

BoCC approves permit for Keyah Grande shooting range

By Clayton Chaney Staff Writer

During a regular meeting held on Tuesday, Dec. 17, the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) approved a conditional use permit (CUP) for Keyah Grande to operate a commercial shooting range on its property.

The CUP was approved by a split vote of 2-1 with commissioners Warren Brown and Ronnie Maez voting in favor and Commissioner Veronica Medina opposing.

This decision comes nearly three months after the Archuleta County Planning Department originally heard the matter during a meeting held on Sept. 26. The item was tabled twice before being unanimously recommended for approval by the Archuleta County Planning Commission on Nov. 21.

Public comments of those in favor and opposed to the shooting range

operation were given at three planning commission meetings and at Tuesday's BoCC meeting.

Neighboring and nearby residents of Keyah Grande expressed concerns of noise levels, operating hours, lead remediation and other safety concerns. While not completely opposed to the operation of the shooting range, residents voiced a desire for the range to meet certain standards.

See the Oct. 3 and Nov. 27 issues of The SUN for more detail.

During the Dec. 17 meeting, Planning Manager Owen O'Dell presented the matter to the BoCC, noting the 13 conditions recommended by county staff and the planning commission.

O'Dell mentioned that Keyah Grande claims to be offering a userfriendly environment for its guests, law enforcement and "the wider community" by operating a commercial shooting range.

PAWSD files lawsuit against SJWCD, declares intent to sell ranch

By Josh Pike Staff Writer

Tensions between the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD) and the San Juan Water member Gene Tautges moving to declare that PAWSD is selling the ranch and PAWSD board member Glenn Walsh seconding.

PAWSD board member Bill Hudson noted that the board is now



Conservancy District (SJWCD) over the Running Iron Ranch reached new heights last week, with PAWSD filing a lawsuit against the SJWCD and voting to declare its intention to sell the ranch.

At a Dec. 12 regular meeting, following an executive session, the PAWSD Board of Directors voted unanimously to have the district's lawyer file a lawsuit requesting declaratory judgment concerning the terms of the district's three-way agreement with the SJWCD and the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) that outlines how the Running Iron Ranch will be managed.

The board then discussed whether to make a formal declaration that the ranch is for sale, with PAWSD board involved in litigation and asked Tautges whether it would be better to make a decision on the sale after the litigation is resolved or to make the decision now.

Tautges replied that "the other parties made it crystal clear their intention, and I think we owe it to them to make our intentions crystal clear, as well."

Walsh added that the district also should make its intentions clear to its customers that it is seeking the "highest and best offer" for the ranch.

The board then voted unanimously to declare its intention to sell the ranch.

Hudson then proposed that the PAWSD Running Iron Ranch sub-See Lawsuit A8



SUN photos/Garrett Fevinger

Community members joined the Veterans for Veterans of Archuleta County at Hilltop Cemetery on Saturday to honor local veterans at the annual Wreaths Across America ceremony. Servicemen and women called on attendees to live with purpose, and concluded the morning by laying remembrance wreaths on the graves of veterans at rest in the cemetery.



Photos courtesy La Plata Electric Association

On Tuesday, La Plata Electric Association announced the arrival of a new transformer to be used to bolster the grid in Pagosa Springs. Construction is slated to begin in the spring of 2025, with anticipated completion by 2026.

This represents a \$6.5 million investment and is expected to significantly improve LPEA's operational flexibility while ■ See LPEA A8

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Opinion

The Pagosa Springs

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OUR VIEW

Holiday wishes

letters certainly help. We hope you enjoy reading these letters as much as we do. Thanks to Santa, his elves, and all the parents, teachers and administrators who help us in this endeavor.

This week's issue of The PREVIEW fea-

Thanks to a special partnership with

tures one of our favorite things of the year:

letters to Santa Claus from local youngsters.

Santa and his elves, The SUN hosts a mail-

box annually where youngsters can deliver

letters to Santa. As part of the deal, we get to

share those winter wishes with you before

the elves whisk them off to the North Pole.

who use our partnership to create a fun

writing exercise in their classes that we

then get to share with the community (and

and read through them that we laugh,

we have tears in our eyes, our hearts are

warmed and we're Googling a good per-

centage of the things the kids are asking

for because we have no clue what these

newfangled toys and items are (nothing

makes you feel old like trying to keep up

help things feel like Christmas, but these

We may not have much snow in town to

with trending toys at Christmas).

It's inevitable as we type in the letters

Santa, of course).

We also have wonderful local teachers

We've also been soaking in the Christmas cheer at a number of other local events lately thanks to the hard work and dedication of numerous community members.

Among them have been concerts and other productions, touching ceremonies honoring those who are no longer here to celebrate the season with us and chances to see folks we haven't visited with in too long.

And we're not done yet.

This weekend we'll be taking in the rest of the light displays in the local holiday lighting contest, watching talented local youth in "The Storybook Nutcracker," being part of the community at Saturday evening's Old Fashioned Christmas and who knows what else.

Something we love about this time of year is the focus on being together and celebrating those things that matter the most.

LOOKING BACK

But we're also cognizant that time of year is often difficult for many.

Our community has lost a number of longtime residents recently, and each year we also remember those we've lost in previous years, as well as all the families who don't have the opportunity to celebrate the season with those they love for any number of reasons.

We also know incidences of domestic violence increase this time of year.

While we celebrate the season, we should all make a point to reach out to those around us.

Check on each other. Mean it when you ask how someone is doing. Reach out to those who may be alone to see if they're OK or if they need anything. Check on your friends and neighbors. Struggle does not always manifest in a way that's visible, but that doesn't make it any less real or difficult.

Let's all work together to make this a wonderful holiday season with sentiments and practices that last long after it's over. Randi Pierce

LEGACIES

By Shari Pierce

100 years ago Taken from SUN files of

December 19, 1924

The seven families in the lower Stollsteimer creek district, in which there are cases of diphtheria, have all been placed under quarantine and under guard, the school has been closed for some time, and in general the situation is greatly improved. There have been a total of four deaths, all children, three of which were from diphtheria and one from intestinal trouble. They are Clara, 4-year-old daughter of Ben Gurule, Augustina, 7-yearold daughter of Frank Martinez, one of the Sisneros children, and Santiago, 5-year-old son of Teofilo Martinez. A new case developed in Pagosa Springs the first of the week when two children of Dario Larribas, who resided in the J.T. Martinez dwelling, in west Pagosa, were quarantined for the disease. The Placido Atencio family, who live in the same house, was quarantined last week owing to the illness of the child, Ubaldo, who has about recovered.

David Hersch and wife left Wednesday for Denver, where they will be met by their son and daughter, Joseph and Marguerite, who are attending the Washington University of St. Louis and the Lindenwood College of St. Charles, Mo., respectively. They will all spend Christmas together in the capitol city.

75 years ago Taken from SUN files of

December 16, 1949

T.B. Stavely, postoffice inspector from Pueblo spent several days in Pagosa Springs and the southern part of the county this past week investigating the present mail service and to make recommendations on a petition asking for additional mail delivery for residents in the Arboles area.

Mr. Stavely spent considerable time investigating the possibilities of the proposed route and the application has been approved. Mr. Stavely recommended that service start as of April 1.

This will be an extension of the present rural route carried by Arthur Capell and will add 75 new patrons and 22 miles to the present route.

Residents of Pagosa Springs may now purchase Christmas trees from the High School Letterman's Club. The trees are located on the lot just west of the D-G City Market where they may be purchased.

The boys are going to use the money derived from the sale of the trees for various projects at the school which are worthy of the public's support.



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12/12	50	6	0.00	NA	NA		
12/13	40	13	0.00	NA	NA		
12/14	48	8	0.00	NA	NA		
12/15	48	13	0.00	NA	NA		
12/16	47	8	0.00	NA	NA		
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From the Dec. 31, 1954, Pagosa SUN — WINNING DISPLAY of Christmas lights arranged by the Senior Youth Fellowship of the Community Methodist Church is pictured above. The arrangement won first place in the organizational lighting contest in Pagosa Springs, sponsored by the Pagosa Hardware, XI Alpha lota sorority and the Pagosa Springs SUN, and is entitled "Peace Around the World at Christmas.'

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Leonard Martinez Imartinez@pagosasprings.co.gov Gary Williams gwilliams@pagosasprings.co.gov

Warren Brown



50 years ago Taken from SUN files of

December 19, 1974 Four inches of snow fell on Wolf Creek Pass this past weekend but only a trace fell in town. Snowfall is below average up on the hill this winter, it is also below average in town. Pleasant weather has prevailed, temperatures have been mild for December and the day with the least hours of sunlight is next Sunday. Winter hasn't really arrived in these parts to date.

All children are invited to a free Christmas party at the High School Gym this Saturday afternoon at 2 p.m. Santa Claus will be there, there will be free candy, a kids movie, and a Christmas tree. There is no charge and all children within the community are invited.

While snowfall in December has been very light to date snow depth and moisture content readings this year are still well ahead of last year. Soil Conservation Service employees Jim Swartz and Mary Skinner found the snowpack depths equal to those of January 1st last winter in readings made December 10 this year.

25 years ago Taken from SUN files of

December 16, 1999 Road work contracted under the \$6.54 million Fairfield Pagosa bankruptcy settlement agreement is at least 98 percent complete as the 1999 road work season winds down, according to Kevin Walters, assistant manager of the Archuleta County Road and Bridge Department.

"Basically, we just have about 1,500 feet of work on Vista, 1,400 feet on Park, 5,000 feet on North Lake, 5,000 feet on North Pagosa north of North Village Lake and the Fairfield bankruptcy project will be finished," Walters said. "That includes the settlement agreement between the PLPOA and Fairfield that the county was not part to."

The original settlement agreement amounted to \$6.5 million between the county, PLPOA and Fairfield. Weminuche Construction won the contract with a bid of \$5.2 million. Change orders added another \$885,000 to the project. Through November, \$5,462,829 had been paid out. Of the \$1.2 PLPOA settlement, also supervised by the county, \$575,968.50 has been spent. About \$625,555 remains.

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.

A joke Dear Editor:

Maybe..maybe, I just found a clue as to why the typical white American housewife/mother won't elect another woman to the office of the Presidency. It hasn't mattered their success as leaders in other countries, or the type...Hilary was direct/ brusque and Kamala is femine!

It seems that a recent discovery found the then humans coming out of Africa selected the Neanderthals for mating for probably unconscious desire to survive the new diseases encountered in Europe. Evolution is an incredibly complex thing and this survival tactic may have set our civilization process back abit!

JOKINGLY, I use to tease feminists that giving females the right to vote was less dangerous than driving. As the woman would always vote for the tall guy, deep voice, self assurane and neanderthal eyebrows. A joke that may have some truth.

David Blake

Double standard Dear Editor:

A perfect example of the double standard Republicans hold Demo-



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.

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crats to was evident in John Myers recent letter. He called out Biden's "lie" when he pardoned his son after saying he wouldn't. Not once has Mr Meyer written about any of the 35,000 lies Trump told in his first term. Nor has he written about the constant barrage of lies told every time a Republican opens his mouth.

Republicans are are constantly referring to Biden's Administration as the most corrupt ever. Lie! That description belongs to the Trump Administration. Republicans spent 2 years trying to dig up dirt on Biden and found nothing. They settled on prosecuting Hunter Biden on a gun charge that millions of people have committed and the DOJ has not prosecuted. Conversely, dozens of Trump associates were found guilty of serious crimes against the USA and Trump himself was found guilty of 34 felonies in one trial and guilty of tax fraud in another.

Besides the lie that the 2020 election was stolen, Republicans are now lying that the Country's debt is due to the costs of Social Security and Medicare. What is true is that most of the US debt is a result of tax cuts passed by Republicans during Reagan's, Bush 2 and lastly Trump's administrations.

Another big lie is that the American economy has been suffering over the last 4 years under Biden. Yes, there were difficulties (mostly created by Trump) coming out of the pandemic and the resulting inflation. But the last 2 years has seen constant job growth, growth in manufacturing and increases in small businesses, increased wages and an inflation rate lower than any time during the Reagan Administration. Black Friday and Cyber Monday saw some of the biggest sales ever. More people than ever took to the air over Thanksgiving. That's the economy, people making and spending money.

The lies go on in a never ending litany from the Republican propaganda machine. It's easy to see how Mr Meyer and others have been brainwashed to believe the barrage of lies. For 30+ years, lies constantly hammered into non critical thinking brains, looking to blame something for all they hear is wrong in this country and world. The biggest lie and most disturbing is the constant carping that America is in decline because of Democratic and "woke" policies, etc. They lie about climate change, the border and crime, but do they ever offer any solutions? No, everything is politicized in their quest for power.

Just like 2017 when Trump came to office and skated through 2 years on the economy Obama built, he comes to office in 2025 with a well running economy. Then Trump and Republicans will claim it's because of their policies. FOX and other right wing outlets will mimic the lie and the brainwashed masses will nod in agreement and continue to vote against their own self interest. Dave Butcher

love God and to love your neighbor as yourself. And that the second of these is equally important.

According to Matthew 25:40-45, Jesus tells his followers that "whatever you do to the least of my brethren, that you do unto me." He goes on to add the following:

"For I was hungry, and you gave me no food: I was thirsty, and you gave me no drink.

I was a stranger, and you took me not in; naked, and you clothed me not; sick, and in prison, and you visited me not."

When asked when they did not minister to him, Jesus answered them, saying, "Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as you did it not to one of the least of these, you did it not to me."

If you consider yourself a Christian, please think about these verses in the context of Trump's vilification of migrants as "illegals" and "invaders." Or his promises to round them up, put them in tent camps and prisons, and expel them from our country - even their family members who are here legally, even people seeking asylum, and in some cases even their children born in the United States who are US citizens. There is nothing Christian about treating our fellow human beings this way.

The fact is that the vast majority of migrants who have entered our country are fleeing persecution and poverty, just trying to make a better life for themselves and their families. Yes, occasionally a migrant commits a horrible crime, as Trump and his followers speak endlessly about, but in truth immigrants, both authorized and unauthorized, commit crimes at lower rates than people born in this country. Thus, if we have more migrants, the crime rate actually goes down. This is probably one reason why the violent crime rate has been declining ever since President Biden took office, to a level lower now than it was when Trump took office in his first term.

There is also nothing Christian about threatening to imprison people who criticize you, as Trump has done with public officials of both political parties such as Liz Cheney, Adam Kinzinger, Benny Thompson, Mitch McConnell, and even generals in the U.S. Armed Services. This is the behavior of a brutal king or dictator, not a true Christian.

If you want to support Trump, that is your right. But don't say a win for Trump is a win for Christianity. There is nothing Christian about vilifying migrants, seeking to imprison those with whom you disagree, or using the Bible as a political prop or a way to make money.

John Farley

'All is Calm' Dear Editor:

Last weekend I experienced "All is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914", playing at Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts. I don't have enough superlatives for this Thingamajig Theatre Company production, but I'll try. It's a story of the innocence and goodness of humanity in the most hellish of circumstances. It's a true story.

The entire play is sung a cappella style without interruption, resulting in impeccable harmonies flowing from one song to the next, one story to the next. It seems to me a miracle that Artistic Director Tim Moore could find this cast of men who harmonized and acted so beautifully together, and Director Andrew Barratt Lewis to make it all happen. The seamless storytelling never gave the audience a chance to catch its breath until it was over.

By the end, I was emotionally wrung out - in a good way. Any art that has such power to move and emotionally connect with its audience is art that must be experienced.

If you are in Pagosa, I hope you also will take time to experience "All is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914". It will take the meaning of your holiday season to a whole different level.

Nine performances remain between now and December 28. Surely you can find a performance that fits your and your family's schedule?

For tickets go to pagosacenter.org. Wishing peace for all,

Cynda Green

Cultivated-meat research

Dear Editor:

As the impacts of climate change become more widely felt and acknowledged, our political leaders should support increased public funding for cultivated-meat research. For those who don't know, cultivated meat is grown from livestock cells, without slaughter. The new protein is expected to require a fraction of the greenhouse-gas emissions that See Letters A4



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on Tuesday (deadline may move up due to a holiday)

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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.

The golden rule Dear Editor:

I have noticed a number of people saying, including in letters to the editor, that Trump's return to power is a victory for Christianity. Nothing could be further from the truth. The message of Christianity is the Golden Rule - treat others as you would like to be treated. In Mark 12:31, we are told that there are two great commandments that summarize all the rest: To

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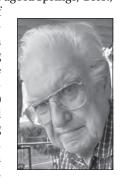
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Obituaries

Tom Artzberger

Tom Artzberger, age 78, passed Nov. 29, 2024, after having lived the last 17 years in Pagosa Springs, Colo.,

with his wife of 55 years, Sandy. This ended a fabulous, loving and caring life together involving trains, 40 years of small ship cruising and ice cream. Originally from Pittsburgh, Penn., Tom met



Sandy in Milwaukee, Wisc., when he was completing his mechanical engineering degree and lived there for 38 years. Involvement in community and church outreach were a part of life. The highlight of outreach were six years of working with high school students as the mechanical engineering director of the competitive robotics project.

Always having a deep interest in building rideable steam locomotives, Tom became a legend in the field as he combined academic engineering knowledge with practical skills. Not only did he build for himself six one-fifth of actual size fully functioning steam locomotives of the scale/ gauge found in parks and yards for adult/children riders, but designed others as kits. This allowed hobbyists without a machine shop or extensive engineering skills to have a "handson" personal assembly building experience. A diesel train he built is still running at the Milwaukee Zoo.

Immediately after moving to Pagosa, Tom became involved with the Durango Railroad Historical Society working on the restoration of the 315 Narrow Gauge locomotive (now in Chama) and mechanically keeping it running for trips. He totally delighted in the mechanical challenges it presented and especially working with the other volunteers. Often he was asked to make parts for the Durango-Silverton trains. Again, he loved the honor and challenge.

He will be dearly missed not only by his wife, but by the hundreds of hobbyists in the field, many being very dear friends, because of his creative skills, love to teach the individual, and leadership in forming and participating in many train hobby groups over the years.

A memorial service will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 28, 2024, at St. Patrick's Episcopal Church in Pagosa Springs, Colo., with a lite luncheon to follow.

If you choose, donations can be made to the Durango Railroad Historical Society.

John Matthews Brittingham

John Matthews Brittingham died peacefully on Dec. 9, 2024, at his home in Pagosa Springs, Colo. He was 94.

John was born in Cleveland, Ohio, on April 16, 1930, to Lucile Matthews Brittingham and Harold Hixon Brittingham. He grew up in Fort Worth, Texas, where his mother moved

to be near her family after his father died in 1937. John spent his summers at Lambshead, his family's ranch near Albany, Texas, and decided he wanted to be a cattle rancher like his Uncle Watt Matthews. John was educated at Hotchkiss and Yale, was on the swimming team at Yale, and was in the Marine Corps stationed in Korea as part of the peacekeeping force after the armistice. After returning from Korea, he began his ranching career. He ranched around Albany, Texas, but soon bought a ranch in Ramah, Colo., and ranched there 27 years. In 1983, he traded that ranch

and, along with his family, bought the Park Springs Ranch in Anton Chico, N.M. He lived on and worked that cattle ranch for 29 years, along with his wife Jean, until retiring to Pagosa Springs in 2012.

John was a director for Region 9 of the Soaring Society of America and was team captain for the World Soaring Championships in France in 1978 and Germany in 1981.

He held seven state of Colorado Soaring Records from 1964 to 1970, most of them flown out of the Black Forest Glider port in Colorado Springs. He was inducted into the Soaring Hall of Fame in 1985. John was also a private pilot and owned several airplanes throughout his life. After retiring to Pagosa Springs, John enjoyed playing bridge, working out at the PLPOA Rec Center and walking with his dog Pearl. He is survived by his beloved wife, Jean; his children, John Clark Brittingham and Nel Brittingham McGrath; a granddaughter, Whitney Zane Brittingham; many nieces and nephews along with their children and grandchildren; and many cousins and friends.

John died a happy man, grateful for a long and interesting life and for the love he received during his life.

Lorraine Eileen **Romero Martinez**

Lorraine Eileen Romero Martinez passed away after suffering a stroke on Nov. 21, 2024. She was born on Sept. 17,

1952, to Estefanita (Fannie) Romero and Dick Whitney. Lorraine had an ideal childhood in 1950s and '60s in Pagosa Springs surrounded by her large ex-

tended family and her childhood friends, most notably her cousin Fermi and the daughters

Public Meetings

The following meetings are subject to change.

Thursday, Dec. 19

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

igosa Springs Town Counc

Monday, Dec. 23

Archuleta County Road and Bridge **Advisory Committee meeting.** 2 p.m., Archuleta County administration building, commissioners' meeting room, 398 Lewis St. For more information, visit http://archuletacounty.org/agendacenter.

Friday, Jan. 3

tion, visit http://archuletacounty. org/agendacenter.

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

agosa Springs Sanitation General **Improvement District special** meeting. 5 p.m., Town Hall, 551

best we have ever had. **Ingredients are fresh** and it has just a great of Joe and Faye Cordova, whom she homemade flavor due adopted as sisters early on. The many to a higher quality of stories we've all heard and the many pictures we've all viewed on Lorraine's ingredients." Facebook pages attest to her fun-filled Alan C., Tripadvisor review childhood and school-year friendships surrounded by people who loved her Delicious cooked-to-order pizza dearly. With these cousins and friends, she played in what was the only swimand your favorite brews on tap! ming pool in town at what is now known as The Healing Waters Spa. She Classic Pizzas • Build Your Own • Detroit-Style ate ice cream at Jackisch Drug Store

when it still had the ice cream counter

and bought penny candy from the

grocery store owned by the Coles. It was

another Pagosa, in another time, one

where she could walk down the street

by herself as a 7-year-old and spend all

day playing outdoors without a care in

Giordanos at The Spa, where she

cleaned rooms and the bath house

with Erlinda Gonzales.

with a camera in hand.

Lorraine's first job was with the

the world.

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SWW TAPROOM

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



Continued from A3 traditional meat does.

Many people aren't aware that animal agriculture is one of the most significant causes of global warming. While cultivated meat has earned regulatory approval in the United States, it's currently too expensive to mass produce. This can be rectified with the help of environmentallyconscious politicians backing more government money for cellularagriculture development.

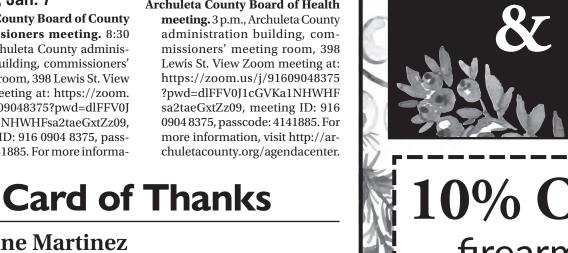
> Jon Hochschartner Granby, Conn.

San Juan Water Conservancy District work session for strategic objective three. 3 p.m., 46 Eaton Drive, Suite 5. Visit https://www. sjwcd.org/ for Zoom option.

Tuesday, Jan. 7

Archuleta County Board of County **Commissioners meeting.** 8:30 a.m., Archuleta County administration building, commissioners' meeting room, 398 Lewis St. View Zoom meeting at: https://zoom. us/j/91609048375?pwd=dlFFV0J 1cGVKa1NHWHFsa2taeGxtZz09, meeting ID: 916 0904 8375, passcode: 4141885. For more informa-

Hot Springs Blvd. See town website for participation information: https://pagosasprings.civicweb. net/portal/. Thursday, Jan. 16 Archuleta County Board of Health



Lorraine Martinez

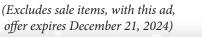
The family of Lorraine Martinez would like to thank family and friends for being there for us during Lorraine's hospitalization and passing. We wish to thank all who called, visited, brought food and flowers, made donations to the family and helped with the funeral. We especially would like to thank Father Sam Auta for the beautiful mass, Kindy and Leonard Martinez, Beny's Restaurant and all who helped with the rosary, Mass and meal. Your love and support during this difficult time meant the world to us. Lorraine will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

Frank Martinez and the Romero and Martinez families



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Education





Photo courtesy Pagosa Peak Open School Pagosa Peak Open School students learn about weather data collection at the Emergency Operations Center in Durango.

Kindergartners visit new radar system, study weather

By Emily Murphy Pagosa Peak Open School

"My weather instrument measures air pressure," said Pagosa Peak Open School (PPOS) kindergartner Silas.

With his coat on and his kinder friends surrounding him, he was ready to head outside and put the instrument to the test. The others were just as excited.

"Mine measures moisture." "Mine measures wind."

This group of 5- and 6-year-olds are wrapping up their most recent project: a study of weather. Students not only learned weather terms, but also looked into how people are affected by weather, prepare for weather and collect data.

The group visited a new radar system at the Durango-La Plata County Airport, named "Wilson," where they were able to look at weather patterns and data across the world.

