OBO. (310)245-0555.

2008 FORD F250 V10 engine. 162,000 miles. New studded snow tires and new snow plow. \$18,000 OBO. (303)601-2390.

2017 KIA SORENTO EX Premium Package SUV 4D in very good condition. 95,000 miles, 25 MPG Highway, AWD with Locking Differential, 2.0L Turbo, 18" Alloy Wheels, 1st and 2nd Row Leather Seats, Heated Front Seats, UVO 7" Touchscreen with Android Auto and Apple CarPlay, SiriusXM Radio, Bluetooth, Push Button Start with Smart Key, Remote Start, 2nd Row Window Shades, Fog Lamps, Heated Outside Mirrors with Turn Signal Indicators, Privacy Glass, Roof Rails, Power Folding Side Mirrors, Blind Spot Detection, Rear Cross Traffic Alert, Smart "Hands Free" Power Liftgate, Cargo Cover and Tray, 2 Remote Keys. \$16,900. Contact Angelene at (970)264-4321.

2018 HYUNDAI. 54,000 miles, great gas mileage. \$16,000. (970)264-6840.

GUARANTEED CREDIT APPROVAL! 4X4 Auto Sales, 21698 Hwy. 160 West, Durango. (970)385-7940.

YARD SALES

ATTENTION TREASURE HUNTERS! Estate Sales By Elizabeth, LLC is now OPEN! Don't miss out on the deals and discoveries —join our exclusive text list for info on upcoming sales. Text (719)291-2318 to get started. Your next great find is waiting —happy hunting!

BE SURE TO CHECK for more yard sales in the Too Late To Classify section.

COMMERCIAL FOR RENT

1000 SF flexible commercial/ industrial space on the western side of Pagosa Springs. Overhead garage door and small bathroom. Will be delivered as a shell space ready to be customized. Tenants in compound include building trades, UPS, light manufacturing, and artists. Available January 1st. \$1,000. raswheeler@gmail.com.

2000 SQ. FT. SHOP/ WAREHOUSE 14x 14 overhead door. Restrooms and natural gas. Good parking. Call Doug (970)946-3762 or (970)731-4792.

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HOMES FOR SALE

HOMES FOR SALE

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HOMES FOR SALE

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4 OFFICE SPACES. Freshly remodeled, \$400-\$525. Well suited for spa services, 140-270 sq. ft. Beautiful spacious restrooms. (970)946-3232.

DOWNTOWN OFFICE for rent on 2nd floor with private bathroom. \$400/ month including utilities and WiFi. No smokers. No pets. Available Dec. 1st. (970)946-2728.

DOWNTOWN OFFICE SPACE in the Historic Metro Hotel. 239 SF, available Dec 2024. Call Jacque (970)946-7636.

HIGH-VISIBILITY EAGLE DRIVE location with large signs facing 160. Nicely renovated with two offices, large flexible space, bathroom, plenty of parking. \$1,800/ month includes utilities. Call/ text (970)444-2124.

METROPOLITAN HOTEL. 450 SF prime location on Main St. Available January 1, 2025. Rent is \$1,150 per month. Call Jacque at (970)946-7636.

NEW STORAGE WAREHOUSES/ WORKSHOPS available to rent. Cloman Park. 1100 to 2200 sqft. 1.20 a sq. ft. Contact: (720)470-2653. Vehicle Lot.

PAGOSA VALLEY PROPERTIES: Offering "Aspen Plaza ProSuites" These are Professional Office Suites available for Long Term rental from 135 SF to 205 SF, priced from \$465-\$669/ month. Also, Large Conference/ Event Room Available. Call (970)889-2022 for more information.

PRIME RETAIL SPACE AVAILABLE. 970 sq. ft., \$1 per sq. ft., plus utilities. Call (970)946-1981.

VACATION RENTALS

OWNERS, WE ARE BOOKED UP AND NEED MORE VACATION RENTAL PROPERTIES! Call us today for lowest commission and highest customer service. All you have to do is wait for your rent check to come in. We do the rest! Rocky Mountain Realty & Rentals (970)507-1192.

RESIDENTIAL RENTALS

1 BEDROOM, 1 BATH apartment, centrally located. Ground floor entry. Water, sewer, gas, fiber optic Internet included. (970)946-8687.

2 BEDROOM, 2 BATH DUPLEX APARTMENT. Located on large lot with lawn. \$1500/ month plus utilities. Has garage and lots of storage. (970)946-4181.

3 BEDROOM 1.5 BATH Fenced yard. Near City Market/ Hospital. Hiking and biking. \$2150. First month and deposit. (970)903-5309.