"The radar can also tell us where there are wildfires," kindergartner Annessa said.

Students then visited the Emergency Operations Center in Durango, where they learned more about different types of precipitation and how the data collected is used in our area, as well as across the world.

"It is so wonderful to watch my students' confidence grow as they learn in the community," Kindergarten Advisor Maggie Saunders said.

After gathering information about weather and building their background knowledge, the students determined which tools people use to track weather. Students decided which elements of weather they would like to measure and designed their own tools.

The kindergarten celebrated the end of their weather project by acting out their own weather-based story for PPOS families.

Through storytelling and smallgroup work, kindergartners learn not only science standards relating to the environment, but also learn how to work together.

PPOS is a free, K-8 district charter school focused on implementing a project-based learning curriculum in a restorative practices environment. Field work is foundational to projectbased learning. PPOS aims to foster academic excellence and support our students in contributing to an evolving world through community participation and civic engagement.

To learn more about PPOS, visit pagosapeakopenschool.org.

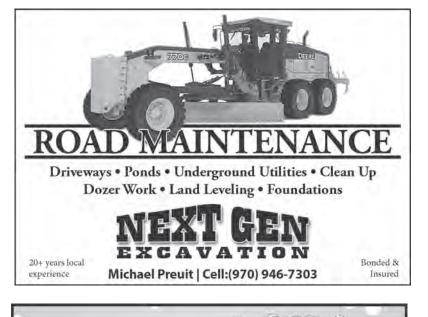






Photo courtesy Pagosa Peak Open School Pagosa Peak Open School students visit "Wilson," the new radar system at the Durango-La Plata County Airport.



PUC 16400, MCT 0021, DOT 2842985

Santa Claus is coming! to Goodman's Department Store PAGOSA SPRINGS, COLORADO Join us for cider and cookies! December 23rd from 3-5 pm Sale Prices Effective December 19th-24th, unless otherwise stated On any single in-store purchase of Ariat footwear, apparel, or access 11/24/2024-12/24/2024 at a participating retailer. Online purchases do not 25% qualify. Limit one rebate per name, home or email address and household. Ariat All Full terms and conditions, online entry, downloadable rebate form, and a list of participating retailers can be found at www.ariat.com/holidayrebate **OFF** Cruisers Groove OFFER VALID IN THE 50 US STATES AND DC FOR LEGAL RESIDENTS, AGE 18 AND OLDER; VOID WHERE PROHIBITED. COUPON MUST BE PRESENT All 30% Life AT TIME OF PURCHASE Mix-o-logy 20% OFF **OFF** Products **GOODMAN'S DEPT. STORE SUPER COUPON** ^{\$50} Come in Men's XL to see our Dec. 22nd -23rd, 2024 ONLY Jacket Gift Card Daily YES! We will be open Christmas Eve 9-4. Raffle Raffle Flash Your choice any ONE item Giveaway Sales Giveaway 25% 10% OFF All Montana Silversmith Jewelry Limited to stock on hand only, excludes Pendleton blankets, decorative cou skulls, furniture & Brighton, may not be used with any other discount. (Dec. 22nd-23rd) One coupon per customer. Coupon must be present at time of purchase. 970-264-2222 Gift Cards & Layaway available!

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Pagosa Springs Community Choir awards vocal scholarships

By Heidi Tanner Pagosa Springs Community Choir

At last weekend's Pagosa Springs Community Choir concerts, the organization awarded two vocal scholarships in the amount of \$500 each.

These scholarships will provide vocal lessons to the two recipients. This year's scholarships were awarded to eighth-grade student Lillian Jones and high school sophomore Avonlea Thomas.

Jones was also accepted into the middle school all-state choir and is the only Pagosa Springs Middle School student to receive this honor in many years.

Thomas sang with the Community Choir this year and in addition to her vocal work she is an accomplished dancer.

Congratulations to these two young ladies.

Thank you, Pagosa, for coming out and supporting our three Community Choir concerts which were held last weekend. We had a wonderful time singing for you in celebration of Christmas. Thank you for supporting the Community Choir, and we will look forward to singing for you again next year.



Photo courtesy Pagosa Springs Community Choir

The Pagosa Springs Community Choir awarded two \$500 vocal scholarships during their Christmas concerts last weekend. Left to right are Heidi Tanner, board president; Avonlea Thomas and Lillian Jones, scholarship recipients; and Dan Burch, music director of the Pagosa Springs Community Choir.

Play and participation discussed at charter school board meeting

By Garrett Fevinger Staff Writer

Swings, springers, and a comet spinner; a cliff rider; a sand pit and digger; one double slide; and a seesaw: those features and others are envisioned for a new playground at Pagosa Peak Open School (PPOS), and, in a preview offered to board members Dec. 11, it's a vision inching closer to reality.

The renovation, which will also bring gently sloping lawns and other natural elements like wildflowers, boulders and logs, is slated to break ground after this winter's thaw, according to project manager and former PPOS board member David Pribble.

"We're in very good shape on the schedule," Pribble reported. "Everything's coming along and looking good."

Final plans for the new \$720,000, Colorado Health Foundation grantfunded playground are likely to be ready for state review by mid-January, Pribble noted, with construction scheduled to wrap up some time next August.

"It's been an extremely difficult challenge, with the monies that we have available," Pribble said.

He described some of the twists and turns the project has endured

when we get a [general contractor] involved, you're starting [to accrue] a lot of extra costs we can eliminate if we assume the project ourselves," Pribble said, indicating he would remain at the helm of the renovation as project manager and owner's representative.

"We didn't really want to go that way, but it was cost-prohibitive to have a general contractor," Pribble said, adding, "This is the only way that I see us being able to get this thing done."

Pribble currently serves as a planning commissioner for Archuleta County and has almost 30 years of experience in commercial development, according to his resume.

"Me being involved in it, with my experience, we can definitely mitigate a lot of risk and liability if I'm involved with it every day and control costs, which is going to be very, very important on this project," he said.

Pribble indicated that applying for the insurances a general contractor would typically carry will now fall to him. He will also be in charge of hiring a retinue of subcontractors to help handle specific jobs like concrete laying and landscaping.

"We'll want to make sure that those [subcontractors] will have their own bonding and insurance, then," PPOS board treasurer Pamela Meade

ment of the playground." ruary, but that the one from Mother Nature may not arrive until March or April.

"The playground construction -I'm still holding four months," he said, eyeing the project timeline. "I'm anticipating a three-month — with possibly a little punch-list after that but a three-month construction schedule" with a tentative completion date scheduled for Aug. 4, 2025. He added, "I am absolutely com-

fortable with where we're at."

Ticking through a list of the new equipment and other design elements, Pribble and PPOS School Director Emily Murphy described a multitiered space that encourages collaboration and interaction, with apparatuses for the most rambunctious and also areas for the quieter, more reflective set.

"It took quite a while," Pribble said, reflecting on the design's evolution, "but I think this has turned out to be a very nice playground."

In an email to The SUN, Murphy reflects on the evolution of the project and the early voices that helped bring it to life, writing, "We are grateful to community members Elly Osmera and Cady Allione for seeking out, applying for and obtaining the grant funding. At the time, Elly was on the PPOS school board and was responding to the request of staff and parents

New policy for participation

During the same meeting, PPOS board members resumed their examination of a question Murphy first raised in November: what to do when students and families opt-out of participating in curriculum-aligned fieldwork at the school.

In a draft policy crafted to address that question, the school notes, "Participation in all fieldwork is an expectation of Pagosa Peak students."

It further describes the rewards administrators hope students reap from joining in.

"Fieldwork provides students with depth and complexity within their work, allowing them to apply real world experiences to academic concepts," the draft policy reads. "Learning and teaching become See Board A7

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since its inception — the latest being a decision to forgo hiring a general contractor.

"With the monies that we have,

said. Pribble replied that they would. Looking ahead, Pribble told the board he anticipates a permit for

construction to be issued by late Feb-

to upgrade the playground. Now both Cady and Elly are on the playground committee and continue to be heavily involved in the design and develop-

Healthy Archuleta hosts sleep physician for **Community Health Empowerment education**

Healthy Archuleta

In early December, Dr. Darius Loghmanee, a pediatric sleep specialist from Chicago, Ill., paid a visit to Healthy Archuleta and Pagosa Springs.

During his visit, he shared information about sleep health and his Community Health Empowerment (CHE) program with our organization and local health partners.

He created the CHE program as a way to help his patients form a community to optimize their sleep habits. They have since looked at ways fitness and nutrition play into this role.

The overall goal of CHE is for people to come together and form a supportive community to develop healthier sleep and wellness habits.

Darius said communities have the most effects from these wellness habits. When a child experiences poor sleep, it affects their ability to func-

the next day. This later affects peers and the environments around them. Similarly, with adults, poor sleep causes poor functioning the next day. It is in this way that people realize they exist in the community to support each other to develop healthier lifestyles and, eventually, communities. This empowers people to take control of the health factors that physicians may not have the time to address.

Healthy Archuleta sees the potential that this program has to improve our community's well-being.

Over the summer, Healthy Archuleta formed a Wellness Community Learning and Leadership Circle, and the group participated in the CHE sleep curriculum. The members of this group had shared experiences as mothers.

While reflecting on this experience, members of this group said it

tion properly in their daily activities took a while to actually discuss the problems people have with their health. It took one person in this group to speak up about the health habits they were having trouble with to make everyone feel comfortable sharing. This was the first step in developing better habits.

During Darius' visit, some of these participants reflected on their CHE experiences with Darius and provided input on future CHE sessions in the community.

Healthy Archuleta hopes to keep fostering this relationship with Darius and to facilitate the CHE materials with more community members toward developing healthier habits and advancing common goals around health.

To learn more about the efforts of Healthy Archuleta, please visit our website at www.foodcoalition4archuleta.org or email us at fsfearchuleta@ gmail.com.

This holiday season, PSMC sends best wishes to our employees and this wonderful community.

The Primary Care Clinic and Outpatient Services will be closed on Wednesday, December 25th. We will reopen on Thursday, December 26th to serve you.

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

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School district to collect \$15.98 million from property taxes

By Garrett Fevinger Staff Writer

Archuleta County School District (ASD) is set to receive almost \$16 million from property taxes next year after board members voted to certify the district's 2024 tax mill levy at 28.099 mills during their regular meeting Dec. 10.

The 2024 millage, which includes voter-approved overrides, is based on a net assessed county valuation of \$568,803,620. Of that valuation, prepared by the county assessor, \$15,982,813 will go into the district's general fund — about \$690,000 more than ASD received from tax year 2023, according to certification documents released by the district.

to arrive in installments beginning in March 2025, with additional deposits scheduled for May and June, according to ASD Finance Director Eric Burt.

"That goes directly into general fund, so it pays for salaries, benefits, classroom supplies, maintenance supplies, maintenance repairs, anything of that nature," he said.

During his cash-flow report at the Dec. 10 meeting, Burt expressed confidence the district would continue to be able to cover its expenses until the new funds arrive.

"So, right now, it looks like we're going to be closer to \$2.5 million in February. So, no concerns that we will not be able to make payroll," he said. That sum, Burt added in a follow-

The bulk of the \$15.98 million is set up interview with The SUN, will allow voters agreeing to extend the district's the district "to stay afloat and pay bills and pay salaries until March 10 when we get the first [tax] payment of the year."

> He continued, "Once we get that first payment in early March, that will definitely bump us up and then we'll be clear through the rest of the fiscal year from a cash standpoint."

> Not including voter overrides, the total program mill for ASD in tax year 2024 is 25.014. As with other school districts across the state, ASD will eventually be capped at 27 total program mills, which administrators indicated would likely come in about two year's time.

> In November 2023, ASD's Ballot Issue 5A passed with 73.12 percent of

mill levy override in perpetuity. The measure also asked for the override to be excepted from limits that would otherwise apply under the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights (TABOR).

At the same meeting, Burt reported that ASD had filed for a 60-day audit extension due to issues that arose with the firm hired to conduct the district's audit, but that he didn't see any cause for concern.

"The last few years we've had no issues," he said. "I wouldn't expect any this time."

The district now has until the end of February to complete the audit, but Burt indicated he expects it will be done before then.

garrett@pagosasun.com



Colorado's Universal Preschool Program opens enrollment for upcoming school year

Colorado Department of Early Childhood

Colorado families can now apply for the 2025-2026 Universal Preschool Program.

This exciting opportunity offers up to 15 hours of free, high-quality preschool for all children in the year before kindergarten, with additional hours available for qualifying families.

"Colorado's Universal Preschool Program is truly raising the bar for early childhood education — for children, parents and our economy," said Gov. Jared Polis. "In addition to saving families an average of \$6,100, recent research shows how statefunded universal preschool programs help parents stay in the workforce, access more paid child care hours and earn up to 20 percent more each year. Colorado's Universal Preschool Program not only saves Colorado families money, it drives our state's economy and earliest learners forward to thrive for years to come."

How to enroll

Families can apply at UPK.Colorado.gov following the steps below:

1. Explore providers: Browse profiles of more than 2,000 licensed programs statewide.

2. Submit an application: Select preferred providers and submit by the deadlines:

• Feb. 3: Preregistration for families continuing care with a current provider, with a sibling enrolled or family member employed.

• Feb. 5: First family-provider matching round.

• March 5: Final family-provider matching round. 3. Accept a match: Families will be

notified to accept or decline between: • Feb. 3-10 (preregistration).

• Feb. 24 to March 3 (first round). • March 24-31 (final round).

4. Finalize enrollment: Complete registration directly with the provider. Families may also directly enroll

with providers after matching rounds end, throughout the school year as space is available, providing greater flexibility and access for families.

"Colorado's Universal Preschool Program shows what's possible when we prioritize young learners," said Dr. Lisa Roy, executive director of the Colorado Department of Early Childhood. "High-quality preschool opportunities strengthen families and drive our communities forward."

Successes for program year one (2023-2024)

• Families saved an average of \$6,100 for a combined total of \$239 million.

• Nearly seven out of 10 eligible 4-year-olds in Colorado - 68.7 percent (43,479) — were served, highlighting Colorado as a leader compared to the national average of 35 percent enrollment in statefunded preschool programs.

Enhancements in program vear two (2024-2025)

• Expanded hours with a new

qualifying factor for families considered to be living in poverty by federal guidelines.

• Increased language access with applications now available in 11 languages and interpreters available in more than 100 languages by calling the help desk.

• Enhanced support for more than 8,000 preschoolers with individualized education programs, or IEPs, with Direct Placement pathway.

• More than 41,640 4-year-olds have been served so far in the 2024-2025 school year, about 65 percent of the number of children who qualify. Children can still be enrolled for the 2024-2025 school year with families encouraged to register directly with a participating provider of choice through the end of the school year.

New in program year three (2025-2026)

• Provider Resource Bank launching to support providers in meeting updated quality standards.

• Enhanced communication via centralized contact center offering online, email and phone support, including access to interpreters to support families in communicating with call center specialists in more than 100 languages.

"We're committed to meeting the diverse needs of Colorado families," said Dawn Odean, Universal Preschool Program director. "From expanded services to multilingual support, we're always evolving to ensure every child can thrive."

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SOME FOLKS ARE INTO



The Pagosa Springs Catholic Community organized its second annual Christmas cookie decorating at Bee Hive Assisted Living on Dec. 14. Residents, parishioners, friends and family members helped spread the holiday joy.

Board

Continued from A6

more effective as students make connections, organize information and experiences, and attach value to what is being taught."

The policy also notes the school's responsibility to make its fieldwork experiences accessible for all students at the school, and to provide accommodations for students with individualized education plans and disabilities classified under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.

It further specifies, "Colorado law does not require a school to provide alternative activities or accommodations for students who choose not to go on field trips or engage in field work."

When a student or family opts out of fieldwork activities "due to choice and not disability," the draft policy states that "PPOS staff is not required to provide alternative activities or environments for students."

In those instances, the policy asks

families to provide an educational equivalent that is approved by the school director.

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"I appreciated how clear it was on what is the role of the school and what isn't," Meade said of the draft policy. "And that [the alternative activities] are curriculum-based - and not anything goes. So, it's not just watch a movie and call it a project."

The policy received unanimous approval by the board. garrett@pagosasun.com

UFLY SWEATERS, EGGNOG, P F & SIN WE LEAN MORE TOWARDS & L.U As in, we would love to not have a piece of that fruitcake". DIVISION OF GLACIER BANK ONE BIG HAPPY LITTLE BANK

Range

Continued from front Warren Sackman, a representative of Keyah Grande, explained at the Nov. 26 planning commission meeting that the shooting range would be open to law enforcement agencies to use free of charge, Keyah Grande guests, trainers offering certification classes and to a membership club of

approximately 100 people. Comments from residents at the Nov. 26 meeting also expressed concerns that the majority of the community will not be able to afford the membership fee, and that the greater public will not be able to use the range.

During the Dec. 17 meeting, O'Dell explained that the Keyah Grande property is currently zoned as agricultural ranching and that under the county's land use regulations, outdoor shooting ranges are allowed through a CUP.

O'Dell also mentioned the planning commission tabled the matter multiple times and requested staff to address the concerns being brought forward by residents.

"Staff then conducted extensive research," O'Dell said, explaining that multiple outside agencies were contacted for additional information.

In their efforts in addressing the noise concern from residents, staff discovered that Colorado statute prohibits local governments from enforcing noise requirements on outdoor shooting ranges, O'Dell explained, citing Colorado Revised Statute 25-12-109.

Public comment was made in multiple meetings expressing the concern that the county attorney "in good faith" misadvised county staff on its options for noise control requirements.

O'Dell also indicated that a document was obtained from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that outlines the best practices for lead remediation at outdoor shooting ranges.

According to the staff report, conditions 10 and 11 require that Keyah

Grande provide reports to the Planning Department with the amount of rounds fired per lane, with lead remediation work invoice receipts, or receive a certificate from the EPA for maintaining best practices associated with lead remediation.

When offered the chance for comment, Sackman acknowledged the noise concerns, saying, "I understand people are concerned with, obviously, noise," noting the county cannot enforce any noise restriction.

"Its a concern to us as it is our neighbors," he added, mentioning that the shooting range will encourage patrons to use suppressors.

Commissioner Ronnie Maez inquired about what size and caliber of guns will be allowed.

O'Dell indicated that Keyah Grande's narrative states that the range accommodates rifles in size from .17 to .375 and pistols from .17 to 10 millimeters.

Brown commented on the language used in condition 12, which covers that law enforcement can use the range on certain days and times.

He explained that his background in law enforcement and as an investigator in officer-involved shootings, those incidents tend to occur in nighttime hours or in adverse weather conditions.

Sackman explained that the time restriction and operating hours are not applicable to law enforcement, noting that nighttime shooting "is something that may occur from time to time," but not often.

Sackman added that Keyah Grande is trying to be helpful in providing law enforcement agencies a place to train and receive necessary certifications.

Seven residents provided public comment during the Dec. 17 meeting, with six people still expressing concerns over noise, operating hours, state statute interpretations and who the range will serve.

One comment from a resident who explained he lives within a couple miles of the range stated he's

heard "very little" noise from his residence, and applauded the county staff and planning commission for its work on the matter, adding that he is in favor of the range and wanted to say, "welcome to the neighborhood."

One resident mentioned she is still concerned about nighttime shooting, and requested that condition 12 be rewritten to specify specific days and times as to when certain law enforcement shooting events will occur outside of normal operating hours.

"Gunshots at night are particularly troublesome and terrifying to neighbors," she said.

She also spoke of noise concerns, stating, "The fact that this is moving from a private enterprise to a public enterprise is undoubtedly going to cause a very large volume of sound and noise above what it's been."

Another comment from a resident concerned about shooting events occurring at irregular hours asked for "something predictable" so that residents know when such events will happen.

She also mentioned that the Archuleta County Sheriff's Office (ACSO) has put time and investment into the range.

County Manager Jack Harper previously explained to The SUN that the ACSO contributed \$8,700 for gravel and the construction of shooting bay areas in 2022, with grant funds from the Colorado Department of Law.

Another resident expressed frustration with the county's notification requirements, claiming that the county is only required to notify immediately adjacent properties, but that the shooting range could affect properties up to 2 or 3 miles away.

She also expressed concerns with Kevah Grande "self-reporting" its lead remediation work, and suggested that it be regulated by the county.

One resident spoke about the exclusivity of the shooting range and urged the county to have a range that is not going to exclude the community by large.

"As it stands, this shooting range

Lawsuit

Continued from front

committee, composed of himself and Walsh, be tasked with moving the sale forward, including creating a term sheet and determining how to present the sale to the public.

Tautges commented that he would be willing to assist the subcommittee on the work if necessary.

PAWSD Programs Manager Renee Lewis asked Hudson if this was for the marketing portion of the sale, adding that there would be legal requirements from the board's previous

execute documents, including loan documents, deeds and conveyances, requested by the other party in accordance with the agreement.

It adds that the SJWCD has expressed its opposition to selling the ranch and its intent to oppose and prevent such a sale.

The complaint then presents its first claim for relief, asking the court for declaratory judgment to clarify the terms of the agreement and to resolve the controversy over if PAWSD has the right to sell the property.

out the involvement of the CWCB and that the case will not threaten CWCB's interests in the issue, including PAWSD's obligation to consult with the CWCB prior to selling the ranch and PAWSD's obligation to pay back loans for the property from the CWCB upon a sale.

At a Dec. 17 special meeting of the SJWCD Board of Directors, the board held an executive session to discuss the ranch and to receive legal advice. Following the session, the SJWCD board voted to enable its lawyer

is going to exclude the community at large for use of the shooting range," she said.

After public comment, Brown asked O'Dell if the range is currently operational.

O'Dell stated it is.

O'Dell added that the range has been in use for potentially 15 years now and does not have a permit.

He explained that the Planning Department tied in Keyah Grande's new guesthouse restaurant permit approval with the requirement that the shooting range be permitted.

O'Dell commented that the Planning Department "kind of strongarmed them, in a way."

Medina asked for clarification and if Keyah Grande was attempting to get the range permitted, or if people just started using it before coming to the planning commission.

O'Dell indicated that "no one approached" the Planning Department and that a previous county manager advised Keyah Grande to move forward with the shooting range without a permit as it was primarily being used by local law enforcement.

He added that his understanding was that the range was not currently open to the public at the time of the meeting.

Maez asked if the range would be open to the general public at all.

O'Dell explained it would be open to the 100-member club, law enforcement and instructors for certification classes. "So, basically, if you don't belong

to the country club, you don't get to ■ See Range A17

JIM GARRETT ♦ ATTORNEY ♦

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Christmas Morning at 9:00, a Divine Worship Service.

Sundays, a Divine Worship Service at 9:00.

motion that would need to be worked on with PAWSD's legal counsel.

Hudson stated that the subcommittee could also reach out and coordinate on the legal aspects with PAWSD's counsel as well.

The board then unanimously approved this proposal.

The PAWSD lawsuit against the SJWCD was filed the next day in district court in Archuleta County.

After outlining the history of the Running Iron Ranch and of the agreements between PAWSD, the SJWCD and the CWCB, the complaint discusses the terms of the 2015 threeway agreement.

It claims that, as part of a discussion of a potential sale of the ranch, the agreement states, "PAWSD agrees to make every effort to retain the Running Iron Ranch during the Planning Period made possible by this Agreement. In the event that PAWSD, in its sole discretion but after consultation with SJWCD and the CWCB, does sell the Running Iron Ranch during the Planning Period, the following terms shall take effect ..."

The complaint notes that the agreement also contains terms that the parties of the agreement shall

It requests that the court find that PAWSD has a right to sell the property under the terms of the 2015 agreement assuming it meets notice, appraisal and first-refusal terms contained within the agreement, and performs the consultation with the SIWCD and the CWCB required prior to selling the ranch in the agreement.

It also requests that the court either declare that the agreement's term that PAWSD make every effort to retain the property does not have to be met prior to PAWSD selling the property or find that PAWSD has already met this requirement.

Additionally, the complaint seeks a declaration that the SJWCD is required to sign contracts and deeds necessary for the sale if it occurs.

The complaint continues in a second claim for relief that, if the court rules against PAWSD in its first claim, then it requests that the court partition the property and sell it at a public auction with the proceeds being divided according to the 2015 agreement.

The complaint also argues that the CWCB does not need to be a party to the lawsuit, stating that the relief PAWSD seeks can be obtained withto speak with SJWCD president Candace Jones and SJWCD board member Charles Riehm as needed to receive guidance from the board on the litigation.

Jones then offered a comment on the litigation, stating that the litigation is a "disappointing development" and that, at the board's last meeting, it had decided to convene a work session on Jan. 6, 2025, to discuss options to move forward with the ranch.

After this, Jones stated that the district planned to reach out to PAWSD

"So, it's unfortunate that we didn't have even those few weeks to make any progress on that," Jones said.

She added that the SJWCD continues to oppose the sale of the ranch and that it believes that the land and water rights should be kept for public benefit.

She concluded that the 2015 agreement established a planning period for the reservoir stretching to 2035 and that, because this planning period is not over, "we think we are absolutely in right in defending these water rights for the benefit of the public." josh@pagosasun.com

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LPEA Continued from front

providing redundancy to reduce the impact of potential power outages in the region.

"The new substation is part of our long-term strategy to invest in critical infrastructure that strengthens the reliability and resiliency of our electric grid," said Chris Hansen, LPEA CEO. "We are committed to ensuring the Pagosa Springs community continues to receive the reliable service they depend on while planning for future needs."

As rural areas modernize and incorporate more advanced technologies like electric vehicles, renewable energy (e.g., solar and wind), and smart grid systems, substations are critical in upgrading and expanding the electrical infrastructure. They allow for the integration of renewable energy sources, better monitoring of system performance, and quicker responses to any grid issues.

With this new substation, LPEA is well-positioned to meet these emerging energy demands while continuing to provide reliable service.

'This addition will help us better manage the grid and strengthen our ability to serve members, no matter where they are located. While it's not online yet, this substation will significantly enhance our reliability and capacity once it is operational, further demonstrating our commitment to investing in the future of our rural communities," added Hansen.

LPEA is working to finalize the substation's location within the Pagosa Springs area. Pending final location confirmation, construction is slated to begin in spring of 2025, with anticipated completion by 2026.

The new substation is one of several ongoing capital projects designed to modernize LPEA's electric infrastructure and better serve its growing membership.

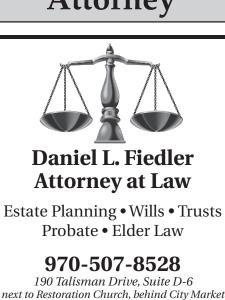
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About LPEA

LPEA is a member-owned, notfor-profit, electric distribution cooperative serving La Plata and Archuleta, with segments of Hinsdale, Mineral and San Juan counties.

LPEA is the fifth-largest cooperative of 22 in Colorado and aims to provide safe, reliable electricity at the lowest reasonable cost to its approximately 36,500 members.

For additional information, contact LPEA at (970) 247-5786 or visit lpea.coop.



Business

Fire chief discusses timeline of impact fees with county

By Clayton Chaney Staff Writer

New developments located within the Pagosa Springs Fire Protection District's (PFPD's) boundaries will soon be subject to new impact fees that the district is looking to implement sometime in 2025.

PFPD Chief Robert Bertram met with the Archuleta Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) during a work session held on Dec. 10, informing the commissioners of the district's plans to move forward with implementing the fees.

The PFPD Board of Directors voted unanimously to move forward with the impact fees during its regular board meeting that was held on Nov. 5, after receiving the results of impact fee study performed by BBC Research and Consulting.

See the Nov. 14 issue of The SUN for more information.

During the work session, Bertram explained that the PFPD is a Title 32 special district, meaning it has always been able to do impact fees, but would have had to go through the county or town to have the fees approved and collected.

Bertram commented that the PFPD had impact fees "years back" with the Town of Pagosa Springs, but those have since gone away.

He noted there has never been an impact fee with the county.

Bertram went on to explain that Colorado Bill 24-194, on special district emergency services funding, was approved earlier this year, allowing the district to implement its own impact fees

"A lot of that was trying to help us with funding," Bertram said, mentioning that, currently, the PFPD is funded through property taxes.

"So, every time we raise a mill to get more money, then we're always kind of ratcheting down and we're losing money with that," he added. "So, we're looking at other ways to diversify ourselves.

Bertram also mentioned that the bill allows districts to implement an impact fee or a sales tax.

The fees being put forward include a onetime charge of \$1,426 for new single-family developments, \$1,104 for multifamily developments and 65 cents per square foot for nonresidential developments.

Bertram compared these to the Up-

Bertram mentioned that if the PFPD board chooses to approve the implementation of the fees in February 2025. then the fees would apply to all new developments afterward.

"We want to work with each entity to figure out the process and address any questions before the February public hearing," he said.

Bertram also mentioned that the funds received through the impact fees can only be spent on certain things, noting it cannot be spent on personnel.

"It's only for capital projects," he said, adding that the district is in need of purchasing an updated ladder truck for multistory structures.

Bertram noted a new ladder truck could cost around \$1.9 million "for a cheap one."

He also explained that the funds could be used for upgrading the district's facilities, mentioning that part of the district's strategic plan is to upgrade facilities closer to downtown Pagosa Springs.

According to the fee study from BBC, the median projected revenue for the district from the impact fees is around \$150,000 per year, Bertram noted.

"So, it's not a large amount, but it's not a little amount, either," he said.

Commissioner Ronnie Maez explained that he has "no problem with it" and that he would support an impact fee for the sheriff's office, fire district or police department.

"Because simply the fact is ... vacant land's not that hard to protect, but you put a structure on it and it creates an impact to the fire district ... and it also adds more personnel," Maez said.

He also noted that with the community continuing to grow, the fire district will need to look into having a station staffed full-time.

"The more building we have, the more structure protection we need," Maez added.

County Manager Jack Harper explained the "mechanics" of collecting the fees, explaining the county will notify the fire district when an application comes in for a building permit that would be subject to the impact fee, and then the PFPD will bill the developer directly.

Once the fee is paid to the PFPD, the district would then notify the county to sign off on the approval of a certificate of occupancy.

Bertram commented that he is having the same conversations with and noted that going to the voters is

effect.

Bertram explained that the fees could go into effect immediately following the PFPD board meeting in February 2025, or with a notice of 30 to 90 days following the meeting.

Maez recommended that the district go with a shorter time period for a notice, with concerns that an overflow of applications may "plug" the county's Planning Department.

Brown also asked if the fees apply to properties currently located outside of the PFPD's boundaries.

Bertram stated the fees only apply to properties located within the district's boundaries, but mentioned that the district "might end up out there anyways" as the PFPD responds to calls outside of its district.

Maez noted that it is the district's "call to make" when deciding to respond to calls that are out of its district. "We cannot impose fees outside of

our jurisdiction," Bertram said. He mentioned the PFPD is working

on its strategic plan, and part of that involves determining the best approach for responding to out-of-district calls.

Bertram mentioned the PFPD is working on bringing awareness to people that the district can charge them for responding to an out-of-district call.

Bertram noted that a structure fire response could cost roughly \$5,000 to \$10,000.

"We've got a moral obligation to go, but we really don't have a financial obligation to do that," he added.

Commissioner Veronica Medina inquired about if the PFPD could reach out to residents currently outside of the district's boundaries and see if they would want to be included.

Bertram explained there are two options for residents to be included in the district's boundaries.

One way would be for the PFPD to contact each individual and see if they would like to join, which has approximately \$1,500 in legal fees and paperwork and "can be cumbersome," Bertram noted

The other option is for the district to redraw its boundaries and ask those residents to vote on being incorporated into the district, Bertram explained, noting that town and county boundaries have nothing to do with the fire district.

Bertram mentioned that he has worked for districts that have done both options for adding residents

He added that current workforce housing projects are being targeted for firefighters, nurses and policemen. "Your board needs to take a serious

look at that," he added. Weaver also inquired about if the

impact fees only apply to new builds or if expansions would be subject to the fees.

Bertram explained that is another area that the PFPD board needs to discuss at its next meeting.

However, he noted that the finishing of a basement would likely not be subject to the impact fee, but an expansion of 2,000 square feet would be.

"We've got to go through the ins and outs of that," Bertram said.

Brown questioned whether the PFPD is automatically dispatched for calls in the area that are outside of its boundaries or if the PFPD is specifically requested.

Bertram commented that if there is anything in Hinsdale County or on the way up Wolf Creek Pass, the PFPD will respond.

Brown indicated that he was asking more specifically about unincorporated areas of Archuleta County.

Bertram stated that the PFPD gets dispatched for any area when a call comes in, and that the only time "we blur that line a little bit" is down Colo. 151, when the Los Pinos Fire Protection District is sometimes dispatched. "We don't have any coverage on

151, period, but we cover everything down there," Bertram said.

Maez commented on the PFPD responding to calls out of its district, saying, "It puts you guys in a bad position."

Maez explained that if the PFPD is responding to a call out of its district, it limits the resources available if a call is dispatched within the district at the same time.

"That's been a huge discussion," Bertram said, mentioning the PFPD has been responding to calls out of its district for years because "it's the right thing to do."

He added, "We've also got to make sure that everybody else, the whole community's covered, because they're the ones paying taxes for us to be there."

Weaver asked if the impact fees would apply to other public entities such as the county, town, school district or Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District.

Bertram indicated that is another area he will be getting clarification on during the next PFPD board meeting. "Those are definitely some things that I want to provide answers for you guys as soon as possible," he said. Residents can look online at the county's website or the PFPD's website to view a map of the current PFPD district boundaries. Residents can also contact the PFPD if they are unsure if their property is within the district's boundaries or not.



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per Pine River Fire Protection District, which just implemented impact fees in the amount of \$1,191 for residential buildings and \$1.18 per square foot for nonresidential buildings.

Part of the requirements for implementing the impact fees include providing a 60-day notice to both town and county, Bertram noted, explaining that the PFPD board will hold a public hearing in February 2025 to allow for residents to give public comment on the matter.

the town to have the same system in place.

"I appreciate the fact that you call it what it is — an impact fee," Maez said, mentioning that other communities use the term "linkage fee."

Maez reiterated that he would not support an impact fee that goes into a general fund, but that he is in support of the impact fee for supporting emergency services such as the PFPD.

Commissioner Warren Brown asked when the fees would go into

"easiest

County Attorney Todd Weaver asked if there would be any waivers on impact fees for workforce housing projects.

Bertram indicated that has yet to be determined and that he would be discussing that with his board at its next meeting in January 2025.

"Workforce housing barely pencils as is. Adding an additional \$1,000 or \$1,500 might push it over to where they won't be built," Weaver said.

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CHURCH



County again denies land auction bids

By Clayton Chaney Staff Write

For the second time, the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) voted unanimously to deny the bids received on 11 properties located on Bonita Drive that were put up for auction by the county.

The action came during the board's regular meeting held on Tuesday, Dec. 10.

The matter was discussed earlier that day during a work session in which county attorney Todd Weaver provided an update on the bids the county had received.

"The bids weren't much better than the first time around," he said.

Weaver explained the BoCC would have the option to deny or accept the bids, and could go back out to auction again.

He also mentioned the possibility of the county working with a nonprofit organization to donate the lots, though he noted that the Pagosa

Springs Community Development the county has received. Corporation and Habitat for Humanity are currently at capacity in regard to land acquisitions.

"Maybe we can identify another nonprofit who might be interested in these properties to do workforce or affordable housing," he said.

Commissioner Veronica Medina indicated that County Manager Jack Harper is planning to meet with the Archuleta County Housing Authority (ACHA) to see if there would be an appetite for ACHA to receive the properties and build housing.

"I think this a great opportunity that we could have the housing authority actually build housing, Medina said.

She noted ACHA has done it once before.

"We have property available that we could do it again ... I don't think we should be giving away county assets," she said.

Commissioner Warren Brown chimed in, noting the bid amounts

According to agenda documentation, the highest bid received was \$9,500 for a .17 acre vacant lot at 93 Bonita Drive. The lowest bid received was \$3,150 for a .1 acre vacant lot at 62 Bonita Drive.

All 11 of the lots are located on Bonita Drive and are either .1 acre or .17 acres, and each had a reserve price of \$18,350 that the county put forward.

Medina noted, "\$3,000 is just not an option."

Brown asked Weaver how the reserve price is established for each property.

Weaver explained that it is based on the surrounding market, noting that properties similar in size are listed in the \$30,000 to \$40,000 range.

"So even the reserve is well below market rate and is slightly above assessed value ... which is not market rate at all," Weaver said.

He also mentioned that other factors were taken into consider-

ation, noting that utilities are not currently available in the area, but will be soon

"That will be changing in the future," Weaver said.

Medina commented that offers in the \$9,000 range are "still very low." Commissioner Ronnie Maez men-

tioned that he'd rather see a workforce housing developer take on the lots. "Utilities are going in, so that's just going to increase the value and these folks would have to know that," Brown

said. During the work session, Medina commented, "I think we hold on to 'em and once we figure out what the housing authority can do."

She also mentioned that Proposition 123 funds could be used by a nonprofit to develop more workforce housing.

"I'm not willing to let these properties go at that price. I would rather do some type of housing option for our community," Medina said.

Weaver commented at the end of the discussion during the work session that a formal decision would be made at the regular meeting later in the day.

The lots were originally put up for auction on Govdeals.com in July and lasted for four weeks, according to the meeting's agenda. It was then determined by the BoCC to put the lots up for auction again from Sept. 18 to Nov. 18.

During the meeting, Weaver noted that only three bids were close to 50 percent of the reserve price.

He explained the BoCC could vote to accept or deny the bids, or to hold onto the properties to potentially work with a workforce housing developer in the future.

Medina expressed that she liked the idea of rejecting the bids and allowing the county manager to meet with the ACHA.

Brown commented that the BoCC should "hold off" and leave the matter for a later date.

Maez motioned to reject all bids and put a place marker for future workforce housing or housing for people of Archuleta County for a future BoCC board to decide, which was unanimously approved. clayton@pagosasun.com



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Photo courtesy Scott Bradford

Oakley (complete with Santa costume) poses with his dogloo at Wolf Creek Ski Area. Oakley's annual dogminium at the ski area continues to be a draw for visitors and a fun tradition.

Candidate packets for LPEA board now available

La Plata Electric Association

La Plata Electric Association (LPEA) members interested in running for a seat on the LPEA Board of Directors now have access to the 2025 board director candidate packets at lpea.coop/elections.

Prospective candidates must return all completed materials by 1 p.m. on March 22, 2025, for consideration. Materials may be mailed or handdelivered to LPEA's Durango office or Pagosa Springs office.

To be eligible to run for the LPEA Board of Directors, candidates must:

• be a member of LPEA for at least one year immediately prior to becoming a director;

• be a bona fide resident of the district you plan to represent for at least 120 days prior to becoming a director; and

• not be employed by, or have a spouse or child employed by, LPEA in any position.

Directors are elected for threevear terms

Incumbent directors up for reelection are Holly Metzler (District 1 — Archuleta County), Dan Huntington (District 2 – south and west La Plata County), Joe Lewandowski (District 3 - city of Durango), and John Witchel (District 4 – north and east La Plata County).

If there is only one nominee for a position on the board for a district, the board may cancel the election for that district and, by resolution, declare the sole nominee elected to the board.

Qualified candidates will be added to the official ballot mailed to

LPEA members in April. Ballots will be due at 4 p.m. on May 20, 2025, and the election results will be announced at LPEA's annual meeting on May 21, 2025.

For additional information, visit lpea.coop

About LPEA

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Southwest Colorado nonprofits hit new record of \$894,000 raised for Colorado Gives Day

By Rachel Rosenthal

Community Foundation serving Southwest Colorado

The Community Foundation serving Southwest Colorado spearheads regional participation in Colorado Gives Day — an easy, online initiative for donors to contribute to nonprofits across Colorado.

Colorado donors turned out for this year's event on Tuesday, Dec. 10, with more than \$54.6 million donated to nonprofits statewide and more than \$894,000 donated to organizations in Southwest Colorado alone — a new record that far exceeded the goal of \$750,000. This is a 26 percent increase from the \$662,600 raised in 2023.

Overall, Gives Day totals will increase throughout the month of December as each nonprofit receives its share of the statewide Incentive Fund. Final totals for the southwest region will be over \$900,000.

For Southwest Colorado Gives Day, local donors can choose from a list of more than 150 nonprofit organizations found on the website swcogives.org, which provides a safe, easy way for individuals to fund their favorite causes.

These online donations go directly to local nonprofits serving Southwest Colorado, encompassing Archuleta, Dolores, La Plata, Montezuma and San Juan counties.

This year's collaborative marketing efforts prompted more than 4,000 individual donations in the region alone.

"Southwest Colorado Gives Day has grown every year since we started as the regional champion in 2017, with 2024 having the biggest increase we've seen so far," Briggen Wrinkle, executive director of the Community Foundation said. "It's an honor to be a part of a movement that brings the community together to support our local nonprofits."

The Community Foundation strives to power philanthropy and encourage people to give where they live. Online donations can still be made at swcogives.org, as this is a year-round electronic giving platform to benefit local nonprofits.



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-Paid advertisement

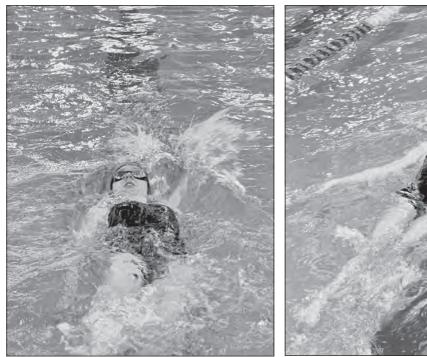
derbread and Happy Campers, creating lively evenings that brought people together over shared tunes and good company. For those exploring beyond the pools, over a dozen local businesses from Riff Raff to Footprints, Pagosa Baking Company, and Hidden Track, offered exclusive discounts to festival participants, 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.

Sports

SWIMMING



Lady Pirates take to the water for their first meet of the season on Dec. 13 in Delta.

Lady Pirates qualify for state in medley

By Randi Pierce Staff Writer

One meet, one state qualification in the books.

The Pagosa Springs High School Lady Pirate swim team started the season with a bang on Dec. 13 in Delta, with the team qualifying for state in the 200-yard medley relay.

"I could not ask for a better start to the season," coach Heather Miller wrote in an email to The SUN. "We started the Delta meet with a State Qualification in the 200 Medley Relay, I knew they would be close but thought we would need a couple more meets to get there."

The Lady Pirate team of Marlowe Hedgecock, Leah Blackman, Chloe Gantt and Asia Gorman took fifth overall in the event with a time of 2 minutes, 19.49 seconds.

A second Lady Pirate team — Grace Cram, Gianna Shaeffer, Rebecca Stewart and Aubrey Gerdel — finished eighth with a time of 2:40.11.

In the 200-yard freestyle, Cram finished seventh in 2:41.69, while Gemma Slingerland finished 16th overall with a time of 3:10.03.

Gorman finished seventh in the

Trujillo swam a time of 40.39 seconds to finish 40th. Kaiya Lyons finished 42nd with a time of 41.50 seconds. Lucia Rivera followed in 43rd with a time of 41.57 seconds. Shantee Murphy took 47th with a time of 44.62 seconds.

Gantt finished ninth in the 100-yard free with a time of 1:07.16. Slingerland swam the event in 1:25.98 to notch 24th. Trujillo followed in 29th with a time of 1:36.47.

Gorman took fifth in the 500-yard free with a time of 7:23.34.

The team of Gerdel, Blackman, Slingerland and Gantt took 10th in the 200-yard free relay. The team of Shaeffer, Rivera, Snell and Lyons finished 12th in the event with a time of 2:32.35.

Hedgecock took eighth with a time of 1:23.83 in the 100-yard backstroke. Cram followed in ninth with a time of 1:25.14. Murphy finished 21st with a time of 1:58.25.

Five Lady Pirates competed in the 100-yard breaststroke. Blackman took 10th to lead the Lady Pirates with a time of 1:32.71. Shaeffer finished 13th in 1:38.78. Gerdel took 20th with a time of 1:45.42. Snell finished 22nd with a time of 1:50.05, and Rivera followed in 23rd with a time of 1:56.86.

The Lady Pirates finished fifth out

In Gunnison, the 200 medley relay team of Gerdel, Blackman, Stewart and Slingerland finished 15th with a time of 2:43.57

Gorman led the Lady Pirates in the 200 free with a time of 2:41.01. Shaeffer followed in 18th with a time of 3:21.13.

Four Lady Pirates took to the water for the 200 individual medley. Gantt finished 11th with a time of 2:59.47. Hedgecock took 15th in 3:18.09. Cram finished 18th with a time of 3:22.99. Blackman followed in 19th with a time of 3:37.08

Slingerland took 29th in the 50 free with a time of 37.13 seconds. Bella Gutierrez swam the event in 40.79 seconds to finish 33rd. Trujillo took 39th in 44.26 seconds.

Eight Lady Pirates competed in the 100 free. Gorman finished 16th with a time of 1:12.95. Gerdel took 25th with a time of 1:26.74. Shaeffer followed in 26th with a time of 1:28.43. Lyons took 29th with a time of 1:29.36. Blackman finished 34th with a time of 1:31.85. Gutierrez swam a time of 1:32.55 to finish 35th. Rivera took 38th with a time of 1:36.73. Murphy finished 42nd with a time of 1:52.64.

Cram took eighth in the 500 free with a time of 7:27.91, while Slingerland

time of 2.09.34.

Hedgecock swam a time of 1:35.67 to finish 13th in the 100 breaststroke. The 400-yard free relay team of Hedgecock, Cram, Gorman and Gantt

finished sixth with a time of 4:51.49. The Lady Pirates took seventh at the seven-team event.

On Tuesday, the team took the water at Adams State University for a competition hosted by Sargent.

Results of that competition will appear in the Dec. 26 issue of The SUN. The next competition for the team

will be on Jan. 7, 2025. "Big areas we will work on in the next few weeks is stretching out more on sprint freestyle and continuing to build endurance and speed," Miller wrote. "Overall this was an exciting and impressive start for the season for the team."



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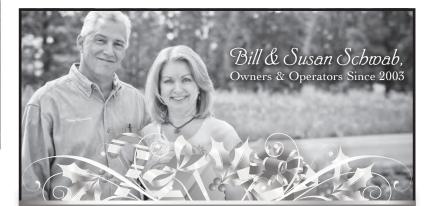
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Photos courtesy Heather Miller



200-yard individual medley with a time of 3:11.94. Ruby Snell finished ninth with a time of 4:04.31.

Ten Lady Pirates took to the water for the 50-yard free. Gantt took ninth with a time of 30.41 seconds. Hedgecock finished 13th with a time of 31.51 seconds. Aubrey Gerdel finished 18th with a time of 33.29 seconds. Blackman took 28th with a time of 37.00 seconds. Shaeffer followed in 29th with a time of 37.44 seconds. Stewart finished 33rd with a time of 38.16 seconds. Brooklyn of the six teams at the meet.

"A majority of the swims in Delta were best times and for many very significant time drops, 5-15 seconds for some events," Miller highlights.

The following day, the Lady Pirates were in action again, this time at the Gunnison Invite.

"The Gunnison meet was a little bit of a struggle just because the swimmers were tired from the meet in Delta the night before but we still had many best times," Miller wrote.

finished 15th with a time of 8:45.94. In the 200 free relay, the team of Gorman, Cram, Hedgecock and Gantt

finished sixth with a time of 2:05.58. "The 200 Free Relay is just a few seconds away from qualifying for state which was a bit a surprise that they were so close," Miller notes.

In the 100 backstroke, Gantt led the Lady Pirates with a time of 1:22.14. Lyons followed in 26th with a time of 1:53.13. Trujillo finished 27th in 1:57.25. Rivera followed in 28th with a



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WRESTLING

Pirates earn fifth at Columbine Invitational

By Clayton Chaney Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Pirate wrestling team competed in the Columbine Invitational last Saturday, Dec. 14, in Littleton.

The Pirates placed fifth as a team in a field of 20 that consisted mostly of 4A and 5A schools, according to coach Dan Janowsky.

"I just felt and saw a lot of improvement," Janowsky said, explaining the Pirates worked on being more efficient with takedowns and improving their takedown defense over the previous week.

"The work that we did in practice was evident in the matches," he said. He added that sometimes it is not as clear that the work put into practice transfers over to matches.

"This is one case where the things we put the time into, the guys understood it and were executing it," he said, adding that the Pirates were scoring more points overall.

Anthony Manzanares picked up his first high school tournament win, claiming first place in the 106-pound weight class, Janowsky explained.

"It's been a long time coming," Janowsky said of Manzanares' firstplace finish.

Manzanares won his first match with a 15-0 technical fall in two minutes and 43 seconds. He then pinned his opponent in the quarterfinal match in 1:35 and pinned his opponent in the semifinal match in 1:25.

Manzanares defeated his opponent in the first-place match by pinning him in 1:10.

Janowsky noted that Manzanares is "starting to believe in himself," adding, "when you believe in yourself you can take a few more chances."

Stetson Osborn earned second place in the 132-pound weight class, winning his first two matches by pinning his opponent and his thirdround match by a 4-1 decision, which sent him to the first-place match, in 2:37 and won his next match by where he was pinned by his opponent in 32 seconds.

"He turned that around this week," Janowsky said, explaining that Osborn only won one match in last week's tournament.

"He's very focused," Janowsky said of Osborn, mentioning he's like a "sponge" and is paying attention to things he needs to get better at.

"The warrior classic is a tradition for Western Slope Colorado teams," Janowsky said, *explaining that* wrestling began in Colorado on the Western Slope back in the 1930s.