4 BEDS/ 2.5 BATHS. Approx. 2,350 sq. ft, uptown, 6 month lease, partially furnished, background check. \$3,000 month/ first and last month deposit/ utilities paid by tenant, background check, small dogs (up to 25 lbs) considered with additional deposit. Call Barbara Swindlehurst, licensed real estate broker, at (970)264-6673 for showings.

800FT APARTMENT FOR RENT. \$1375. Very nice complete remodel with new appliances. Near downtown. No pets. (405)623-1743.

DOWNTOWN UNITS FOR RENT. New 3 bedroom, 2 bath unit. Granite countertops, all appliances and utilities included. Porch and patio. \$2100/ month. (318)347-6100.

LONG TERM RENTALS AVAILABLE. Call Team Pagosa (970)731-8599, 117 Navajo Trail Dr., pagosaspringsrealty.com.

RESIDENTIAL RENTALS

ONE BEDROOM AVAILABLE. \$1300. New construction. 303 S. 7th Street. Conveniently downtown right behind Natural Grocers. Call (720)470-2653.

PRIVATE RANCH REFURBISHED CABIN. Washer/ dryer, heated with wood stove and electric. First month, security deposit 1/2 last month. \$1500/ month. Please leave a message (970)731-2010. Private place to hang your hat.

STUDIO CONDO AVAILABLE for rent near City Market. \$1,100 month +deposit, some utilities, partially furnished. Nice lower unit, small patio. Call/ text Luke (970)507-0752.

VERY NICE AND CLEAN DUPLEX UNIT 3 bedrooms, 2 bath, 1 car garage. Close to City Market. \$1900 /month. (970)946-2768.

APARTMENT/CONDO FOR SALE

CONDO FOR SALE. 2 bedroom, 2.5 bath. Garage, washer/ dryer. Behind Walmart. \$339,000. Call Nicholas (719)980-3295.

COMMERCIAL

BAR AND GRILL IN ARBOLES on 1 Acre for \$380,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

GAS STATION, CONVENIENCE STORE comes with nine long-term leases, high producing. \$1,650,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

PRIME BUSINESS LOCATION Large building and land. \$1,250,000. Motivated seller. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

HOMES FOR SALE

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LOCATED ACROSS THE STREET from National Forest access. 10 minutes from grocery store and other amenities. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 1 car garage family home. \$525,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

LAND/ BUILDING SITES

1.1 ACRE WITH RV GENERATOR and system tank, circular drive in, tall cool pines. NO HOA! \$75k. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

1.1 ACRE WITH TALL PINES on flat buildable land with drive in. NO HOA! \$70k. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

1.19 ACRES WITH VIEWS OF NAVAJO LAKE. All utilities nearby. \$99,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

1.48 ACRE LAND. Highway frontage. \$99,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

.28 ACRE LAND County Road 982 frontage \$55,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

LAND/ BUILDING SITES

3 FLAT BUILDABLE ACRES. Great mountain views, water cap and driveway in. Power to the property, fully fenced, corners marked. \$300k. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

.35 ACRE LAND County Road 982 frontage \$55,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

FANTASTIC VIEWS with electricity, concrete floor garage on 1 acre for \$195,000. 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. \$450K.

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Photos courtesy Pagosa Springs Catholic Community

More than 80 locals attended a nine-day novena for Our Lady of Guadalupe at Pope John Paul II Catholic Church. Each night a homemade Mexican meal was hosted by a different family. The Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, which includes Mass, a re-enactment, dinner and dancing is on Thursday, Dec. 12, starting at 6 p.m.



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Route days for trash and recycling are changing.

Effective 12.9.24

Elite Recycling & Disposal is reorganizing trash and recycle routes to increase reliability and efficiency.

The route changes will not affect all customers. Recycle Routes are changing from primarily just Friday to Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

If your route service day is changing, you will receive a letter during the week of 12/2/24 that tells you what day of the week your trash and/or recycle service is changing to. *Do not be alarmed if you do not receive a letter as this means that your route day has not changed.*

FOR MORE DETAILED INFORMATION

- Check our website at: elite-recycling.com
- Email us at RouteChange@elite-recycling.com and include your name and service address and we will email you back with your new route day(s).
- You will receive an email from us two days prior to your new route service day which will list your trash route service day for the coming week of 12/9/24 and going forward. If you are a recycle customer, you will receive an email regarding your recycle service day. These emails will be sent out by route so you will receive the email regardless of whether your route day has changed or not. We will send additional email reminders to help you stay on track.
- Call us at 970-226-1999. We encourage you to call as a last resort. Our phones will be busy. If you receive voicemail, please leave your name, service address and return phone number and we will get back with you as soon as we can. Please allow 24 hours for a call back.

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Thank you for being a customer of Elite Recycling and Disposal.

Your patience is greatly appreciated as we implement these route day changes.