Colton Lucero snagged third place in the 150-pound weight class, winning four out of five matches on the day.

"He had some really tough matches," Janowsky said, mentioning the 150-pound weight class is one of the more competitive weight classes across the state.

Janowsky explained that Lucero lost in the semifinal match to a quality opponent, "and if you're gonna beat Colton, you gotta be a really good kid."

Lucero won his opening match with a 9-7 decision and then lost his semifinal match by decision with a score of 10-4, which sent him to the consolation semifinal.

Lucero defeated his opponent in that match with a 15-0 technical fall pinning his opponent in 1:05, which sent him to the third-place match, where he was able to pin his opponent in 2:08.

"In the end, that's what we need to find for Colton," Janowsky said, explaining that quality competition is important. "We're gonna get better because of it."

Eric Smith competed in the 120-pound weight class, winning his first match by pinning his opponent in 2:44.

Smith lost his second match by getting pinned, but then bounced back to win his next two matches. He then lost in the consolation semifinal match, which sent him to the fifthplace match, where he was pinned by his opponent after 2:08.

Jonathan Baker wrestled in the 126-pound weight class for the Pirates, winning one of three matches on the day.

Baker won his opening match by pinning his opponent in 2:34, then lost his next two matches.

Tucker Jacobson competed in the 138-pound weight class and also won one of three matches on the day.

Jacobson pinned his opponent in the first round in 1:39, and then lost his next two matches by pin.

Vinny Fish wrestled in the 144-pound weight class, also winning one of three matches on the day.

Fish was defeated in his opening match after being pinned by his opponent in 3:25. He then won his next match by a decision of 8-1 and lost the following match after getting pinned in 58 seconds.

Devin Gonzalez competed in the 157-pound weight class, winning two of four matches on the day.

Gonzalez won his opening-round match by pinning his opponent in 1:22, but lost his second-round match due to a disqualification.

In his third-round match, Gonzalez won by pinning his opponent in

Experience gained and improvements seen: Lady Pirates place seventh in Bloomfield tournament

By Clayton Chaney Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Lady Pirate wrestling team is currently in its second year as a program and is "improving rapidly," according to coach Dan Janowsky.

The Lady Pirates competed in the Bloomfield girls' tournament in Bloomfield, N.M., on Saturday, Dec. 14, finishing seventh out of nine competing teams. Pagosa was the only Colorado team that competed in the tournament, Janowsky indicates in an email to The SUN, mentioning that competition in New Mexico "is always tough" given that the sport was sanctioned there five years ago. In an interview, Janowsky commented that it was good for the Lady Pirates to get the experience from the Bloomfield tournament. Janowsky noted top performances by Laykyn Baxstrom, who claimed second place in the 235-pound weight class, along with Madi Stretton, who placed third in the 114-pound weight class. "She breezed through that bracket into the finals," Janowsky said of Baxstrom.

two minutes, but was then pinned in her third match in 35 seconds, placing her in the third-place match. Stretton won her final match by

pinning her opponent in 1:07. "She's passionate about it," Janowsky said, explaining that Stretton "does a lot of homework" and puts a lot of time and heart into wrestling.

Dalton Hoover competed in the 126-pound weight class for the Lady Pirates, winning two out of four matches on the day to earn eighth place in the division.

Hoover won her opening-round match by pinning her opponent in 1:21, then lost the following match by getting pinned in 1:07.

Hoover won her third-round match by forfeit and then lost her last

3:02, then lost his fourth round match by getting pinned in 3:16.

Taylor Hancey wrestled in the 165-pound weight class and earned fourth place in the division.

Hancey lost his opening round match by a decision of 14-7, but then bounced back, winning his next four matches by pinning his opponent in each round.

Hancey lost the third-place match after getting pinned in 38 seconds.

Jesus Serratos competed in the 215-pound weight class and received a first round bye, which was followed by two defeats - a 7-1 decision and a pin in 38 seconds.

Jimmy Elledge also competed in the 215-pound weight class, winning one of three matches on the day.

Elledge won his opening round match by pinning his opponent in 3:39. He then lost his next two matches after getting pinned.

Antonio Quezada and Chris Rafferty both competed in the 285-pound weight class, with Quezada winning three out of six matches on the day to earn sixth place in the division.

Rafferty lost both of his matches on the day.

The Pirates will be back on the mats this weekend as both the boys' and girls' teams travel to Grand Junction to compete in the Warrior Classic on Dec. 20 and 21.

"The warrior classic is a tradition for Western Slope Colorado teams," Janowsky said, explaining that wrestling began in Colorado on the Western Slope back in the 1930s.

"You never know who's gonna show up from where," he said, mentioning quality wrestlers from Utah and Wyoming also join in the tournament.

Matches are scheduled to begin at 10 a.m. on Friday, Dec. 20, and continue at 9 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 21. This is the last action for the Pi-

rates before the new year, as the team won't be in competition again until the Rocky Mountain Duals scheduled for Jan. 10, 2025.

With an extended break coming up, Janowsky mentioned that it's best to go into it "on a positive note if at

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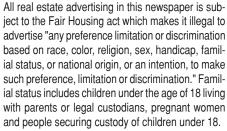
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Baxstrom received a first-round bye and then won her next three matches by pinning each of her opponents in less than a minute.

Baxstrom then lost her final match after getting pinned in one minute and 45 seconds.

Janowsky mentioned that Baxstrom is undersized for the weight she is wrestling at and will finish the season wrestling at a lower weight.

He also mentioned that Baxstrom may be a little behind in terms of experience, noting she is a sophomore, "but not at all behind on her tenacity."

Stretton won her first two matches by pinning each opponent in less than

"Janowsky mentioned that the Warrior Classic is always a very fun tournament and that "they bleed wrestling in those communities."

Katie Lucero competed in the 100-pound weight class, losing all four of her matches on the day.

Bella Jackson took fifth place in the 107-pound weight class, winning her opening round match by pinning her opponent in 3:33.

Jackson then lost her next two matches by getting pinned, which sent her to the fifth-place match, where she was able to pin her opponent in 1:50.

Mackayla Beach also competed in the 114-pound weight class, receiving a first-round bye. She then lost her next two matches by getting pinned in less than one minute.

Galloway Morgan wrestled in the 120-pound weight class, winning one of three matches on the day.

Morgan lost her first two matches and won her third match by pinning her opponent in four minutes.

match after getting pinned in 1:16.

Kylie Matyinak earned fifth place in the 132-pound weight class. After receiving a first-round bye, Matyinak was defeated in the second round by getting pinned in 1:04 and was pinned in the third round in 3:33.

Matyinak won the fifth-place match by pinning her opponent in 37 seconds.

Audrina Smith competed in the 138-pound weight class, earning sixth place on the day.

Smith was defeated in her opening match by getting pinned in 1:08, then received a second-round bye.

In her third-round match, Smith was pinned in 24 seconds and was pinned in the fifth-place match after 17 seconds.

The Lady Pirates will join the boys' wrestling team this weekend, as both teams are scheduled to compete in the Warrior Classic in Grand Junction

Girls' matches will begin on Saturday, Dec. 21, at 9 a.m. at Central Grand Junction High School.

Janowsky mentioned that the Warrior Classic is always a very fun tournament and that "they bleed wrestling in those communities."

This is the last action for the Lady Pirates before the new year, as they are scheduled to resume competition on Jan. 18, 2025, in the Queens of the Mountain tournament in Edwards.

clayton@pagosasun.com

Ideas for getting outside over holiday break

Generation Wild

Over holiday break and during the winter months, Generation Wild wants to remind kids and parents of the importance of getting outdoors.

When kids spend time outside, their creativity and imagination grows, self-reliance flourishes, learning is heightened and physical fitness improves.

Contrary to what people might think, getting outside in cold months for exercise and activities is good for kids. Staying inside puts them at a higher risk of getting sick.

Generation Wild has several ideas for outdoor play in winter, including items from its "100 Things To Do Before You're 12" list, such as:

- Roast marshmallows.
- Build a snowman.

• Make an ornament out of pine cones or other materials found outdoors. Directions can be found on Generation Wild's Instagram. • Make a snow angel.

• Build a snow fort. If you don't have snow, you can still do your favorite outdoor activities such as ride a bike, go for a hike and have a winter picnic with hot chocolate.

• Soak in a natural hot spring. Some state parks are offering guided First Day Hikes to celebrate the new year.

For more ideas and inspiration, check out @generationwildcolorado on Facebook and Instagram.

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



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conveniently located uptown. This home was built

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CHEER



The Lady Pirate cheer team performs at the high school state spirit championships on Dec. 13.

Pirate cheer takes ninth at state competition

By Randi Pierce Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Lady Pirate cheer team took to the floor of the Denver Coliseum on Friday, Dec. 13, for the Colorado high school state spirit championships.

The Pirate team returned after placing ninth out of 13 teams in the 3A cheer competition with a score of 60.05.

That score included no deductions. The top team, Highland High

School, logged a score of 79.85. Coach Toni Gallegos notes in an email to The SUN the team "did amazing," moving from 11th last year to

ninth this year. "We have improved greatly on tumbling and harder stunting," she

wrote. Gallegos explained that, for the cheer competition, each team is required to incorporate cheer, dance, tumbling and stunting into a 2.5-minute routine.

"This year we were fortunate to purchase pirate flags and get our

megaphone some much needed TLC," she adds.

The state performance followed a first-place finish in All Girls 3A at the Western Regionals in Grand Junction on Nov. 16.

This year's squad has six seniors, 11 returning athletes from last year's team and eight new competitors, Gallegos notes.

She adds this year's team has been "so dedicated to improvement and bringing" the old Pirate school spirit back

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Low- to middle-income older adults can save money

By Eileen Doherty

As the cost of groceries and other

Colorado Gerontological Society

is between \$1,276 and \$1,715 per month (couples \$1,526 to \$2,320 per month). The resource limits for all three

Individuals who receive Medicare must apply through the county Department of Human Services or on Colorado PEAK at https://

Photo courtesy Sean Gallegos

necessities increases, we look for ways to save money. You may be able to save money on Medicare Part B.

One program is the Medicare Savings Program, or MSP. MSP has three individual programs. The first program is the Qualified Medicare Program, or QMB. To qualify for QMB, an individual must have less than \$1,275 per month in income (couples less than \$1,724 per month).

Through Medicaid, QMB pays the Medicare Part A and B deductibles, Part B premium, the Part A hospital and nursing home co-insurance, as well as the physician services and other Part B co-pays. For eligible individuals, this benefit pays for all out-of-pocket medical costs.

The second and third programs are known as Special Low Income Medicare Beneficiary and the Qualified Individual. Medicaid pays for the Medicare Part B premium of \$185 per month for individuals whose income

> Good luck and play hard, **Pirates!**

programs are \$12,430 for singles and \$20,130 for couples, excluding the house, one car, an irrevocable burial policy and a term life insurance policy.

All individuals who are approved for MSP will receive \$185 per month more in their Social Security check, a significant amount of discretionary income for many low- to moderateincome individuals.

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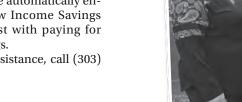
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co.colorado.gov/colorado-peak to receive MSP. MSP recipients are exempt from Medicaid Estate Recovery and cannot have a lien placed on their home.

Individuals are automatically enrolled in the Low Income Savings program to assist with paying for prescription drugs.

If you need assistance, call (303) 333-3482.





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

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SENIOR NEWS

Holiday wishes from Archuleta Senior Inc.'s executive director

By Rose Chavez PREVIEW Columnist

Whether you celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa or another annual celebration, this time of year is the opportunity to take stock of our blessings, rekindle new and old relationships, spend time with the ones we love and for many, exchange gifts and best wishes to those closest in our lives.

Always, but especially this time of year, I derive great satisfaction from serving within an organization that is committed to making the lives of others better. I am very blessed to be able to work alongside individuals dedicated to serving older adults and their families, and I give thanks for all our team members, our over 70 volunteers, and the over 1,000 elders we serve through our community-based service programs.

This year will mark the third holiday season for the Archuleta-Chavez family where our matriarch flies south to be with other family for the winter and the rest of her children pull together to celebrate and count our blessings together without our precious darling.

As primary caretaker of my aging mother, this will provide me an opportunity to have a little more downtime, engage in more self care and strengthen my support networks with others. And, of course, advance the ambitious strategic plan that the Archuleta Seniors Inc. (ASI) Board of Directors and community have prioritized for the coming year. We look forward to sharing the details with you all in early 2025.

I am truly grateful for all my loved ones, family, friends and the countless community members, acquaintances, and colleagues that have embraced me as an ally, friend and leader to advance and strengthen the health and resilience of the Archuleta community.

It is the honor of a lifetime to return to my hometown, land of my ancestors, to leverage my education and lived experience to care for my community and live my purpose. Thank you for this ongoing opportunity and trust. My wish for each of you this season and for 2025 is that you experience those moments of solidarity and joy that strengthen your hope and bring you closer to your neighbors and the ones you love. In your service, Rose D. Chavez,

MPH, ASI executive director.

ASI winter fundraiser

Thanks to the kind donation of a matching grant provided by an anonymous benefactor, your generous dothe Senior Center on Mondays from last approximately one hour. 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

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 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.

with mushroom gravy, mashed potatoes, roasted cauliflower, garden salad, raspberry fluff and milk.

Tuesday, Dec. 24 — Closed for Christmas Eve.

Wednesday, Dec. 25 – Closed for Christmas.

Thursday, Dec. 26 — Pork posole with cabbage, radish, lime, flour tortilla, garden salad, fruit and milk. Friday, Dec. 27 — Herb-roasted

chicken, cous-cous, broccoli hollandaise, garden salad, fruit, blueberry cobbler 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, Grabn-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.



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.



Medicare call by

appointment

nation during our winter fundraiser will be doubled up to \$5,000 through the end of December.

Donations can be made directly to ASI, located in the Ross Aragon Community Center at 451 Hot Springs Blvd., or by mail to P.O. Box 3444, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147.

We also take donations by phone — please call (970) 264-2167 — or online donations via our Colorado Gives ASI winter fundraising page: https://www.coloradogives.org/ story/Asifallfundraiser.

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.

Healthy aging and yoga therapy classes

The Healthy Aging Yoga Series continues to be offered in person at 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

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. 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.

Monday, Dec. 23 — Beef pot roast

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-tolearn, relaxing and fun way to create beautiful images by drawing See Senior A15



Your source for community news: The Pagosa Springs SUN

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remax.net





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





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LIBRARY NEWS

Hot chocolate party with seasonal crafts for all ages today

By Carole Howard

PREVIEW Columnist, and the library staff

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

Holiday closures

Please note your library will close at noon on Tuesday, Dec. 24, and all day Dec. 25 in celebration of Christmas. Then next week the same closures will happen as we close at noon on Dec. 31 and all day Jan. 1 for New Year's.

Dungeons and Dragons

Today, 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.

Science fun for kids

"Steam engines" bring kids ages 6-10 science fun at a free event tomorrow, Friday, Dec. 20, from 2 to 3:30 p.m.

Paws to Read tomorrow

Friday, Dec. 20, from 2 to 3 p.m., youngsters are invited to share their favorite books with Maple, a therapy dog who love stories, at a free Paws to Read session.

LEGO Club Saturday

Kids aged 6-11 are invited to the free LEGO Club on Saturday, Dec. 21, from 11 a.m. to noon. Bring your own LEGOs or use ours to free build.

Pokemon Club Saturday

If you're aged 6-11 and love Pokemon, this free club is for you. Bring your cards on Saturday, Dec. 21, from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.

All-ages playdough

Join us for free playdough exploration and fun Monday, Dec. 23, from 1 to 2 p.m. when you can make amazing playdough creations with our playdough collection. All ages are welcome.

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

ginners, 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.

DVDs

"Thelma" received positive reviews from audiences and critics for portraying its elderly leads as real people, not doddering old folks. "Speak No Evil" tells of a dream family holiday that becomes a nightmare. "Keeping Faith" is series two. "The Marlow Murder Club" is season one. "House of the Dragon" is the HBO fantasy drama series. "The Twilight Saga" is a five-film collection.

Spanish-language books

"Habitos para Ahorrar Dinero" ("Habits to Save Money") by Rosa Castillo is a guide to help you establish new habits to manage your finances. "Habitos para Cultivar Amor Propio" ("Habits to Cultivate Self Love") by Rosa Castillo is a guide to help you establish daily habits that empower you and help you build a Free in-person evening classes strong and loving relationship with ke place on Tuesdays and Thurs- yourself. "La Biblia de la Freidora de

days, with 4 to 5 p.m. reserved for be- Aire" ("The Air Fryer Bible") by Linda Shaw is a basic guide to a healthier lifestyle with easy-to-cook recipes.

Cookbooks

"Superfood Soups" by Julie Morris contains 100 plant-based recipes. "Master Recipes from the Herbal Apothecary" by JJ Pursell contains recipes for 375 tinctures, salves, teas, capsules and more. "Artisan Herbalist" by Bevin Cohen is a guide to making teas, tinctures and oils at home. "The Venison Cookbook" by Kate Fiduccia offers more than 125 recipes from fast to fancy.

How-to and self-help

"Maready's Emergency Almanac" contains 17 books that cover a broad spectrum of essential skills from first aid procedures and backyard farming techniques to bushcraft secrets and auto repair instructions. "Mother Earth News" provides self-reliance and country skills from brewing your own beer and cooking with cast iron to making your own gas and raising chickens for meat. "Basic Welding for Farm and Ranch" by William Galvery offers essential tools and techniques for repairing and fabricating farm equipment.

"Aging or Alzheimer's?" by Dr. Kenneth Frumkin is a guide to understanding and managing memory loss or cognitive decline. "DIY Autoflowing Cannabis" by Jeff Lowenfels explains growing smaller plants for the home gardener. "The Wilderness Navigation Survival Bible" by Noah Foster explains how to use maps, compasses, altimeter, GPS and nature's signs.

Other nonfiction

"Probably Overthinking It" by Allen B. Downey offers new insights into statistics, methods and measurements to help readers look at numbers accurately. "Generation Hoodwinked" by Dr. Laura Sanger is subtitled, "The Impact of the Nephilim Agenda Today."

Material donations

Thanks Dan and Chiara Mc-Cluskto for their materials donations and 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 of

reference books because they do not sell. No more than two boxes at a time because of space constraints.

Quotable quote

"I love mariachi, but it's not the end-all and be-all. It's about the life lessons it teaches students for their future. It's unlikely any of my students will come back in five years and say, 'I'm still playing mariachi.' It's more likely they come back and say, 'Hey, remember when you told us about not giving up when we made a mistake? I didn't stop. I kept going." - Albert Martinez, high school mariachi band director, educator and director of performing arts for the Uvalde, Texas, school district.

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.



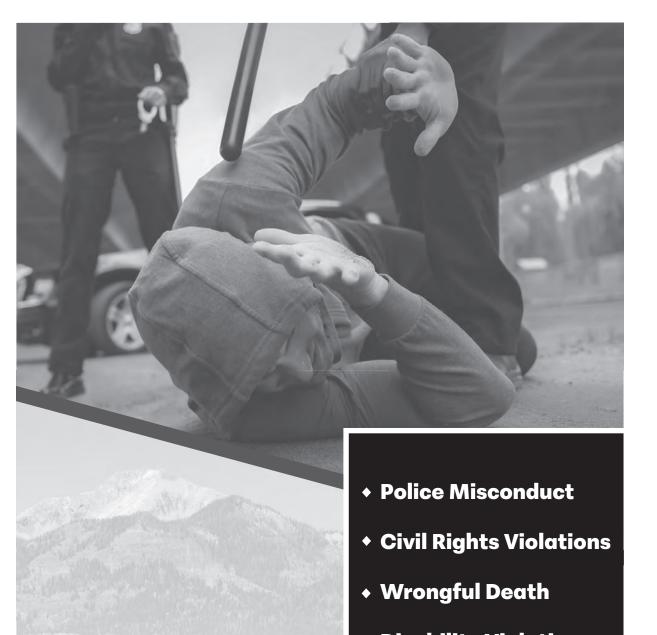
Join us for Wine Down Wednesday on Dec. 25th! (50% off select wines) 323 Hot Springs Blvd. 800-225-0934

pagosahotsprings.com



Tuesday, Dec. 24th

Maxwell Miller



Senior

Continued from A14

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 tricktaking 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. psseniors.org/ (donation button).

Donation checks can be written to: Archuleta Seniors Inc.

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

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

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

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

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

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from our family to yours Mountain Men DISASTER RESTORATION **FLOOD MITIGATION CRAWLSPACE INSPECTIONS**/ **Disaster Mitigation** WORK Mold Remediation **Fire Restoration** Smoke and Odor Water Extraction Structural Drying Removal Lars Schneider **BJ** Jones 970-749-9028 970-946-0238 MountainMenDM.com • mail@mountainmendm.com INSURED **LOCALLY OWNED & OPERATED**

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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. 9 — Information only, Eagle's Loft Circle.

Dec. 10 — Agency assist, County Road 700.

Dec. 11 — Driving under the influence of alcohol, DUI per se, Inspiration Drive/Cloud Cap Avenue.

Dec. 11 — Harassment by phone or computer injury or damage threat, Crooked Road.

Dec. 11 — Second-degree motor vehicle theft, West U.S. 160.

Dec. 12 — Driving under the influ-

ence of alcohol, careless driving, Masters Circle.

Dec. 12 — Information only, Masters Circle.

Dec. 12 — Warrant arrest, Harman Park Drive.

Dec. 12 — Information only, Gun Barrel Road.

Dec. 13 — Driving under the influence of alcohol, DUI per se, failure to display headlamps when required, U.S. 160.

Dec. 13 — Violation of protection order, driver's license-not in possession, driving under the influence of alcohol, alcohol-open container in vehicle, careless driving, fail to yield right of way-emergency vehicle, Trinity Lane.

Dec. 13 — Warrant arrest, Harman Park Drive.

Dec. 14 — Information only, County

Road 500. **Pagosa Springs Police Depart**ment

Dec. 8 — Information only, Hot Springs Boulevard.

Dec. 9 — Agency assist, South Pagosa Boulevard.

Dec. 9 — Marijuana prohibited under the age of 21/less than 12 ounces, South 8th Street.

Dec. 9 - Spilling load on highwaycar/pickup no injury, Hermosa Street. Dec. 9 — Lost and found, Country

Center Drive. Dec. 9 - Shoplifting/departs or attempts to depart without payment, trespass warning, Aspen Village Drive.

Dec. 11 — Information only, South 9th Street.

Dec. 11 - Driving under restraintalcohol/drug related, operated motor

vehicle with expired license plates, Great West Avenue.

Dec. 12 - Harassment/communication at inconvenient hours, North 5th Street Dec. 12 — Marijuana prohibited

under age of 21/less than 12 ounces, South 8th Street.

Drive.

sexual gratification, criminal invasion of privacy, Cornerstone Drive/North 5th Street.

Dec. 12 — Shoplifting/departs or attempts to depart without payment,

Dec. 13 — Traffic stop, Talisman

Dec. 14 - Second-degree burglaryno force entry-nonresidence, Talisman Drive.

\$125.

- \$864.50.

and costs — \$84.50.

and costs — \$105.

No report.

Justin P. Fay

CLARK

Attorneys for Plaintiff

Hal R. Kyles, #23891

Matter ID #1019.1177

1445 Market St., Suite 350

Phone Number: (720) 221-9780

Denver, Colorado 80202

Dec. 14 — Warrant arrest, Eagle

Dec. 14 — Warrant arrest, Eagle

Dec. 14 — Information only, U.S.

Dec. 14 — Vehicle accident with injuries, U.S. 160.

Pagosa Springs Municipal Court: Judge Anthony D. Edwards

No report.

Archuleta County Court: Judge Justin P. Fay

Dec. 10 — Bernadette Garcia, license plates-expired, fines and costs

- \$83

Dec. 12 — Joseph Alexander St. Cyr, speeding 5-9 over, fines and costs -

6th Judicial District Court: Judge Jeffrey R. Wilson No report.

Dec. 12 — William Tyrell Sweitzer,

controlled substance-unlawful use, 12

months probation, 24 hours communi-

ty service, fines and costs - \$1,169.50.

assault 3-know/reckless cause injury,

12 months probation, fines and costs

Dec. 12-Lance James Creed Ulery,

Dec. 12 — Manuel F. Velasquez,

Dec. 13 - Jose Humberto Gonzalez,

6th Judicial District Court: Judge

driver's license-driving without, fines

failure to stop/yield right of way, fines

CASE NO. 24CW3042 - Jason T. Ullmann, State Engineer and Director of the Colorado Division of Wate sources, 1313 Sherman Street, 8th Floor, Denver Colorado 80203 (Andrew Nicewicz, Assistant Attorney General, Preston V. Hartman, Senior Assistant Attorne General, Emilie B. Polley, Assistant Attorney General Attorneys for Colorado Division of Water Resources oadway, 10th Floor, Denver, Colorado 80203 (720) 508-6259 (Mr. Nicewicz), (720) 598-508-6257 (Mr. Hartman), (720) 508-6314 (Ms. Polley)}. The State Engineer respectfully requests that the Water Judge include notice of the proposed Rules in the resume of applications filed with the Water Clerk for Water Division 7 during the month of December 2024. In additior the State Engineer respectfully requests that the Water Judge approve the adoption of the Rules if no protests are filed within 60 days of the publication of the Rules in the counties in which the Rules apply or, in the alterna tive, if any protests are timely filed, hear and dispose of such protests as promptly as possible: Text of the Rules: RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE MEASUREMENT OF SURFACE WATER AND GROUNDWATER DIVERSIONS AND STORAGE, RE-LEASE, AND DELIVERY OF WATER LOCATED IN WATER DIVISION 7: ORDER OF THE STATE ENGL NEER: IT IS ORDERED that the following rules govern ing the measurement of surface water and Groundwa r diversions and storage, release, and delivery o water located in Water Division 7 are adopted by the State Engineer. Rule 1. Title. The title of these rules and regulations is "Rules and Regulations Governing the Measurement of Surface Water and Groundwate Diversions and Storage, Release, and Delivery of Wa-ter Located in Water Division 7." In this document these rules and regulations may be referred to as "Rules." Rule 2. Authority. In order for the State Engineer and Division Engineer for Water Division 7 to obtain infor-mation needed for the administration, distribution, and regulation of the waters in Water Division 7, it is neces sary to adopt rules governing the measurement of sur-face water and groundwater diversions and storage, release, and delivery of water located in Water Division 7. The State Engineer's authority to adopt these Rules is based on section 37-80-102(1)(g), C.R.S., which vests rulemaking authority for the Division of Water Resources in the State Engineer; section 37-92-501 C.R.S., which authorizes the State Engineer to adopt rules and regulations to assist in the performance of the administration, distribution, and regulation of the waters of the state in accordance with the constitution of the State of Colorado, the provisions of article 92 of title 37 C.R.S., (The Water Right Determination and Adminis tration Act of 1969), and other applicable laws; section 37-92-502(5)(a), C.R.S., which authorizes the State Engineer to order any owner or user of a water right to install and maintain, at such owner's or user's expense necessary meters, gages, or other measuring devices and to report at reasonable times to the appropriate Division Engineer the readings of such meters, gages, o other measuring devices; and section 37-92-502(5)(b), C.R.S., which authorizes the State Engineer to order any person or company supplying energy used to pump groundwater to provide, at reasonable times to the Division Engineer, records of energy used to pump ground water. Rule 3. Scope and Purpose of the Rules. 3.1 Scope. These Rules apply to all surface water Diver sions, Groundwater Diversions, and the storage, reease, and delivery of surface water and Groundwater located within Water Division 7, as defined in section 37-92-201(1)(g), C.R.S., with the following exceptions 3.1.1 Permitted or unregistered wells that operate put suant to the provisions of section 37-92-602(1), C.R.S.; **3.1.2** Ponds used for the limited purposes of livestock watering, wildlife watering, fire protection, or any combination thereof that are not filled by a Diversion from a natural stream; 3.1.3 Head stabilization ponds that are part of the conveyance and application of water and do not Divert water independently of the Diversion under the Water Right, and do not store water for more than 72 hours; 3.1.4 Surface water Diversions, including springs, that are Diverted at a rate not exceeding 15 gallons per minute and are used for the limited purpos es of domestic use in no more than three single-family dwellings, fire protection, watering of domestic animals the irrigation of not over one acre of home gardens and lawns, livestock watering on farms and ranches, wildlife watering, or any combination thereof; 3.1.5 Erosion as described in section 37-87-122 C.R.S.: 3.1.6 The dewatering of geologic formations by the withdrawal of nontributary groundwater to facilitate or permit mining of minerals, as described in section 37-90-137(7), C.R.S.; and 3.1.7 A Diversion Structure that is declared to be an Inactive Diversion Structure in accordance with Rule 9. 3.2 Purpose The purpose of these Rules is to establish consistent and reliable stan dards to assist the State Engineer and Division Engineer in the administration, distribution, and regulation of water in Water Division 7. These Rules shall be liberally construed to carry out the purposes described in this Rule 3.2. Specifically, these Rules are intended to: 3.2.1 Establish standards for the selection and installation o Measurement Methods and Diversion Structures of Other Structures for the purpose of controlling and measuring Diversions or measuring storage, releases or deliveries of water. 3.2.2 Establish consistent and reliable minimum standards for the recording and reporting of data for water Diversions, the storage, re-, and delivery of water, and the means by the Division Engineer will receive such data. 3.2.3 Establish consistent and reliable standards for assessing compliance with the State Engineer's and Division En gineer's authority to implement and enforce the statutory requirement for installation of Measurement Meth ods and Headgates. 3.3 Nothing in these Rules is intended to or shall be interpreted to interfere with constrain, or otherwise limit the right to appropriate wa ter for beneficial use in accordance with Colorado law These Rules do not relieve any Owner or Water User o any obligation to comply with the terms and conditions of any applicable water court decree, rule, permit, o order. Rule 4. Definitions 4.1 Definitions: Any term used in these Rules that is defined in articles 82, 87, 90 and 92 of title 37 of the Colorado Revised Statutes has the same meaning given therein unless otherwise stat ed in these Rules. **4.1.1** "Alternative Measurement Method" means a Measurement Method that does not meet the definition of a Measuring Device and is used to determine the Flow Rate, Total Volume, or the volume of water diverted, stored in a Reservoir, released from a Reservoir, or otherwise delivered for any pur pose within the standards of accuracy identified in these Rules. 4.1.2 "Control Structure" means a struc ture consisting of durable synthetic or natural materials that has been placed with the intent to divert, capture possess and control water in its natural course for ar appropriator's intended and specified recreational inchannel diversion. 4.1.3 "Diversion" or "Divert" means removing water from its natural course or location, or controlling water in its natural course or location, by means of a Control Structure, ditch, canal, flume, rese voir, bypass, pipeline, conduit, well, pump, or other structure or device, as more fully defined in section 37 92-103(7), C.R.S. 4.1.4 "Diversion Structure" means a Control Structure, ditch, canal, flume, reservoir, bypass pipeline, conduit, well, pump, or other structure or device designed to Divert water from its natural water course or location or control water in its natural course or location. 4.1.5 "Flow Rate" means instantaneous flow, usually expressed in gallons per minute ("gpm") or cubic feet per second ("cfs"). 4.1.6 "Groundwater" means any water not visible on the surface of the ground under natural conditions, as defined in section

37-90-103(19), C.R.S. 4.1.7 "Headgate" means a structure sufficient to control the rate of Diversion of wa ter at all ordinary stages, as more fully described in section 37-84-112(1), C.R.S. 4.1.8 "Inactive Diversion Structure" means a Diversion Structure for which a Water User files an affidavit, on a form prescribed by the State Engineer, with the Division Engineer declaring the Water User's intent to not use the Diversion Structure for any Diversion or water application purpose, as more fully described in Rule 9. 4.1.9 "Measuring Device" means a Measurement Method that is a permanentlyinstalled device, such as a flume, weir, staff gage as sociated with a stage-storage curve, or totalizing flow meter, including a totalizing flow meter that may be removed in the winter when the structure is not in use used to directly determine the Flow Rate, Total Volume, or volume of water diverted stored in a Reservoir released from a Reservoir, or delivered for any purpose within the standards of accuracy identified in these Rules. 4.1.10 "Measurement Method" means a method used to determine the Flow Rate, Total Volume, or volume of water diverted stored in a Beservoir released from a Reservoir, or otherwise delivered for any pur pose within the standards of accuracy identified in these Rules, and includes Measuring Devices and Al-ternative Measurement Methods. **4.1.11** "Notice," "Notify," or "Notification" to the Division Engineer means nission of a written message to the Division Engineer by mail or email, or the submission of a completed form or other format prescribed by the State Engineer where specifically required by these Rules. 4.1.12 "On Stream Reservoir" means a Reservoir that is located or natural stream. 4.1.13 "Off-Stream Reservoir" means a Reservoir that is located such that a natural stream does not flow through the Reservoir and the Reservoir fills by diverting water from a natural stream by means of a ditch, canal, flume, bypass, pipeline, conduit, well, pump, or other structure or device, or is filled by spring water, stormwater runoff, precipitation, or return flows including effluent. 4.1.14 "Other Structure" means a structure operated to release water from a Reservoir or operated either to return water to the natural stream of to deliver a measured amount of water for any purpose subject to administration, distribution, and regulation by the State Engineer or Division Engineer, including but not limited to a waste ditch or wasteway. 4.1.15 "Per son" means an individual, a partnership, a corporation a municipality, the State of Colorado, the United States or any other legal entity, public or private, as defined in section 37-92-103(8), C.R.S. 4.1.16 "Qualified Tester" means a Person who is qualified to determine the accuracy of an installed Measuring Device or Alternative Measurement Method based upon their competence in the use of hydrographic measurement equipment, such as current meters and acoustic doppler velocity meters 4.1.17 "Recording Device" means any device acceptable to the Water Commissioner or Division Enginee that is capable of recording the flow data or water level for a Diversion Structure or Other Structure. **4.1.18** "Reservoir" means a structure designed to impound and store water, or store and subsequently release wa ter, for one or more beneficial uses, 4.1.19 "Total Volume" means the volume of water, usually expressed in acre-feet ("AF"), that is Diverted or that is stored in or released from a Reservoir over a specific period of time or is in storage in a Reservoir at a given point in time. 4.1.20 "Verification" or "Verified" means the testing per formed by a Qualified Tester to verify the accuracy of a Measuring Device or an Alternative Measurement Method, 4.1.21 "Water Right" means a right to use in accordance with its priority a certain portion of the waters of the state by reason of the appropriation of the as defined in section 37-92-103(12), C.R.S 4.1.22 "Water User," "User," or "Owner" means a Person who owns or uses a Diversion Structure, any Water Right decreed to a Diversion Structure, or any Other Structure. For the purposes of these Rules, "Water User," "User," and "Owner" may be used interchangeably. 4.2 Other Definitions. All other terms used in these Bules that are not defined in articles 82 87 90 and 92 of title 37 of the Colorado Revised Statutes shal be given their usual, customary, and accepted meanings. All words of a technical or legal nature specific to the administration, distribution, and regulation of Water Rights in the State of Colorado shall be given the meaning that is generally accepted within that field. Rule 5 Headqate Requirements. All Diversions of surface within the scope of these Rules shall have a Headgate, if necessary, to control the rate of Diversion Headgates must allow the Water Commissioner of Owner at the direction of the Water Commissioner, to accurately adjust the Diversion of water with reason able effort and within a reasonable amount of time and to secure the Diversion Structure at the adjusted condition so as to prevent any unauthorized Diversion or adjustment. Rule 6. Measurement Methods and Recording Requirements. All Diversion Structures within the scope of these Rules shall either: (1) be equipped with a Measuring Device or an Alternative Measure ment Method that meets the requirements of Rule 6.1 and is approved by the Division Engineer as described in Rule 7; or (2) be declared an Inactive Diversion Structure as described in Rule 9. For any Other Structure, a Measuring Device or Alternative Measurement Method that meets the requirements of Rule 6.1 may be required by the Division Engineer and approved by the Division Engineer as described in Rule 7. All Measure ment Methods must be resistant to tampering or othe physical interference. 6.1 Measurement Method Functional Standards: 6.1.1 A Measuring Device of Alternative Measurement Method must measure Flow Rate, Total Volume, or other volume of water passing through a Diversion Structure or Other Structure, de pending on the defining elements of a Diversion Structure's Water Right(s), the purposes for other Diversions by a Diversion Structure, or the purposes of any Other Structure, 6.1.2 For Diversion Structures or Other Structures that have or propose Flow Rates greater than 1.0 cfs, a Measuring Device or Alternative Measurement Method shall be designed to accurately mea-sure flows to within plus or minus five percent throughout the normal operating range. 6.1.3 For Diversion Structures or Other Structures that have or propose Flow Rates greater than 0.25 cfs and less than or equal to 1.0 cfs, a Measuring Device or Alternative Measure ment Method shall be designed to accurately measur ing flows to within plus or minus 0.05 cfs throughout the nal operating range. 6.1.4 For Diversion Structures or Other Structures that have or propose Flow Rates less than or equal to 0.25 cfs, a Measuring Device or Alternative Measurement Method shall be designed to meet an accuracy standard approved by the Division ngineer throughout the normal operating range. 6.1.5 A Measuring Device or Alternative Measurement Method shall be located within reasonable proximity of the Diversion Structure or Other Structure, as determined by the Water Commissioner, to enable the Water Comsioner to observe the effect of any Headgate adjust ments or other operational adjustments. 6.1.6 A Measuring Device or Alternative Measurement Method shall be properly installed, and, if applicable, calibrated to engineering specifications appropriate for that particu-lar Measuring Device or Alternative Measurement Method. 6.1.7 A Measuring Device or Alternative Measurement Method shall be maintained by the User in a condition that provides accurate measurement throughout the normal operating range of Flow Rate or volume of water diverted, stored in a Reservoir, released from a Reservoir, or otherwise delivered for any purpose. 6.1.8 A Measuring Device or Alternative Measurement Method shall not be deemed complete and acceptable until such time that the proper rating table for the Measuring

Device or Alternative Measurement Method, or stagepacity table, as applicable, has been made available to the Water Commissioner, unless such rating table is for a standard flume, weir, or meter and is otherwise available to the Water Commissioner. Bating tables are not required for totalizing flow meters. 6.1.9 Off-Stream Reservoirs require two of the following, as approved by the Water Commissioner or Division Engineer: 6.1.9.1 A Measuring Device or Alternative Measurement Method for the point of Diversion of the structure used to deliver water to the Reservoir; 6.1.9.2 A Measuring Device or Alternative Measurement Method used to measure the volume of water in storage; or 6.1.9.3 A Measuring Device or Alternative Measurement Method used to measure releases. Calculating the change of storage is a sufficient Alternative Measurement Method for purposes of Rules 6.1.9.1 and 6.1.9.3 as long as deliveries to and releases from the Reservoir are not being made at he same time. **6.1.10** On-Stream Reservoirs require: 6.1.10.1 The installation of an outlet or other structure capable of releasing all out-of-priority inflows; 6.1.10.2 A Measuring Device or Alternative Measurement Meth od used to measure the volume of water in storage; and 6.1.10.3 A Measuring Device or Alternative Measurenent Method used to measure releases from storage The combination of 6.1.10.2 and 6.1.10.3, above, shall be considered sufficient by the Division Engineer to dene or calculate evaporation, inflows, and outfl 6.2 Recording Device Functional Standard: 6.2.1 A Recording Device may be required for any Measuring Device or Alternative Measurement Methods pursuant to the terms and conditions of a water court decree, the ns and conditions of a well permit, or as may be sonably required by the Division Engineer. 6.2.2 If a Recording Device is required, the Recording Device shall be a device acceptable to the Water Commissioner or Division Engineer that is capable of the accurate and continuous recording of Flow Rates in accordance with the standards set forth in Rule 6.1.2, 6.1.3 or 6.1.4 depending on the Flow Rate, at no greater that 15-minute intervals. 6.2.3 If a Recording Device is required, the Recording Device must include a means to verify that the Recording Device is properly calibrated. 6.2.4 If a Recording Device is required, the Recording Device shall not be deemed complete and acceptable until the User provides access to the Water Commissioner and/or the Division Engineer to all data from uch Recording Device. 6.3 Temporary Measur Method: If an accepted Measuring Device or Alternative Measurement Method is incapable of accurately measuring flows, the Division Engineer may allow an other temporary Measurement Method until the Meauring Device or Alternative Measurement Method is repaired, replaced, or re

stored 6.4 Measurement Method Verification: 6.4.1 If a Measuring Device is properly installed and main tained and has a standard rating table, an adjusted ndard rating table or custom rating table accepted by the Division Engineer, or a stage-capacity table, as applicable, the Division Engineer shall presume that the Measuring Device is accurate, and no Verification will be required. **6.4.2** Notwithstanding Rule 6.4.1, the Division Engineer may rate or Verify any Measuring Device or Alternative Measurement Method at any time. 6.4.3 Alternative Measurement Methods shall be rated or Verified every four years beginning on the date the Alternative Measurement Method is approved by the Division Engineer. 6.4.4 All flow measuring equipment used by a Qualified Tester to Verify Measuring Devices or Alterr ive Me: rement Methods must according to the following standards: 6.4.4.1 All flow measuring equipment used by a Qualified Tester to Verify pressurized pipe flow meters must be calibrated every two years to be accurate within plus or minus two percent (2%) by a facility using National Institute of Standards (NIST) traceable standards. 6.4.4.2 Calibration of accuracy and maintenance of open channel flow measuring equipment, such as current meters and acoustic velocity meters, must be accomplished by a Qualified Tester or facility using USGS or appropriate manufacturer standards. **6.4.5** A report of the Verification testing shall be provided to the Division Engineer developed by the State Engineer. Rule 7. Approval of Measurement Method To comply with these Rules, each Measurement Method must be approved by the Water Commissioner or Division Engineer. 7.1 It is the responsibility of the Water User to confirm the Water Commissioner's or Division Engineer's approval of the use of a pre-existing Measurement Method that was installed prior to the effective date of these Bules When contacted by a Water User to confirm approval of a pre-existing Measurement Method, the Water Comnissioner or Division Engineer will confirm with notice in writing, including via email, whether the pre-existing Measurement Method is approved or denied. 7.2 For the purpose of obtaining approval of the use of a Measurement Method, and in compliance with the timelines described in the phase in provisions of Rule 16, the Water User seeking to use a newly installed, reinstalled, or changed Measurement Method shall provide Notice to the Division Engineer or the Division Engineer's del egate that includes the following information: (1) Per-son's name, (2) Diversion Structure or Other Structure name, (3) decree case number (if applicable), (4) legal description (PLSS quarter-quarter, section, township and range or UTM coordinates) of the Diversion or Other Structure, (5) Measuring Device installed, (6) rat-ing table for Measuring Device (if non-standard), and/or a stage-capacity table in the case of a Reservoir, and (7) the date of installation. 7.3 To obtain approval of a Measuring Device, the Water User must provide evidence that the Measuring Device is properly rated and properly installed, as described in Rule 6.1. 7.4 To obtain approval of an Alternative Measurement Method the Water User must provide the basis for the use of an Alternative Measurement Method, including, but not limited to, any and all assumptions, field conditions, and calculations, to the satisfaction of the Division Engineer as described in Rule 6.1.7, to ensure that the Division Engineer can accurately determine that the Alternative Measurement Method will operate according to the accuracy standards identified in these Rules. Rule 8. Data Recording and Data Submission The Division Engineer has the authority to require the Water User to record and report at reasonable times the data for Diversions by any Diversion Structure or for measurement for Other Structures subject to these Rules. Diversion data will be recorded by the Water Commissi Water User, or both as determined by the Division Engineer, in cooperation with the Water User. Rule 9. Inac tive Diversion Structures Inactive Diversion Structures are excluded from these Rules provided that the Water User files an affidavit, on a form prescribed by the State Engineer, with the Division Engineer declaring the Water User's intent to not use the Diversion Struc ture for any Diversion or water application purpose Once an Inactive Diversion Structure affidavit is filed vith the Division Engineer, no further filings are required under these Rules unless the Water User wishes to change the Diversion Structure from inactive status to active status. When a Water User desires to change an Inactive Diversion Structure to active status, written Notification from the Water User to the Division Engineer is required prior to activation. A Diversion Structure listed as inactive under this Rule 9 shall not be used until such Notification is given and the Diversion Structure and associated Measurement Method are determined by the Division Engineer to be in compliance with these Rules. Rule 10. Noncompliance Failure to comply with any of these Rules or a valid order of the Division Engineer to comply with these Rules may subject an Owner and/or User to court proceedings and pay-

AND ASSIGNS ment of the state's costs, including reasonable attor nev's fees, associated with enforcement of these Bules Current Holder of Evidence of Debt or a valid order of the Division Engineer to comply with SERVBANK, SB these Rules pursuant to sections 37-92-502 and -503, Date of Deed of Trust C.R.S. Prior to filing any court action, the Division Engi-neer shall notify the Owner and, if a different Person, the User, if both are known by records maintained by the Division Engineer, of the violation in writing in the Archuleta form of an order to comply, by certified mail and shall advise the Owner and/or User of the date by which the violation must be corrected to avoid court proceedings which date shall be at least ten (10) calendar days fol-21804215 lowing the date of receipt of the notice by the Owner and/or User or personal service of the notice on the Owner and/or User. The Division Engineer may also order the Water User to curtail all Diversions by a Diversion Structure until the Water User is in compliance with these Rules. Rule 11. Variance When the strict application of any provision of these Rules presents practical difficulties or may cause undue hardship, the Division Engineer may grant a variance for a specific instance or method of application under these Rules, and the Divi sion Engineer may impose any additional terms and conditions to such variance as are necessary to ensure LIEN compliance under these Rules. Any request for a vari-ance shall be made to the Division Engineer, in a format prescribed by the State Engineer, and shall state the basis for the requested variance and provide supporting documentation. If the Division Engineer finds the request justifiable, the Division Engineer may issue a written decision granting the variance and setting forth the terms and conditions on which the variance is granted ance requests are granted at the sole discretion o the Division Engineer. Rule 12. Effect of Rules Noth ing in these Rules exempts Water Users from the re-quirements of any other laws, rules, permits, or water court decrees governing the use, Diversion, and admin-istration, distribution, and regulation of surface water and Groundwater in Water Division 7, whether now existing or hereafter adopted or decreed. Rule 13. Pro cess to Appeal a Decision under these Rules Any Person adversely affected or aggrieved by the State Engineer's or Division Engineer's application of the Rules to a particular Diversion Structure or Other Structure or approval or disapproval of a Measurement Method under these Rules may request administrative review of such determinations. Administrative review will be conducted in accordance with the adjudicatory and econsideration procedures of the State Engineer's Procedural Rules (2 CCR 402-5), subject to judicial review of the final agency action under section 24-4-106 of the State Administrative Procedure Act 88 24-4-101 vided by law. to 24-4-204, C.R.S. Rule 14. Severability If any Rule or part thereof is found to be invalid, the remaining Rules will remain in full force and effect, including any part thereof not found to be invalid. Rule 15. Revisions These Rules may be revised in accordance with applicable laws. Rule 16. Phase In 16.1. In order to allow Water Users the time necessary to come into compli ance with these Rules, Water Users shall meet the following deadlines for installation of Measuring Devices and Headgates, approval and implementation of Alter-native Measurement Methods, or declaring an Inactive Diversion Structure under Rule 9. 16.1.1 For the areas designated as "Priority Areas" in Appendix 1 to these Rules, the following deadlines apply: **16.1.1.1** For Diversion Structures with a capacity or total Water Bights greater than or equal to 5.0 cfs, the deadline shall be 12 months after the effective date of the Rules. 16.1.1.2 For Diversion Structures with a capacity or total Wate Attorney File # 24-032994 Rights greater than or equal to 2.0 cfs and less than 5.0 The Attorney above is acting as a debt collector and is attempting to collect a debt. Any information provided cfs, the deadline shall be 18 months after the effective date of the Rules. 16.1.1.3 For Diversion Structures ay be used for that purpose. ©Public Trustees' Association of Colorado Revised with a capacity or total Water Rights less than 2.0 cfs. the deadline shall be 24 months after the effective date 1/2015 of the Rules. 16.1.1.4 For Reservoirs with a capacity or Published November 28, December 5, 12, 19 and 26, total Water Rights greater than or equal to 5.0 AF, the deadline shall be 12 months after the effective date of 2024 in The Pagosa Springs SUN. (248168) the Rules. 16.1.1.5 For Reservoirs with a capacity or DISTRICT COURT total Water Rights less than 5.0 AF, the deadline shall ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO be 24 months after the effective date of the Rules. Court Address: 109 Harman Park Dr, Pagosa Springs ${\bf 16.1.2}$ For the areas not designated as "Priority Areas" in Appendix 1 to these Rules, the following deadlines CO 81147 Phone Number: (970) 264-8160 apply: 16.1.2.1 For Diversion Structures with a capacity Plaintiff or total Water Rights greater than or equal to 5.0 cfs, the **ERVIN ANGST** deadline shall be 36 months after the effective date of the Rules, 16.1.2.2 For Diversion Structures with a capacity or total Water Rights greater than or equal to 2.0 JAMES M. WARD: and ALL UNKNOWN PERSONS cfs and less than 5.0 cfs, the deadline shall be 42 WHO CLAIM ANY INTEREST IN THE SUBJECT months after the effective date of the Rules. 16.1.2.3 MATTER OF THIS ACTION. For Diversion Structures with a capacity or total Water Submitting Attorney Rights less than 2.0 cfs, the deadline shall be 48 Duke Eggleston, #24965 nths after the effective date of the Rules. 16.1.2.4 Eggleston Kosnik LLC For Reservoirs with a capacity or total Water Rights 160 E. 12th St., Ste 7 greater than or equal to 5.0 AF, the deadline shall be 36 Durango, CO 81301 months after the effective date of the Rules. 16.1.2.5 Phone Number: (970) 403-1580 E-mail: deggleston@e-klaw.com For Reservoirs with a capacity or total Water Rights less than 5.0 AF, the deadline shall be 48 months after the Case Number: 2024CV30061 effective date of the Rules. 16.2 Water Users are not in violation of Rules 5 or 6 during the applicable Phase In PLAINTIFF ERVIN ANGST period if they meet the deadlines set forth in Rule 16.1, TO THE BELOW NAMED DEFENDANTS: above. **16.3** Upon a showing of good cause by the Wa-ter User, the Division Engineer may extend the compli-JAMES M. WARD AND ALL UKNOWN PERSONS WHO CLAIM ANY INTEREST IN THE SUBJECT ance deadlines of Rule 16.1 for one or more periods of time not exceeding one year each and may impose YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to ap such terms and conditions as part of such extension as pear and defend against the claims of the complaint the Division Engineer deems reasonably necessary to filed with the court in this action by filing with the clerk nsure compliance with the requirements of the Rules of this court an answer or other response. You are Good cause requires that the Water User demonstrate required to file your answer or other response within that it has been diligent in its efforts to comply with the requirements of these Rules, has made substantial 35 days after the service of this summons upon you Service of this summons shall be complete on the day progress in complying with the requirements of these of the last publication. A copy of the complaint may be es, and despite its diligent and good faith efforts has obtained from the clerk of the court. been unable to fully comply with the requirements of If you fail to file your answer or other response to the these Rules. The Water User must also provide an esticomplaint in writing within 35 days after the date of the mate of the amount of additional time required for it to last publication, judgment by default may be rendered fully comply with the Rules and such other information against you by the court for the relief demanded in the as the Division Engineer may reasonably require in or complaint without further notice der to evaluate a request for an extension of time. Rule This is an action to quiet the title of the Plaintiff in and to 17. Effective Date These Rules shall become effective the real property situate in Archuleta County, Colorado, on June 1, 2025, in accordance with section 37-92-501 more particularly described as follows C.R.S., and will thereafter remain in effect until amend-Lot 27 of Block 10 in ASPEN SPRINGS SUBDIVISION ed as provided by law. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that NO. 3, according to the plat thereof filed for record July 6, 1971 as Reception No. 74567, being an Amend any persons wishing to protest these Rules may do so in the manner provided in section 37-92-501, C.R.S. In of the plat of Aspen Springs Ranch Subdivision No. 3, the event that protests are filed with respect to these filed for record on April 9, 1971 as Reception No. 74284 Rules, the Effective Date is the date on which all pro-Respectfully Submitted this 12th day of November tests have been resolved, or June 1, 2025, whicheve 2024 date is later. These rules and the State Engineer's Published in The Pagosa Sur Statement of Basis and Purpose are available at the First Publication: November 21, 2024 office of the Water Clerk of Water Division 7, and at the Last Publication: December 19, 2024 office of the Division Engineer, Water Division No. 7, 160 Rockpoint Drive, Suite E, Durango, Colorado 81301, (970) 247-1845. Published December 19, 2024 in The Pagosa Springs SUN. (253229) COMBINED NOTICE - PUBLICATION CRS §38-38-103 FORECLOSURE SALE NO. 2024-007 To Whom It May Concern: This Notice is given with re-gard to the following described Deed of Trust: On September 24, 2024, the understaned 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 Dillev Div.: 3 Original Beneficiary(ies) MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYS-

July 12, 2018 County of Recording Recording Date of Deed of Trust July 12, 2018 Recording Information (Reception No. and/or Book/ Page No.) Original Principal Amount \$178,703.00 Outstanding Principal Balance \$155,509.73 Pursuant to CRS §38-38-101(4)(i), you are hereby noti-fied that the covenants of the deed of trust have been violated as follows: Failure to pay principal and interest

when due together with all other payments provided for in the evidence of debt secured by the deed of trust and other violations thereof THE LIEN FORECLOSED MAY NOT BE A FIRST

LOT 13 BLOCK 13 ASPEN SPRINGS SUBDIVI SION NO. 3 AMENDED, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF FILED JULY 6, 1971, AS RECEPTION NO. 74567, IN THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK AND RE-CORDER, 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 ENCUMBERED BY

THE LIEN OF THE DEED OF TRUST NOTICE OF SALE

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

THEREFORE, Notice Is Hereby Given that I will at public auction, at 10:00 A.M. on Thursday, 01/23/2025 at the Archuleta County Treasurer's Office at 449 Sar Juan St. Pagosa Springs, CO 81147, sell to the high est 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 indebt edness provided in said Evidence of Debt secured by the Deed of Trust, plus attorneys' fees, the expenses of sale and other items allowed by law, and will issue to the purchaser a Certificate of Purchase, all as pro-

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 IN-TENT 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

SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

MATTER OF THIS ACTION

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF COLORADO TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS: 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

SUMMONS [BY PUBLICATION]

Defendants: KAREN L. CLARK; THE KNOWN AND

UNKNOWN HEIRS AND DEVISEES OF KAREN L

ORTEN CAVANAGH HOLMES & HUNT, LLC

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 sum mons shall be complete on the day of the last publica tion. 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

is an action of foreclosure pursuant to Rule 105 C.R.C.P. to the real property situate in

Pagosa Springs, Colorado more particularly described as Subdivision: PAGOSA VISTA Lot: 592 AND: Lot 593 PV Sec: 19 Twn: 35 Rng: 2W PV DOES NOT INCLUDE M/H #990012350892 DEED Lot 592-593, Pagosa Vista, according to the plat filed in the office of the clerk and recorder, Archuleta County

Colorado. Dated: December 9, 2024 ORTEN CAVANAGH HOLMES & HUNT, LLC

By: /s/Hal R. Kyles Hal R. Kyles, #23891

This Summons is issued pursuant to Rule 4(a) Colorado Rules of Civil Procedure.

Published December 19 & 26, 2024, January 2, 9, & 16 2025 in The Pagosa Springs SUN. (253284)

NOTICE OF HEARING

NOTICE is hereby given of a public hearing before the Board of County Commissioners of Mineral County, Colorado, at 10:00 a.m. on the 8th day of January 2025, at the Mineral County Courthouse located at 1201 N. Main St., Creede, CO 81130, for the purpose of considering the adoption by reference of the "Mode Traffic Code" 2024 edition as the traffic ordinance o Mineral County, Colorado, subject to the deletions o Mineral County, as referenced in the draft ordinance Copies of the Model Traffic Code that are subject to potential adoption by Mineral County are on file at the office or on the Clerk's page of the Mineral County website and may be inspected during regular business hours. If enacted as an Ordinance of this County, the Model Traffic Code will not be published in full, but in accordance with state law, copies will be kept on file and on the website of Mineral County.

The "Model Traffic Code" 2024 edition is published by the Colorado Department of Transportation, Traffic Engineering and Safety Branch, 2829 West Howard Place, Denver, CO 80204. The subject matter of the Model Traffic Code relates primarily to comprehensive traffic control regulations for the County. The purpose of the County's Ordinance and the Model Traffic Code ad opted therein is to provide a system of traffic regulations consistent with state law and generally conforming to similar regulations throughout the state and the nation At its next regular meeting following this hearing, the Board of County Commissioners will consider passage of the adopting Ordinance. This notice is given and published by order of the Min eral County Board of County Commissioners. Dated this 11th day of December 2024. COUNTY OF MINERAL, STATE OF COLORADO Eryn K. Wintz County Clerk Published December 19 and 26, 2024 in The Pagosa Springs SUN. (253563)

Drive. Drive.

Dec. 12 — Warrant arrest, Village 160

Dec. 12 - Invasion of privacy for

Aspen Village Drive.

Dec. 13 — Information only, Pike

Drive. Drive.

Public Notices

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, ARCHULETA COUNTY, STATE OF COLORADO Court Address Archuleta County District Court PO Box 148 Pagosa Springs, CO 81147 Case Number: 2024CV030063 Plaintiff: PAGOSA LAKES PROPERTY OWNERS

ASSOCIATION

Eggleston Kosnik LLC

/s/ Duke Egglestor

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

Estate of April Lvnn Owens Case Number 2024 PR 30073 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 Talisman 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 PUR-SUANT 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 2024PR30068

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.

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

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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS tate of Ettore Alosio, Jr., Deceased

Case Number 24 PR 30071 All persons having claims against the above-named estate are required to present them to the personal representative or to District Court of Archuleta County lorado on or before April 19, 2025, or the claims may be forever barred.

Cathy A. Alosio, Personal Representative 633 Tangier Court Oceanside, CA 92057

Published December 19 & 26, 2024 and January 2, 2025 in The Pagosa Springs SUN. (253311)

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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Estate of Wayne S. Elmquist

Case Number 2024 PR 30062 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 Talisman Drive, Suite D-6 Pagosa Springs, CO 81147 Published December 12, 19, 26, 2024 in *The Pagosa* Springs SUN. (252845)

PUBLIC NOTICES: YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW

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MORTGAGE CORPORATION, ITS SUCCESSORS

CDOT eyes early spring to begin U.S. 160 reconstruction

By Garrett Fevinger Staff Writer

The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) discussed Monday that it has officially selected a contractor to reconstruct a 1-mile stretch of U.S. 160 in downtown Pagosa Springs, with work to begin between March and April 2025.

Gathered inside one of the businesses located along the proposed construction route, community members, public officials and business owners listened as CDOT public information manager Meredith Greene reported that W.W. Clyde and Company would serve as contractor for the project, which is scheduled to endure for at least two seasons.

"We are moving forward with them as the project construction team," Greene said, later adding that work is scheduled to begin between March 17 and April 14, depending on weather conditions.

"Working back from those dates," Greene said, "CDOT, [project consultant] RockSol and W.W. Clyde are going to be meeting to talk about concerns that have been brought up from the group. They're going to be

Kange

Continued from front shoot." Maez said.

Development Director Pamela Flowers added that an instructor could bring classes that are not part of the 100-member club.

Maez also commented that he qualified for his concealed weapon license at the range "some years back."

Maez inquired about the county's noise ordinance, with Flowers explaining that for agricultural ranching properties, it would be 60 decibels from the property line, though she noted the county could not enforce it.

Brown commented that a .30 caliber rifle creates a noise decibel of 138 from the firing muzzle, asking what the distance is from the shooting range to the property line.

Flowers noted it is approximately 800 feet.

Sackman then commented on the genesis of the shooting range, noting that 10 to 15 years ago it became apparent that local law enforcement agencies needed a place to train, "and we had a space."

Sheriff Mike Le Roux commented that he joined the ACSO in 2015 and the range was in use at that time.

Medina asked what the requirement would be for the shooting range, permit wise, if it were not operating commercially.

"It doesn't care if you're commercial or private, or anything have to have a permit," Flowers said. talking about project phasing and really getting into the nitty-gritty detail." On Monday, questions swirled

around those details, with attendees pressing Greene and the Main Street Advisory Board's Cone Zone Committee for more information about the project's timeline, scope and opportunities for local involvement.

"CDOT, at the last meeting that I went to, couldn't come up with a whole lot of answers to my questions," local business owner Cindy Wilemon said

She also pointed to lingering scar tissue from previous CDOT-led projects, most notably the one along McCabe Creek that Wilemon noted lasted well-beyond its initial timeline.

"When is it going to end?" she asked.

Examining the contract between Clyde and CDOT, Greene counted 324 nonconsecutive working days scheduled for the project, which she indicated would take place in two phases — the first focused primarily on utility work along the construction route.

Preliminary exploratory efforts are currently underway beneath the highway, according to project officials, but what crews uncover there is still a question.

"We could get under there and they could find something that was not in the as-builts," said Tracy Trulove, one of the public information officers for the project. "You have all kinds of things that will occur on a construction project. The only thing we can count on is that our schedule might change."

Answers to additional questions surrounding the utility work, including whether businesses will be

likely be available until after the new year, according to CDOT.

"We're definitely going to hit the ground running with all of you after the new year," Greene said. And while initial planning meetings take place, "It's going to be quiet likely through the end of January."

Asked how the state plans to address impacts to local commerce - including traffic control, parking, and tourist wayfinding - Greene indicated early conversations have identified night work as one possible solution, but that additional ideas and opportunities for local involvement are still forming.

"Once we have a chance to sit down and do the detailed project meetings with the contractor, we can work out a plan to better involve the local businesses," she said. "We are currently working on our involvement plan."

In earlier meetings, CDOT officials suggested that passenger shuttles and other vehicles could anticipate 10- to 15-minute delays while navigating through areas where crews are working, but on Monday could not clarify how often those delays would occur or how many lanes of traffic would remain open.

"The [lane] closures are in the specs to be no longer than 15 minutes at any given time," Greene said, "but I really need to get you answers to these questions after we've had the project's first meeting with the contractor."

As for parking - an issue one attendee called the elephant in the room — Main Street board member Rosanna Dufour reported alternatives have already been found for the

charged reconnection fees, will not 188 spaces expected to be lost during construction. "We have enough temporary park-

> ing to offset all of the lost parking ... on main street," Dufour said, with those alternative spaces located in lots owned by The Springs Resort and Spa and the Ruby M. Sisson Memorial Library.

Speaking to business owners worried about potential revenue losses, Dufour urged them to take advantage of several free instructional resources as well as one not previously available: time.

"A year ago we didn't have any of this in place," she said. "We've been blessed with having this time to prepare so that we can come out of this not just surviving, but thriving."

Emily Lashbrooke, executive director of the Pagosa Springs Community Development Corporation, pointed to additional possibilities her team is exploring that could help soften the project's impact on the business community.

Those possibilities include a lowinterest business disruption loan program, grants to assist with potential utility reconnection fees and a "cone zone survival kit."

"We're going to be at our business community's beck and call," she said. "Our cone zone committee will work hard to make sure that we meet challenges where they are and try to help our community to overcome them."

Main Street officials indicated the next project update may come in late January or early February, after CDOT and the contractor have had an opportunity to meet and hash out some of the details that were unavailable as of Monday.

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Local reporting that matters.



Brown commented that he'd rather have condition 12 read "local law enforcement," instead of, "law enforcement."

Maez mentioned that he would like to see a public notification be sent to neighboring properties when a shooting event will occur at irregular hours.

Le Roux commented that nighttime shooting events are limited and that the ACSO has not done any this year.

Brown moved to approve the CUP application with conditions one through 13, amending condition 12 to read local law enforcement.

Maez also amended the condition to read "for training" rather than "certification," and seconded Brown's motion.

Before voting on the matter, Medina commented, "I just think that we don't have all the information and with the county not having counsel ... I know I have some unanswered questions," based on items brought up during the meeting.

County Attorney Todd Weaver was absent from the meeting.

"I'm not ready to make a motion or decision," she added.

The matter then passed by a vote of 2-1.

clayton@pagosasun.com





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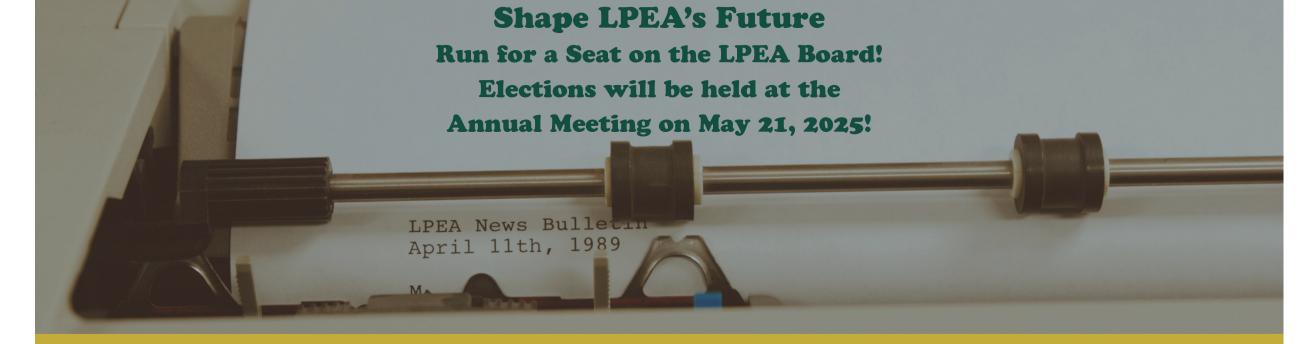
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That's it!

DICENTER STREET Merry Christmas





Once again, The SUN teamed up with Santa and his elves to help deliver letters to the guy in the big red suit, with the promise we could share those Christmas wishes with our readers, as they were written.

Dear Santa.

I would love a new football for Christmas this year. I have been good this year. Ok the truth is I have been a wee bit naughty, but I am trying to be good that should county for something. I really like footballs. Hope you can drop it off at my Grandma's I live with her and my mommy. I'll put out cookies and milk.

> Love. Daisy Mae, age 6

> > Harper, age 10

I love you so much I want to meet the Real You Santa. Here are the three top thingson my wishlist

Iphone12

Disney Doorables

Moriah Elizabith merch

Dear Santa,

Dear Santa,

For christmas this year I would a Stanley and I want two phones, onw my mom I want my mom tohceve a new phoes! Love. Tvna

Dear Santa,

For Christmas this year I want a Doctor set and enough

mony to go to Lego Land and I (heart) Santa I allso want a penut my play Full monky. From, Rowen

Dear Santa,

For Christmas I would like a blender for smoothies, and a rainbow Stanly, because they hold a lot of water. And could you please get my Mom a warmer Ski jacket? If you can get that stuf can you please bring it? P.S. Can you put an apple in my stocking? I think I have been very good this year, do you think so?

Dear Santa.

For Christmas I would like some pairs of chopos because Chopo (my pug) ate them (chopos are slippers). I also want new books, file folders, and some pocket kleenexes For my mom, can you give her some black gloves and give my friend Sterling a gizmo watch so we can text each other I think I deserve this because even though I've done alot of naughty things I've almost got my white riddon which required ten nice things!

Dear Santa,

For Christmas this year, I would like a laptop, book, a kindle (the one with book and squishmallows and squishalongs. For my sister, give them a squishmallow too? Thank you For the gifts. I think I should get these gift ■ See Letters on next page



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The Pagosa Bar: Karaoke, 7:30 p.m.

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

Friday

The Springs Resort lodge atrium: Brass Quintet and Noelle Victorian Caroling Acapella Group, 5 p.m.

The Springs Resort lodge atrium: Maxwell Miller, 5

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

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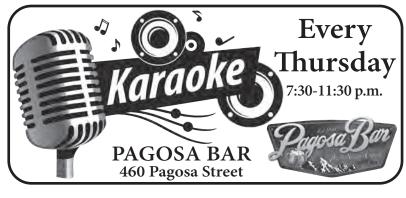
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Christmas in Pagosa

An old-fashioned celebration

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

Letters

continued from previous page because I think I have been a good person thank you if you can bring

> From. Logahn

Dear Santa.

these gift

For Christmas this year I would like Snow Leopards stuff please and a gaming laptop. for my cousin can you bring her a pink stuff animal pleas and thank you Also if you want, you can surprise us!

from Olivia

Dear Santa,

For Christmas this year I Would like new some Books, and a big toy car, anerf gun, and rope. For The Book The Book The one Book I wand is Called The one and OULY Ivan can you get Takis From my sister? I think I been very good this year

From, Wallace.

Dear Santa,

For Christmas I would like toy cars. I also want a Batman action figure and house and maybe even the Batcave! That would be so cool! Could you bring toys for my whole family too please?

> Love, Iordan

Dear Santa,

For Chrisnas this year I would like A new dirt bike and A Nintendo switch. I thenk my mom wowld like A bike rack. I think I have been a Good Kid.

From creek.

Dear Santa.

For Christmas this year I would like a toy grenade. Would you Pretty Please give my mom a K mug from City Market, For my sister a vet kit, FOR my DaD a very spiffy neck tie? The reason my Family and I deserve all of this is because me and my family have been very good this year!

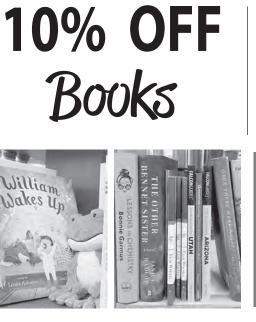
Sincerly, Lenox.

Dear Santa.

For Christmas this year I don't know what I want so I want you to surprise me! But, I do know some things my family wants. My Brother Eli wants a lego spacestation. I think me and Eli should have these things because I've been good this year. From Asher

Dear Santa.

For christmas this year, I want a dirtbike. Could you also get my Dad a pocket knive? I deserve this because, I always finish my work at school and I am a very Good child. From. Torin.



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Letters

continued from page 3

Dear Santa,

This year I have Been a good boy. This year I want an iphon. and a snow ball maker. I also want a PS5. Culd you also bring a mug for Grandpa? from, Michael

Dear Santa,

For Christmas this year I would like a Stanley I want a 3 Iphones I want one for my cousion She wants a brandn new apple phone because she loves phones. Also, my MoM and I want one. We have all been good. Love, Aaliyah

Dear Santa,

For Christmas this year I wuld like a huge mouse squishmallo head phones (because my dog ate mine) and a wallmart gift card. I wuld also like a blak scooter, a babysiters book and a baby elf. Culd I get something for my dog. If Yes, can I get her a dog bed with some toys? And I think I deserve this because I think I have been a really good girl. I hope I get what I want!

From Mackenzie.

Dear Santa,

My name is xanaeh. I am 6 years old. I have been nice this year. I would like a blue car with a bowl. Do you have a elf? :) \$\$\$

Dear Santa,

My name is Leighton I am 7 years old I would boedylalle year. I would like like crib and benbag Also a suce tet. Which reindeer is your favorite? Love,

Leighton

Dear Santa,

Dear Santa.

My name is Zayury. I a 6 years. old. I would like a stuffy of Rex. Also I want v-bucks and and a classroom for my home is?

Love, Zayury

Love, Lizy

Dear Santa, my name is Lizy. I am 6 years old. I have been nice this year. I would like a toy mookeys and a teddy bears and a ipads. Do you Know where my home is? I will put cookies and milk for you Santa. which reindeer is your favorite.

My name is Ashey. I pm 6 years I have been good this yeah T have morecars

Love, Ashley

See Letters on next page





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An old-fashioned celebration

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Letters.

■ continued from previous page Dear Santa,

My name metal is Christian I want a metal detector and if u can a x box. ora PS five. I am 6 yeas old. Do you Know where I live? Love.

Dear Santa,

My name is Finn. I am 7 years old. I have been nice this year. I would like a Chase remote control car. Also some Legos, some suprses thank you. Love, Finn

Dear Santa, My name is koda. I am 6 yeres old. I have been nice this year. I Would like A fluffy scunk stufy anb a ratatouille and a fluffy blak fox stufy.

Love, koda

Conto

Dear Santa,

Dear Santa, my name is Jazmin I am 6 yeas old I have neen nice theis years. I would like new munee and all of the candee and a big doll haoos. and Do you Now were my haoos is?

Love, Jasmin

My name is Adryana I am 7 years old. I have been nice this year I would like a IPad' toy Monkey' a teddy Bear where is My home?

Love, Adryana Dear Santa,

My name is Cesar. I am 6 years old. I wou like a car Also a transformer which reindeer is your favorite? Love, Cesar

Dear Santa,

My nam is Rory. I am 6 years old. I have been nice this year. I would Like a BoNix jersey in orange please. Also I would Like a switch. What is your favorite drink?

Love, Rory

See Letters on next page



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Letters

continued from previous page Dear Santa,

My name is Elias. i am 7 years old i have been nice this year I want a broncos miller helmet. I want a 3d pen and red dead redemption one which reindeer is your favorite?

Love, Elias Dear Santa, my name is Vincent. I am 7 years old. I have been nice this year. I would like a Lego technic rc offroad truck. Also, a new Harry Potter jersey. Do you know were my home is? Wich reindeer is your favorite?

Love, Vincent Dear Santa, My name is Jaxon. I am 6 years old.

I want a snowboard also a lego star wars ship. I want a penguin stuffy. I wunt a pair of gloves.

Love, Jaxon Dear Santa,

My name is Anaiya. I am 7 years old. I heve been good this year. I woulb like a car toy and a doll. Love, Anaiya

Dear Santa, My name is CARteR. I am 6 yeaRs I want a phone so I can travel. I also

old. I have been nice this year. I would like a 4 weeler and a legoset. Love, CARterR

Dear Santa,

My name is Tj. I am 6. i would like For Chnstmas is a tyo rocvetship that haz a red button lefl and up and down. and it has a screen so you know where you're going. and a goldin lamborghini that can go 1758 mph.

Love, Ti Dear Santa, my name si Mason. want a gocourt so I can go to my friends house. My favorite remdeer si Dasner. Who is yours? Love, Mason

Dear Santa,

My name is Marguerite. I am 7 years old. Ples can I get a Snake? How do you go through all of the chimneys? Who is your favorite reindeer? Mine is Rudolph.

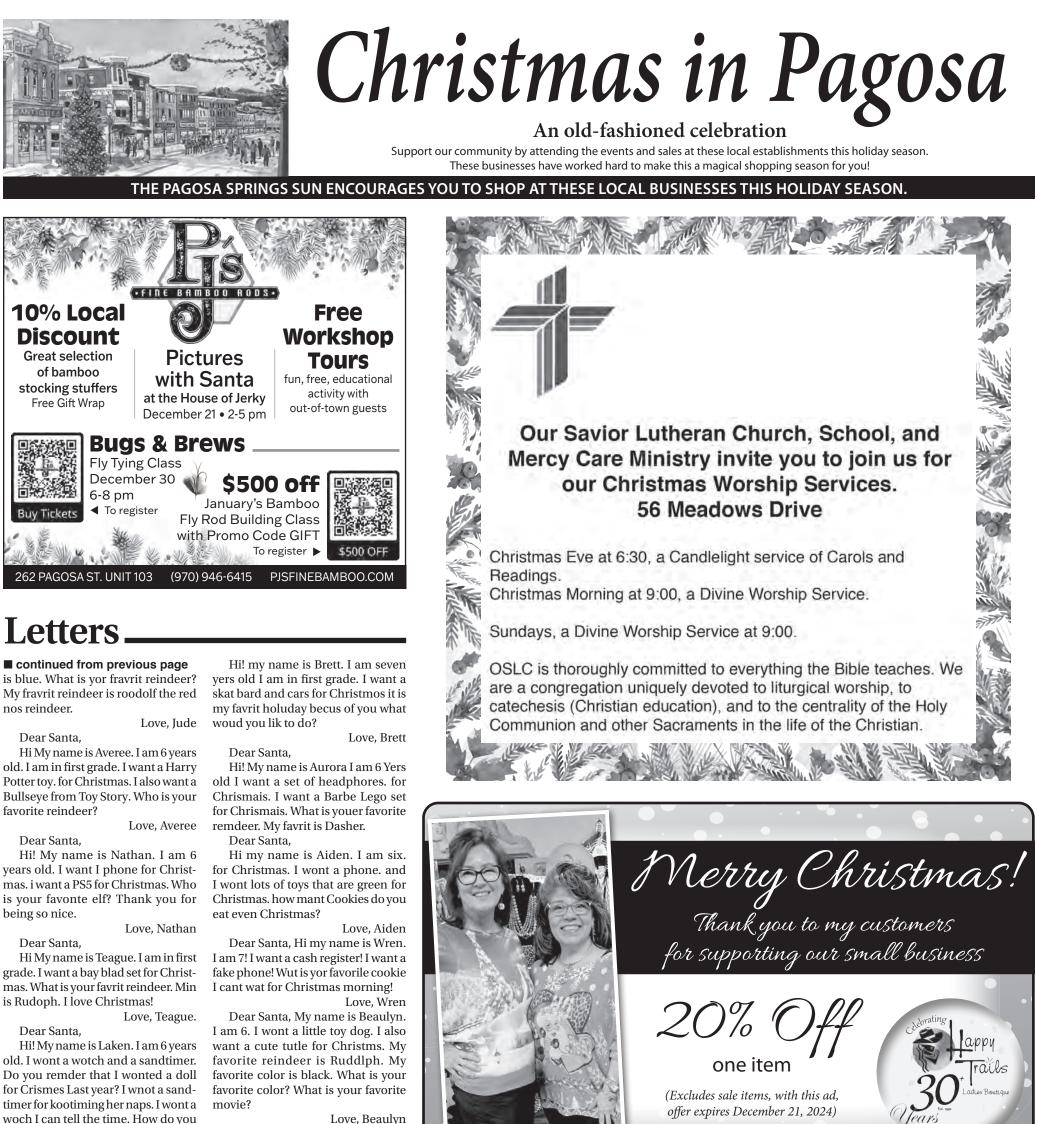
Love, Marguerite Dear Santa, Hi! My name is Mark. I am 7 years old. I am in first grade. I want a motorcycle for Christmas. I alsoe want a lego mind craft set with a creeper for Christmas. What is your fauvorite reindeer?

Love, Mark Dear Santa, my name is Lakinn I am 7 yars old I want some alrpods and I also want a new bike. What is vowr favorite color ?

Love, Laikynn

Hi! My name is Jude. I am 7 years old. I am in first grade. I want a lot of legos for Christmas. My fravrit calr ■ See Letters on next page

Dear Santa,



Love, Beaulyn Dear Santa,

My name is Colt I am 6 years old. See Letters on next page

eat most of the cookies dont get full?

Dear Santa,

Love, Laken

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Letters

■ continued from previous page I am in first grade. t want a remote cantrolsnake. Santa what your favorite color?

Love, Colt

Dear Santa,

Hi! My name is Asher. I want the bubble blaster for Christmas. What is your favorite color? Mine is red. Love, Asher

Dear Santa,

Hi! My name is Mateo. I am 7 years old. I am in firsts. I want a dirt bike and a go cart. what is your favonte reindeer? My favorite is Rudololph. Love, Mateo

Dear Santa,

Hi! My name is Judy. I am 7 years obl. I am in first grade. I want some lip gloss and some roller skates for Christmas. How are you? I whnt to know what is your favorite cookie? Love, Judy

Dear Santa,

Hi my name is Osvaldo. I am 6 years old I am in fist grade. I want a dirt bike far Christmas. and to sets uv lego sets.

Dear Santa,

Hi My name is Jupiter. I am 6 years old. I am in first grade. I want an atv for Christmas.

Love, Jupiter Dear Santa, My name is Bryce. I am 6 years old. want a nice snake for Christmas. I

I want a nice snake for Christmas. I also want a nice alligator. Love,

Dear Santa.

Merry Christmas! I hope I have been good this year. Is Rudolph real!? How did you meet Mrs. Clause? I want a cotton candy machine please. Thank you for giving me gifts.

> Love, Zoey age 8

Bryce

Dear Santa,

Merry Christmas! I am listenirg and learning at school. How did you meet Mrs. Clause? How is Rudolph's nose red? I want a baby cat for Christmas. I want a baby wolf. I want a sow fox. Thank you for the presents!

Love, Mazzie age 7

See Letters on next page



Tuesday through Saturday . 10am to 5pm or by Appointment 462 Lewis Street . (970) 264-0800 . twooldcrowsps@gmail.com

Letters

continued from previous page Dear Santa.

Merry Christmas! What I want for Christmas is a pupy, elf on the shelf, Nintendo switch, and a mine craft DVD with remote controls. Oh and my favorite reindeer is Rudolph if hes real. How did you meet mrs. Clause. How do reindeer fly? How many elves do you have?

Love, Charlie 7 years old Dear Santa.

Merry Christmas! this year I am in 2ngrade. What I want for Christmas is a VR headset. How do rendeer fly? How do you get magic? You are the best!

Dear Santa.

Merry Christmas! Happy holidays! I have tried my best in school. Santa, may I have a phone for Christmas? Santa, how do the reindeer fly? What is your real name Santa. Thank you! From,

Dear Santa,

Dear Santa.

Merry Christmas! I've been good at school I wish for a monster truck for crismis. I wish for a xbox conteller I hope you stay safe from.

Zach 7 years old

Merry christmas! This year I have been kind to my familty and friends. I want a New vr hed set. Why Does Rudolph have a red nose? How do your reindeer fly?

Dear Santa, Merry Christmas! This year I have

been good. I want a new blanket please! Can the reindeer fly? Santa how did you meet Ms. Clause. You are the best!

From, age 7

Kasin

Love, Elizabeth 7 years old. Dear Santa,

I've been good. I want a Ps5. I olso want a Nintendo Switch. How do the reindeer fly? Are all the presents heavy? Thaanks for giving us presents! Love.

From,

Emir age 7

Izzv 8 years old

Dear Santa,

Merry Christmas! This year I was good. I know you said two more gifts but this was a class assignment. Was your year good? I want a rubber band gun for Christmas. How do you get your magic? How did you become Santa?

Harper 7 years old

Jameson Age 7

Merry Christmas Santa! math has been hard but I have tried my best. All I want for Christmas is a vr-head set, a motor bike and an xbx how do your reindeer fly? How do you stay warm?

Dear Santa,

Killidhc aGe 7

Dear Santa, Merry christmas! This year I was busy! I split wood with my family. I want a remote conrol helicopter. Where was your wedding with Mrs, Clause? How do your reindeer fly? Thanks for the presents.

> Love, 7 years Lane old

Dear Santa, Merry Christmas! I have been so good this year. I want an x box with 4 controllers. How do you make magic? Where do you live? Thank you,

> Love, Giovani, 7 year oil

How are you doing doing? I have been been good and bad. For chrisnmas I reaally want samur samuri stuff why does rudolph have a red noe but the others dontd? thanks for all you Leve Aidan age 7

Dear Santa.

Dear Santa,

Merry Christmas! This year has been god and fun. Please can I have a camera? What was your name When you were a Kid?

I've been good this yer. I want a remote control car. Is Rubolph the red nose reindeer real?

Finn 7 yers old

See Letters on next page





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Love. Dear Santa.

Love, Jorden 7 yers olld

Love,

Reserve Online or Call: (970) 731 1162

Reserve an evening Beyond the Gates on New Year's Eve

Join an Old Fashioned Christmas **Celebration on Dec. 21**

By Jennifer Green Visit Pagosa Springs

Join us Saturday, Dec. 21, from 5 to 7 p.m. for the fourth annual Old Fashioned Christmas Celebration in downtown Pagosa Springs.

Enjoy more than 20 Christmasthemed displays and activities, live music, free hot chocolate and cider, a photo booth, games, toys and other goodies. And, of course, Santa Claus.

Santa will arrive at his workshop at the Visitor Center shortly after 5 p.m. with the help of sled dogs. There will be opportunities to view Santa's arrival along San Juan Street and the Hot Springs Boulevard Bridge.

The walking route extends along the Riverwalk from Centennial Park to Town Park, crossing Veterans Bridge and down San Juan Street to the Visitor Center.

Entry points for the event include Town Park, the Visitor Center and Centennial Park. Look for decorated white tents at the key entry points to receive festive lights and free ornaments. Attendees are encouraged to bring flashlights. The event will be held regardless of weather.

New for 2025, we will have an

opportunity for attendees to vote for their favorite decorated segment. The winning segment will receive \$250 in advertising through The Pagosa Springs SUN. Look for signs at the event to vote.

Segments have been adopted by groups, organizations and businesses.

This event is a collaboration of the Town of Pagosa Springs, Archuleta County and The Pagosa Springs SUN. Please join us for a fun and festive evening in downtown Pagosa Springs to celebrate the spirit of the holiday season.

Road closure alert

The Town of Pagosa Springs would like to alert the community that there will be road closures in downtown Pagosa Springs during the Old Fashioned Christmas Celebration on Dec. 21.

Between 4:15 and 7 p.m., Hot Springs Boulevard will be closed to vehicular traffic from Hermosa Street to south of San Juan Street.

Additionally, Hermosa Street will be closed from Town Park to Hot Springs Boulevard. Traffic will not be permitted from U.S. 160 onto

Letters

continued from previous page Dear Santa,

Happy christmas I have been good. i want a lightbulb for chrishmas. How does his nose ligh up Ho, Ho, Ho, Ho Merry Christmas Santa!

Love.

Averv Dear Santa, Mrs. Claus and Santa's Elves

My name is Francis. I am 9 years old.

What I want for Chrtistmas is a pupy and a phonE.

Think you. Dear Santa,

My name is Amelia

I am 9 years old This year I have been nice

For Christmas this year I would like unicorn diary With key keper necklace, magic puffy pens (one for me and one for my mom), a school playset, a fun science kit.

Love, Amelia

65 Caballero Drive

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 build-

ings. The front is a gallery and warehouse the back at

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

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

814 Ginger Circle

\$199,000

MLS # 817526

To tour this property go to:

44 W Golf Place

\$560,000

conveniently located uptown. This home was built

in 2006 and used as a second home by the owners.

NEW LISTING



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



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

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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GailBrault1957@gmail.com



Barbara Swindlehurst REALTOR[°], BROKER/ OWNER C: 303.618.7423 Barbara@MountainMeadowRealEstate.com

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\$799,000 MLS # 811817 This home is perfectly located on approximately



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 https://pspixeltree.com/814-Ginger-Cir

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Hot Springs Boulevard during the event. Any traffic needing to access the businesses south on Hot Springs will need to take an alternative route from Apache Street or Light Plant Road.

NEW LISTING

one time was a clinic.



Open for Dinner Fridays & Saturdays Starting January 10th, 2025 Sunday Brunch 10:00 AM 2:00 PM

Come Home for the Holidays!

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.

Upcoming events

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 will be accepted.

Jan. 5, 2025, 11 a.m.: Burning Bowl and Intentions Ceremony with

Shayla Azriel. A love donation will be accepted.

Jan. 8, 2025, noon: Health and Wellness presentation with Azriel.

About us

SpiritFire Inspirational Living Center is a 501(c)(3). We are an allinclusive 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.

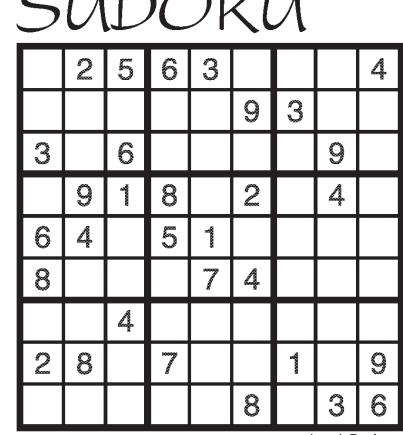
We welcome local talents to share gifts, aptitudes and knowledge.

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.



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

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



Fun By The **Numbers**

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

Level: Beginner

Here's How It Works:

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

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8	Z	6	ŝ	unuda	G	L	1	9
3	4	L	S	9	8	nung	6	G
2	6	ç	L	8	Þ	9	munde	£
mudi	9	3	6	G	2	8	٢	t
4	L	8	mah	ŝ	9	G	2	6
:Rawen:								



Shop the SUN classifieds.



Holiday Church Events

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

Thursday, Dec. 19

Blue Christmas Service. 6 p.m., Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St. A time to acknowledge life's darkness and offer a reflective service for those who are grieving or having a difficult time during the holidays.

Friday, Dec. 20

- Solstice Celebration. 11 a.m., SpiritFire Inspirational Living Center, 3505 W. U.S. 160.
- 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 Ceremo-
- ny. 4 p.m., SpiritFire Inspirational Living Center, 3505 W. U.S. 160.Christmas Eve Service. 4 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.pagosabiblechurch.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 Family Worship and Candelight Service. 6 p.m., Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St. Join for a thoughtful, traditional Christmas Eve candlelight service. Children are welcome in the service or to join experienced staff in the playroom/nursery.
- Candlelight Service of Carols and Readings. 6:30 p.m., Our Savior Lutheran Church, 56 Meadows Drive.
- 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.
- Divine Worship Service. 9 a.m., Our Savior Lutheran Church, 56 Meadows Drive.

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.
- Burning Bowl and Intentions Ceremony. 11 a.m., SpiritFire Inspirational Living Center, 3505 W. U.S. 160.







The gift of love, the gift of peace, the gift of happiness. May these be yours during this holiday season.



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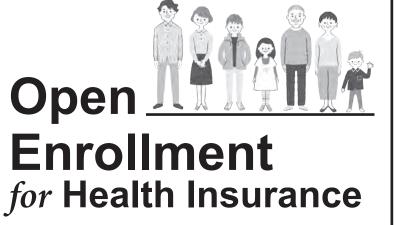
Trinity Anglican Church 4th Sunday of Advent "Get the road ready for Christ the Lord! *He will bless you with a peace* that passes all understanding." 246 Harman Park Dr. trinityanglicanchurch.org Off Any Full Service **Buy One, Get One** REE 'ull Service Wiper Blades Synthetic Oil Change No Appointment Necessary! Pagosa **1985 Eagle Drive** Expres 731-1400 **Next to Advance Auto Parts**

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Local Pi Beta Phi sorority alumnae gathered at the home of Carole Howard Dec. 14 for their annual Christmas angel luncheon. Standing, left to right, are Kelly Maestas, Joni Rose, Carole Howard, Paula Tennant and Ann Bubb. In front, left to right, are Melissa McDonald, Mary Rothchild and Lisa Scott. The ladies each made monetary contributions to Healthy Archuleta's food distribution center for local food banks. The festive holiday event also included the organization's traditional angel gift exchange. Pi Beta Phi was founded in 1867. Today there are 135 collegiate chapters in the U.S. and Canada, and nearly 300 alumnae clubs around the world.

COLORADO

Photo courtesy Lisa Scott



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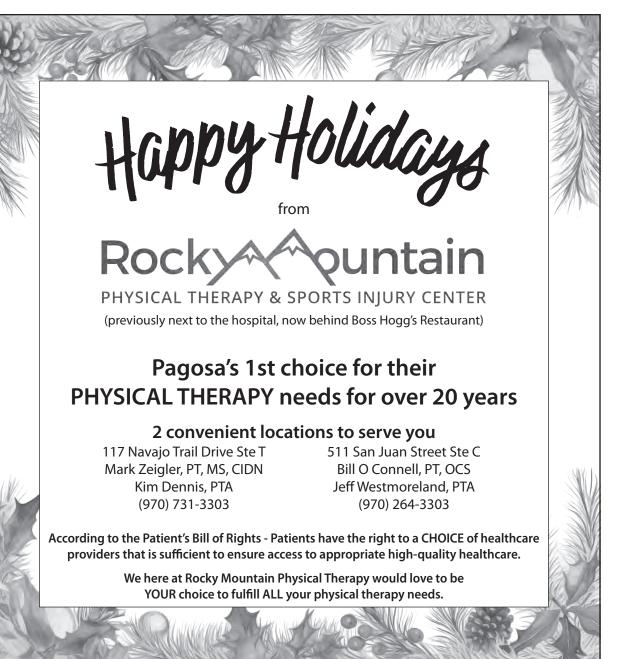




Photo courtesy Pagosa Springs Dance Academy

tickets, visit pagosadanceacademy.

com or email us at psdaoffice@gmail.

com.

Students from Pagosa Springs Dance Academy are thrilled to present Pagosa's very own "Storybook Nutcracker" performances and breakfast Friday evening and Saturday morning.

Step into a magical world: Pagosa Springs Dance Academy to present 'The Storybook Nutcracker'

By Aimee Rogacki

Pagosa Springs Dance Academy

This holiday season, and for their second year in a row, experience the enchantment and wonder of "The Storybook Nutcracker," brought to life by the talented dancers of Pagosa Springs Dance Academy.

The studio has worked tirelessly developing an original version of the historical ballet using a delightful blend of traditional and iconic music combined with pieces that embody a more modern flare.

The whimsical and emotional choreography combined with storybook-style narration in this heartwarming performance is a must-see for families, children and anyone who loves the magic of the season.

Join Clara, the Nutcracker Prince and all your favorite characters, performed by nearly 70 local youth and a smattering of youthful adults, as they journey through a fantastical world of sugarplum fairies, battling mice and a dazzling winter wonderland.

With vibrant costumes, descriptive narration, and captivating performances, "The Storybook Nutcracker" is a fresh and family-friendly interpretation of the classic holiday tale that will fascinate audiences of all ages.

The show dates are Friday, Dec.

SATURDAY: 11AM - 11PM

SUNDAY: 11AM - 10PM

20, at 6:30 p.m. and Saturday, Dec. 21, at 11 a.m.

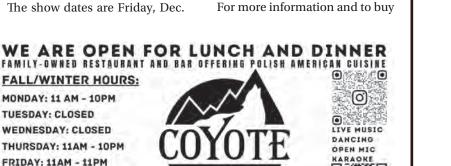
Extend your holiday entertainment and enjoy a delicious breakfast with the Expressions Company dancers before Saturday's performance at 9 a.m. Servings will include pancakes with sweet and fruity toppings, eggs, sausages, juice, tea and cider. The breakfast will be a festive addition to the performance and will feature Nutcracker-themed activities and games, beautiful photo opportunities and close-up interactions with the talented dancers.

The location is the Pagosa Springs High School auditorium at 800 S. 8th St.

Ticket prices for the show only are just \$15 for adults and \$5 for children. Tickets for the Nutcracker Breakfast combined with the Saturday show are \$25 for adults and \$10 for children. Tickets are available for purchase online at pagosadanceacademy.com.

Don't miss out on this festive tradition. Gather your loved ones and make "The Storybook Nutcracker" a part of your holiday season.

Whether you're seeing it for the first time or returning to enjoy the magic once more, this performance promises to deliver a truly unforgettable experience.





2151 Eagle Drive | cityhallcafe.co | 970.398.2409

www.PagosaSUN.com



This holiday season, PSMC sends best wishes to our employees and this wonderful community.

The Primary Care Clinic and Outpatient Services will be closed on Wednesday, December 25th. We will reopen on Thursday, December 26th to serve you.

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

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506 Morro Cir 150 Lassen Dr 42 Ruby Ct 385 Stagecoach Ln 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

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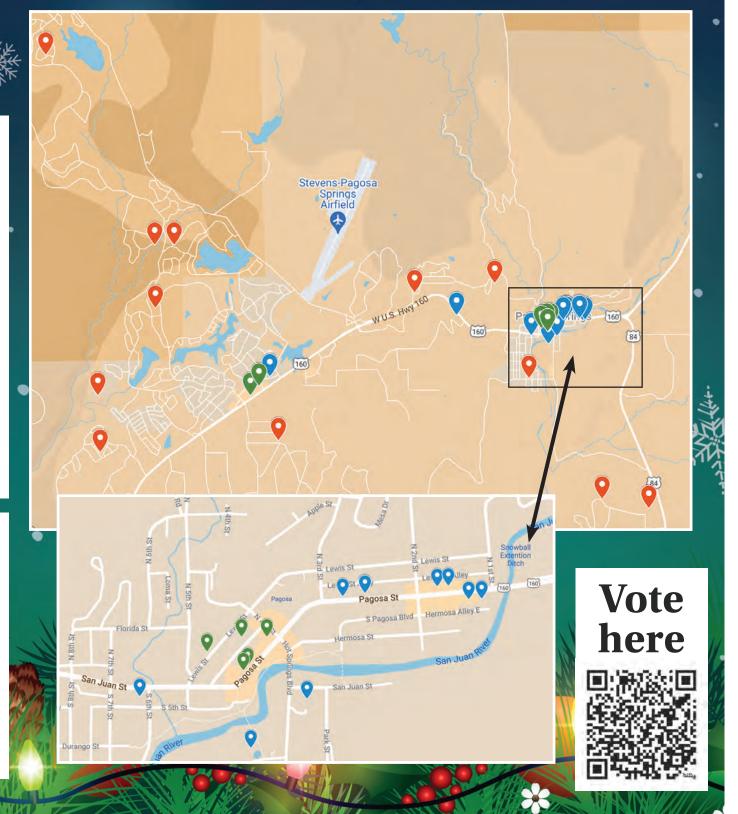
Storefront window Happy Trails Ladies Boutique - 454 Pagosa St Goodman's Dept. Store - 402 Pagosa St Community United Methodist Thrift Store - 427 Lewis St Two Old Crows - 468 Lewis St Chow Down Pet Supplies - 100 Country Center Dr A/B Foot Prints - 456 Pagosa St Uncle's Bar & Social Club - 56 Talisman Dr Unit 8C

Holiday lights

 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.



Bird of the Week

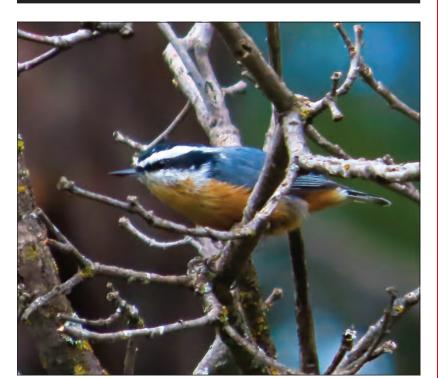


Photo courtesy Charles Martinez

This week's Bird of the Week, compliments of the Weminuche Audubon Society and Audubon Rockies, is the red-breasted nuthatch.

This chatty, active, small bird is a common resident of the boreal forests that stretch across Canada, and of the mountains of the southwest and southern Appalachians. It differs from our other resident nuthatch species, the pygmy and white-breasted, in its preference for forests of spruce and fir. It is the only North American nuthatch to undergo regular, southern irruptive movements when cone crops in its northern breeding ranges are poor.

This compact bird has a short tail and almost no neck. It is colored blue-gray above and rusty red below. It has a black crown and eyeline divided by a white eyebrow. Females are paler versions of males.

The name nuthatch refers to the method employed by this group of birds to eat the hard-shelled seeds and nuts which are its winter diet. After wedging a seed into a bark crevice, the nuthatch uses its strong upturned bill to "hatch" it into smaller, palatable pieces. Food that is not consumed is stored in bark crevices to eat when it is less available. They often show little fear of humans and will come to feeders.

In spring and summer, the red-breasted searches the bark of tree trunks and branches for insects, their larvae and eggs, and other arthropods to eat. Strong feet and toes, and long, curved claws allow the bird to move up, down and sideways on the tree, often moving headfirst down the tree in a zigzag pattern.

The clever red-breasted nuthatch prefers to excavate its own nest hole, often in the softer wood of a dead or partially dead aspen tree. To help keep out predators and nest site competitors, a pair collects globs of resin and spreads it around the inside and outside of the hole. They may use a piece of bark as a tool to apply the sticky sap. To avoid getting stuck themselves, they dive directly through the hole when entering or exiting the nest.

This year's bumper crop of cones with seeds in ponderosa pines is a boon to the forest birds and mammals that depend on this food source to make it through the winter.

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



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<text>

Isaiah 9:6



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Preview Calendar

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

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. 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

See Calendar on next page

This is for my Sons and Daughters, who must know My Love for them

There was a time when I called out to you in my Love: "Where art thou? Come hither unto Me, for thou art mine alone." But you were lost in a desolate world and could not hear My voice. I created thee to know Me, love Me and acquire mine attributes, to be holy and sanctified, so that thou would be a worthy bride unto My Spirit.

But lo, thou turned away, leaving My heart empty and grieved. I willed to call thee unto Myself in intimacy. So, I took all that was not of Me away, never to be part of thy life again. I made thee to hunger and thirst after *Me alone and if tho dids't search the entire universe over,* thou would not be satisfied, except in relationship to Me. Thou art My precious treasure. In thee I live and move and have My being. It is thou I cherish, for thou now has a heart after mine own.

When thy life contained only absolute nothingness, then your wandering in the Valley of Search, was over and your journey unto Me began. For all begin in the creation of the longing of My Love and all will return unto *Me. I began anew in thee, reconstructing and molding* thee from dust to clay to Spirit. For I AM God and thou are My creation. As soon as thou turned they uplifted face to behold mine, in full submission to My will, prostrate before Me, I could begin to reveal myself to thee.

O, *what joy* abounded in the heavens as holy angels rejoiced at our reunion! Heaven and earth stood still as I embraced My beloved once again; and thou became mine forever.

Continue ye in thy love for Me and pray without ceasing unto Me. I wilt not disappoint thy heart ever again, nor wilt thou ever be far away from Me. For we are as one mind, one heart and one spirit. I AM well pleased to call you my beloved and thou shalt have an anointed place at My right hand. Thou shalt call Me they Father God and I shalt call thee My best beloved; and I shall name they name in the Book of Life. We will always know of our love for one another, one Spirit, singing praise in perfect harmony, rejoicing in our love forevermore.

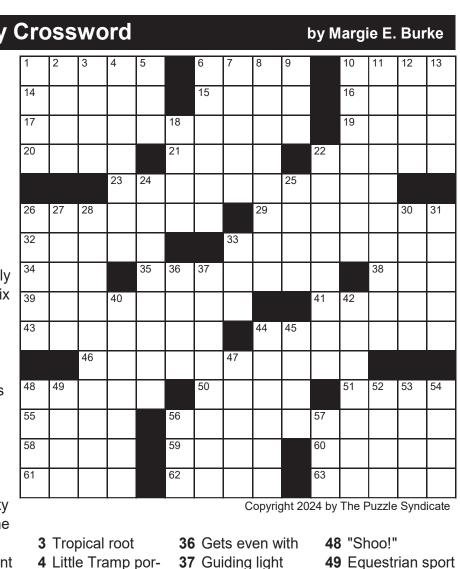
> From The Upper Room Peter and Rebekah Laue

The Weekly Crossword

ACROSS

1 Oz baddie 6 Players

- 10 Window part
- 14 Gem State
- 15 Voice below
- soprano 16 Hodgepodge
- **17** Temporary
- suspension 19 Furrow former
- 20 Sit down heavily
- 21 Numerical suffix
- 22 Pickling liquid
- 23 Hidden energy
- 26 Jefferson's
- successor 29 Miss who gives advice
- 32 Jerry Maguire, e.g.
- 33 Culinary herb
- 34 Hobbvist's buv
- 35 Peach Bowl city
- 38 Gardner of "The
- Killers"
- 39 November event **41** Kind of joint
- 43 Crowded
- together
- 44 Renowned
- 46 Valet
- 48 Enliven, with "up"
- 50 Spots
- 51 "Born Free" lioness
- 55 Crash, with "out"
- **56** Deafening
- 58 On the safe side
- **59** Candy film,
- "Wagons
- 60 Social call
- 61 CBS series, "So
- Help Me
- 63 Sufficient
- **1** Unlikely hero
- 2 Teen ____



knockoff

42 Timely gap

47 Actress

44 Calendar entries

Witherspoon

- traver Charlie
- 6 Sway on a
 - curve
- 7 Out of this world
- 8 Actor's stand-in
- **9** Barnyard male
- 10 TV mobster
- 11 Unable to read
- **12** MGM mascot
- 13 "Oxford Blues"
- star. 1984
- 18 One of the
- **Ringling Bros.**
- 22 Franklin, for one
- 24 Radioactive element 85
- 25 "B.C." creator
- Johnny
- 26 Earns
- 27 Fleet-footed

Answers to Previous Crossword:

52 Speech

53 Breeze

impediment

(through)

56 Salon offering 57 Eggs in a lab

54 Pot starter



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- DOWN
- 62 Ocho minus cinco
 - - - 28 Intent on
 - 30 Crow's kin
 - 31 Like some
 - bombs
 - 33 "Holy smokes!"

- 40 "Mad" magazine
- 5 Radioactive

 - 45 It's rigged

Preview Calendar

continued from previous page 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.
- 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-

See Calendar on next page



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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-Paid advertisement

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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Preview Calendar

- continued from previous page 2064 for more information.
- **Playdough Play.** 1-2 p.m., Sisson Library. Make amazing playdough creations with the library's playdough collection.
- 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.
- ⁴All is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914.⁷ 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.
- ⁴All is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914.⁴ 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. 26

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.
- 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. 27

- Indoor Pickleball. 8-11:30 a.m., Ross Aragon Community Center.
- Cookie Decorating. 1-2:30 p.m., Sisson Library. Join for some tasty fun. Sugar cookies and standard frosting will be provided. All-Ages Movie. 3-4:30 p.m., Sisson
- Library. Participants will choose between a selection of PG-rated movies.
- '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. 28 Knitters Circle. 1-3 p.m., Sisson Library. Join new or experienced knitters to get help with your project, or sit and knit.

[•]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). Clip 'n Save 10%

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Photo courtesy Justin Treptow, Thingamajig Theatre Company

The 2023 cast of "All is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914," a remarkable ensemble that brought the story of peace and humanity to life in Thingamajig Theatre Company's most-attended holiday show ever.

'All is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914' continuing at Thingamajig Theatre Company

By Carter Meritt

Thingamajig Theatre Company

The Thingamajig Theatre Company's production of "All is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914" is returning to the Pagosa Springs Center for the

Arts this holiday season. It opened Dec. 13 and is running through Dec. 28.

Following its record-breaking debut in 2023, which became the mostattended and critically acclaimed holiday show in the company's

history, this year's reprise promises another incredible experience.

"All is Calm" tells the incredible true story of the Christmas truce of 1914, when soldiers on both sides of World War I laid down their arms, ■ See Theatre on page 23





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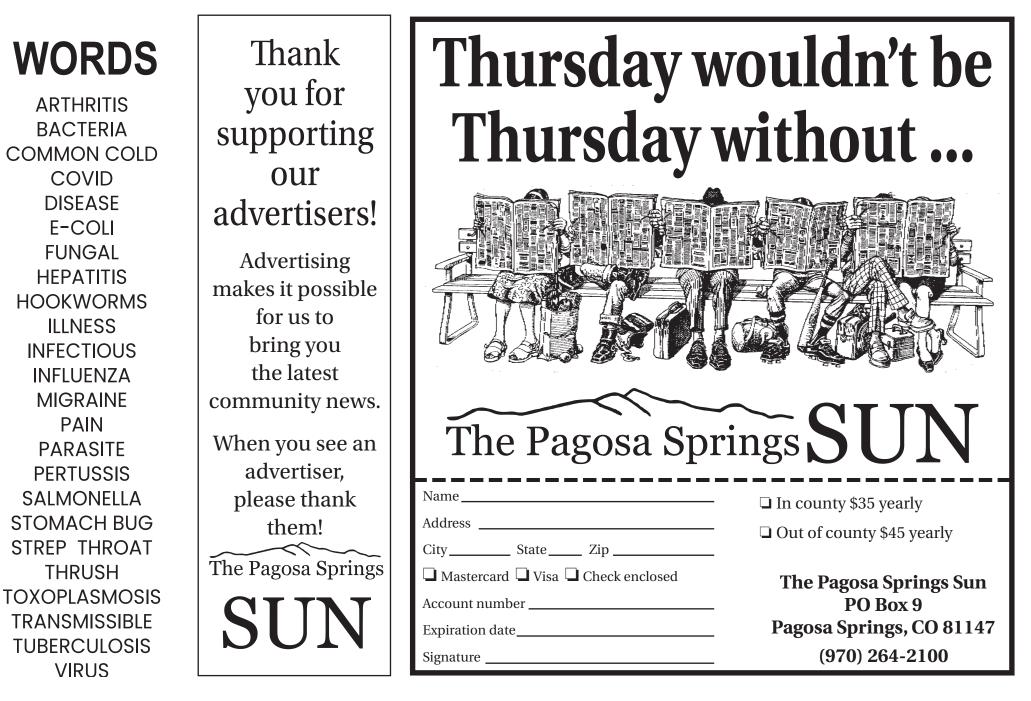
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Joyous Holiday Greetings

The old oak tree wept

By Betty Slade **PREVIEW** Columnist

This morning, sitting in front of a beautifully decorated Christmas tree, my attention turned to the daily Bible study from a hunting devotional book I read to my Sweet Al every morning.

An avid hunter, the author wrote that the trees in the southeast are tall, telephone-pole kind of trees. He describes climbing one with his portable aluminum stand to watch for the deer.



ence between a young tree not being able to hold a hunter and an old oak tree with roots that grab deep into the soil with branches strong enough to hold any hunter.

I said to Al, "We've been walking with the Lord 55 years. We've been in church, under Bible teaching, associated with other Christians, and we should be like oak trees. We need to act differently than the younger

See Lane on next page



The lesson talked about the differ-

Theatre -

continued from page 21

shared songs, exchanged gifts and celebrated a moment of peace amidst the devastation of war. The show is a moving tribute to the power of humanity and music to unite us, even in the most trying of circumstances.

Nationally recognized and critically acclaimed, the production originated with Theater Latté Da in Minneapolis and has toured internationally, earning widespread praise. Its Off-Broadway run won the Drama Desk Award for Unique Theatrical Experience, and The New York Times lauded the show as "profoundly moving" and "a stunning testimony to the human spirit."

The Thingamajig team is bringing back the creative forces that made last year's production such a success.

Director Andrew Barratt Lewis returns to helm the show, with lighting by MacKenzie Lowe and costumes by Nanette Cheffers, whose attention to historical accuracy and evocative detail enriches the storytelling. Music Director Dominic Girolami, who also performs in the cast, brings his expertise from New York, ensuring the show's vocal and musical elements remain top-notch.

Returning cast members include the talented Robert Neel. Gustavo Palma and Keenan Pasqua. Joining them are Trevor Brown, a Thingamajig favorite, along with Jesse McFarland (making a much-anticipated return since his standout perfor-

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mance in 2019's "A Grand Night for Singing"), Quinn McGillion and Alex Ramirez Cannon, all of whom hail from New York or Texas and bring fresh energy to this year's production.

Unlike traditional holiday shows, "All is Calm" transcends the usual seasonal fare with its unique combination of music and storytelling. The show's a cappella score — featuring trench songs, patriotic anthems and Christmas carols — evokes the raw emotion of the soldiers' experience.

It's a production that resonates deeply with audiences, regardless of age or familiarity with theater, offering something for everyone. This isn't just a play — it's a historical and emotional journey that captures a profound moment of shared humanity.

The absence of a traditional script makes it accessible and compelling, with music and ensemble storytelling taking center stage.

This 2024 production marks the final opportunity to experience "All is Calm" at Thingamajig Theatre Company.

With last year's shows selling out rapidly, tickets are expected to be in high demand again this year. Don't miss your chance to witness this remarkable holiday event, as it will leave audiences inspired and touched by the enduring message of peace and unity.

For tickets and show information, visit pagosacenter.org or call (970) 731-SHOW (7469).

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Lane

continued from previous page

Christians who are just learning God's ways. More is expected from us."

I felt a little smug when I told him, "God has done a mighty work in us. It's easier for us to forgive, let go and move on than when we were young and wild. We can offer young believers more support, wisdom and patience."

I continued to be puffed up in my spiritual growth. "We are like oak trees in our Christian walk. It's taken a lifetime, 80 plus years to produce these two oak trees with solid branches."

Then in the course of the day, I engaged in a conversation I thought was going to be a clear-the-air, whatdo-you-think talk. No harm, no foul. A good meeting of the minds where we could have a deep conversation. Our minds didn't meet.

I didn't know the grief I had caused this person. Wow, I was perceived differently than I thought of myself. There was no way to argue the point, but to listen. It wasn't my intention, but I caused this person grief — much grief. I couldn't say, "That's your problem." I realized the better thing to do was listen and not argue my side. I wanted to make it right between him and me, and between God and me.

In our younger days, Al and I were immature Christians. We didn't always make the right decisions and had to ask for forgiveness often. I've always said that the Lord kept me on a short tether. I was glad for that so I didn't get too far away from Him.

Over the years I have made amends for many thoughtless things I have done or said. And in these last days, the Lord brought me back from a terrible car accident to make right what was left undone. I don't want any regrets when I see my Lord face-to-face.



At the end of the day that started so sweetly, quiet covered the evening hours. My heart hurt and was so heavy for the conversation that jarred me to my toenails. I said to Al, "This old oak tree wept today."

Then in the course of the day, I engaged in a conversation I thought was going to be a clear-theair, what-do-youthink talk. No harm, no foul. A good meeting of the minds where we could have a deep conversation. Our minds didn't meet.

"How so? What do you mean?" "I realized today this person has held years of animosity against me. I wasn't grieved at how he perceived me as much as the hurt he has carried

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all these years because of me. I felt pain for him, not so much for myself.

"I feel like I am weeping for the deep damage I've done to this person. Hopefully, the Lord will allow me to stay on earth for a few more years. I don't want to leave this way. I need to pray, pray, pray."

I carried the hurt of the conversation for the rest of the night until I talked with Jesus. The pain was released and I knew Jesus' death on the tree took care of the offense. And all the thoughtless things I've done, Jesus will heal and make right.

Final brushstroke: As I look at the Christmas tree and marvel at this season of beautiful lights and gifts under the tree, it was brought to mind the true gift, Jesus' gift, the real reason why Jesus was born. He came to die. What a morbid thought, but yet very true.

From Jesus' death he is living in our hearts and can make things right, lift our burdens, take away the pain and all the thoughtless words we have put upon others. Truly this is a merry Christmas when we understand why Jesus was born.

Reader comments

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

"Good morning, Betty,

"Your Red and Greens Dancing in the Sunlight painting is absolutely beautiful!!

"So are your recent articles in the Sun - so very potent and anointed. Thank you for listening well to the Father in this season of your life! Your friend and partner in Kingdom love. Joan Kellev."

Views expressed do not necessarily represent those of The SUN.









Photos courtesy Pagosa Springs Catholic Community

The Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe was held at Pope John Paul II Catholic Church on Thursday, Dec. 12. Following Holy Mass, Catholic youth presented a reenactment along with traditional dances and songs. The evening also included a traditional Mexican meal and a mariachi ensemble.









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

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A new Christmas perspective

By Eric Fisk PREVIEW Columnist

My early age perspective of Christmas was skewed as much as most every child's is today. The premise that Christmas is nothing more than getting goodies and gifts overshadowed the story of the birth of mankind's Savior. The overshadowing can be attributed to the one who lurks in the shadows.

His goal has always been to thwart anyone's belief in the Most Holy God. To have come to this realization so late in my life makes me wonder if my Christian faith would be stronger or weaker if my heart had been changed while I was a child. Would the world have tried to turn my heart back to stone? That answer is yes. We see this hardening of hearts throughout our community and across this world.

Today, however, I know I am exactly where I am supposed to be. There is nothing in our lives that is not as it should be. There are many things in this world that are against the things of God. But there is nothing that is not ordained by an omniscient God. Those who feel as though all is falling apart in their lives are exactly where



they are to be. God's love and justice is purely holy.

I have thought that in end times, when the Bible states that all knees will bow to the King of Kings, that some may not willingly, that some will be driven to their knees. But as I write this, I wonder if when people are at their lowest point in life, then they will ask for help. They see that this world cannot pull them out of the pit full of mire. Only God can do that. So, every knee may in fact bow to the King, but that does not mean their salvation is secure.

On the flip side, the thief on the cross who rejected Christ is evidence that this is probably not a biblical view. He was at his lowest point and mocked Christ. He was not to be with Christ in paradise that day. God the Father had not given this guy to Christ. His name was not written in the Lamb's Book of Life. However, he was exactly where he was supposed to be. He may have had the revelation that Jesus was in fact the Son of God prior to his own passing, but without a God-given heart change, he was stuck in his destiny.

I dread thinking where my attitude would have taken me if I had not asked for spiritual help years ago. I thank God that He gave me the ability to ask for that help. I certainly would not have a correct view of the Christmas season, nor would I be seeking an understanding of the story of salvation. Today, I can truly say that my heart was changed from stone to flesh. My mind is being renewed daily toward the things of God. Joy is finally here in my life.

God changes hearts. I am eternally grateful that He did that for me. Though I will never know the depth of Holy Scripture fully in this life, the act of seeking the depth of God's written word brings joy and living water to my soul.

The Christmas season has meaning that is truly supernatural. Walking with the Holy Spirit daily brings understanding that is beyond description. Thanks be to God that I was pulled from the miry pit of the world. He is the One that gives life. He is the **See Faith on next page**





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.



Imagine a river more exciting than football

By Patricia J. Rettig PREVIEW Columnist

Imagine a best-selling, 900-page novel using "a sad, bewildered nothing of a river" as its centerpiece, connecting the earth's geologic origin and dinosaur age to 1970s rural Colorado.

Now imagine that novel becoming a touchstone for its times, yet still relevant today, as our nation approaches its 250th anniversary. The book is James A. Michener's "Centennial," an unlikely novel published a half century ago. By creating a microcosm of the country, he explained America to itself in anticipation of the 1976 bicentennial.

That the Pulitzer-prize winning Michener chose as his landscape the West — and the little-known South Platte River on Colorado's northeastern plains — is surprising only in that this was his first epic novel related to the U.S. mainland.

But ever since he briefly lived in Greeley, Colo., in the late 1930s before his writing career began, the winding South Platte River stuck with him. As a young college professor, Michener recognized the wealth of stories resulting from the hardships of people surviving in an arid area.

After Michener's service on a national bicentennial committee left him frustrated, he decided to return to the Centennial State, Colorado, which gained statehood in 1876. He hoped to tell a tale of the American experience and, in the opening chapter a character states, "If we can make the Platte comprehensible to Americans, we can inspire them with the meaning of this continent."

Forgoing stereotypical Western stories of railroad builders and farmers' daughters, Michener fictionalized selected histories of settlement and created relatable characters.

Native Americans, French trappers, Mennonite settlers, farmers of German-Russian descent, English ranchers, Mexican and Japanese laborers — all depended on the South Platte River and its tributaries in the dry, inhospitable land. They also had to depend on each other.

By starting with the land's formation, Michener depicts every character as an immigrant. He estimates human arrival in the region at about

Faith ____

■ continued from previous page

light of the world. God the Father, giving His Son to us for our salvation, is by far the best Christmas gift anyone could be given. Jesus is the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Him. Jesus will never let go of those the Father has given Him. How could we possibly ask for anything better?

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.



12,000 years ago, and those Indigenous peoples and their descendants remain present throughout the story. As more people arrived and society evolved, everyone built lives in relationship with the river.

For many, the river provided a pathway to the West. For a few, it revealed golden nuggets, though the real wealth was the water itself.

Yet what Michener presents as progress gradually becomes recognized as unsustainable. The memorable Potato Brumbaugh has not only the innovative idea of irrigating crops, but also the radical concept of digging a tunnel under the Rocky Mountains to import water from west of the Continental Divide. When this source is not enough, groundwater pumping increases, with dire consequences.

Such innovation — water-related and otherwise — is important to understand today, but also significant is knowing the history of how communities got built. Michener also shows the conflicts that arose with each wave of newcomers bringing their own ideas about how to live.

He also demonstrates changing attitudes, including acceptance of racial differences and increasing dismay over environmental destruction. His story concludes in the early 1970s, referencing Watergate, international conflict and immigration. Characters face inflationary times and polluted air and water. They know they need to solve the coming water shortages.

Not much is different today.

The key difference is that as Michener's characters decry the environmental damage caused by their ancestors and neighbors, they also recognize they need to know their history and honor their longstanding connections to the land and water.

This is what modern humanity has forgotten. Through the innovations of pipes, plumbing and chemical treatments, we have relegated our rivers to the background, as if they were merely an unending supply of water at our command. We have lost our connections to natural resources, to history, to each other.

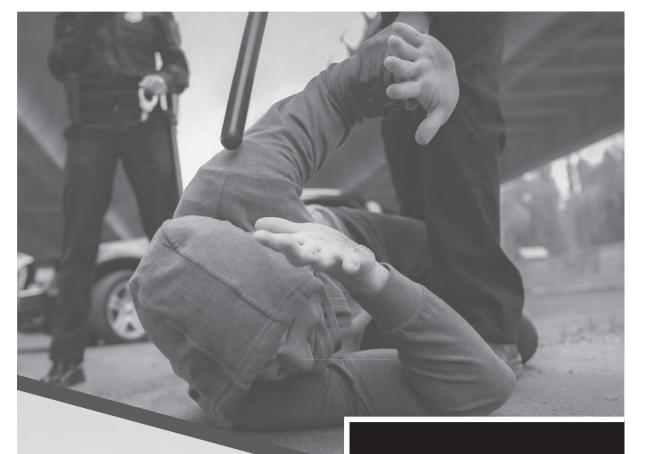
As we now prepare for our 250th anniversary, "Centennial," both the novel and the groundbreaking 26hour television miniseries airing from 1978 to 1980, reminds us of the country's strengths.

Nearly 900 pages in, a character skips a Colorado-Nebraska college football game to survey the South Platte by plane. As he nears the Nebraska state line, he says, "No one in Colorado will believe it, but this river is more exciting than football."

Imagine if more people, in all states, felt the same way.

Patricia J. Rettig is a contributor to Writers on the Range, writersontherange.org, an independent nonprofit dedicated to spurring lively conversation about the West. She is the archivist for the Water Resources Archive at the Colorado State University Libraries. Views expressed do not necessarily represent those of The SUN.





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THINK HAIR

THINK ELIZABETH

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NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING of Pine River Irrigation District. Notice is hereby

given that the annual meeting of the PINE

RIVER IRRIGAITON DISTRICT will be held

at the Bayfield High School Performing Arts

Auditorium (South Entrance) 800 County

Road 501, Bayfield, CO 81122 on Saturday

January 18, 2025, at 1:00p.m. Sign in will

start at 12:30p.m. As is procedure at such

a meeting, one director will be elected for a

3-year term and any other business that may

properly come before the Board of Directors.

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TOO LATE TO CLASSIFY

References

and reviews

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CONCERNED ABOUT ANOTHER'S DRINK-ING? Pagosa Springs Al-anon Family Group meets Tuesdays 6-7p.m., Pagosa Bible Church. Questions? Call/ text (303)815-8569. www.al-anon.org.

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.

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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Classified Deadline: Tuesday 10 a.m.

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Full-time position with a starting salary of \$49,496-\$54,711 for a 250-day work schedule

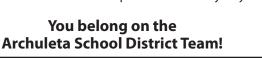
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