



The Pagosa Springs

SUN

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PAGOSA SPRINGS, ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO 81147

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SUV driver charged in Jan. 29 crash with school bus

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

The driver of the SUV involved in the Jan. 29 crash that included a school bus has been charged with careless driving causing bodily injury, according to Pagosa Springs Police Chief William Rockensock.

Several children from the bus were taken to Pagosa Springs Medical Center (PSMC) for minor injuries, where they were treated and released.

The two-vehicle crash left the driver of the SUV, identified as Bret Smith, 54, of Pagosa Springs, in critical condition.

The bus was transporting Pagosa Springs Elementary School students, Archuleta School District Superintendent Rick Holt indicated shortly after the crash.

According to Rockensock, there were 25 children and a driver on the bus.

Rockensock indicated Tuesday the Pagosa Springs Police Department (PSPD) was recently able to speak with Smith regarding the crash.

According to Rockensock, Smith “made the claim” he doesn’t remember the accident or what he was doing that may have caused it, but that
■ See Crash A8

Planning commission to move forward with drafting new short-term rental regulations

Density caps and adjacency rules on the table

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

The Archuleta County Planning Commission heard a presentation on the density and impacts of short-term rentals (STRs) from Planner Justin Griffin at its Feb. 22 meeting and voted to direct staff to create new regulations based on it.

Griffin opened his presentation by explaining that the issue of density caps for STRs was raised at Jan. 24 planning commission meeting and that the Planning Department was providing the commission with additional information on density caps in other communities and the impacts of STRs to help inform the commission.

He added that no motion was being presented to the commission and that the presentation was intended to be informational.

Griffin stated that the planning staff compared Archuleta County to Rio Grande County, which contains South Fork and Del Norte; Chaffee County, including Buena Vista, Poncha Springs and Salida; and La Plata County, containing Durango and

Bayfield.

He stated that these comparisons include consideration of the growth and demographics of each county and what regulations are in place in the counties.

He indicated that all the municipalities listed in the counties have some type of density cap on STRs and that Chaffee County also has an STR density cap, although Rio Grande and La Plata counties do not.

He commented that Archuleta County is closest in population to Rio Grande County, but that South Fork only makes up a small portion of the county’s population and the rest of the county is not particularly mountaintop or attractive to tourists.

He stated that Chaffee County is significantly larger than Archuleta County but, if you exclude two of the county’s three municipalities, it is “extremely similar” to Archuleta County in size and demographics.

Thus, Chaffee County is “our best analog,” Griffin said.

Griffin’s slides also included the information that Chaffee County
■ See Regulations A8

Commissioners hear about upcoming paving projects

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

The Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) discussed upcoming county paving projects, including work on North Pagosa Boulevard and County Road (CR) 119, with Public Works Director Mike Torres at its Feb. 27 work session.

Torres explained that he consulted with Mike Davis of Davis Engineering to help determine road paving priorities.

He stated that they identified repaving North Pagosa Boulevard between U.S. 160 and Bastille Drive as a priority.

He explained that this area was slated for paving last year, but was not completed, and that he wanted to add paving on Navajo Trail Drive from North Pagosa Boulevard to near the car wash due to that area being in poor condition.

He stated that, due to the potential for the intersections between North
■ See Paving A8



Photo courtesy Kevin Bruce, Wolf Creek Ski Area

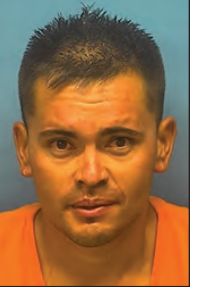
A snowboarder enjoys falling snow and powder conditions at Wolf Creek Ski Area recently. As of Wednesday, March 6, the ski area reported a season-to-date snowfall of 244 inches. According to SNOTEL data, the Wolf Creek summit was at 90 percent of the median for snow water equivalent on Wednesday.

Suspect sought in stabbing incident

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

Local law enforcement personnel are seeking the suspect in a recent stabbing incident.

According to Detective Boyd Neagle of the Pagosa Springs Police Department, in the early morning hours of Feb. 28, an officer responded to Pagosa Springs Medical Center after someone went to the Emergency Room reporting being stabbed.



Rodriguez

The man was stabbed in the back, with the injuries reported as not being life threatening, Neagle noted.

The officer, according to Neagle, spoke with the victim that morning and later in the day, at which point the victim advised he knew who stabbed him, but not why.

The suspect was identified as Martin Rodriguez, 29, of Pagosa Springs. Neagle noted an officer later spotted the suspect driving, with the suspect fleeing on foot with another unknown individual.

Neagle reported a warrant was issued for Rodriguez for assault in the first degree, a felony 3; vehicular eluding, a felony 5; and violating a protection order, a misdemeanor 1.

Rodriguez is described as being 5-foot-7-inches tall and 180 pounds.

Anyone with any information on the location of Rodriguez is asked to contact Neagle at (970) 264-4151, ext. 241 or Archuleta County Combined Dispatch at (970) 731-2160.
randi@pagosasun.com

Trump, Biden win in Archuleta County vote

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

The unofficial results of Tuesday’s presidential primary have been released, with Archuleta County voters voting in line with the state as a whole.

On the Democratic side, Joseph R. Biden Jr. was the top vote-getter in Archuleta County and Colorado, while Donald J. Trump received the most votes at both levels for the Republican ballot.

“Kudos to my staff and election judges for another successful election,” Archuleta County Clerk and Recorder Kristy Archuleta wrote in an email to The SUN, adding a thank

you to the Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Association for the use of its clubhouse as a second Voter Service and Polling Center.

In the email, Archuleta acknowledges the printing mistake where voters received ballot packets with their middle names printed twice, stating, “I am currently on the hunt for another print vendor to hopefully avoid any errors for future elections.”

A total of 5,251 ballots were cast in Archuleta County out of 13,059 eligible voters (active and inactive), making for a voter turnout of 40.21 percent.

That beats the state’s turnout of 35.98 percent of active voters.

In the election, unaffiliated voters

had the option to vote in either the Democratic or Republican primary.

The following vote totals were as of Wednesday morning.

A total of 1,462 ballots were cast in the Democratic race, with 86.55 percent of Archuleta County voters, or 1,255 voters, opting for Biden. Across the state, 83.55 percent of voters in the Democratic race voted for Biden.

The second highest vote total at both levels is for a noncommitted delegate, with 6.07 percent, or 88 voters, in Archuleta County voting for that option. Across the state, 8.13 percent voted for the noncommitted delegate.

Other Archuleta County vote totals are as follows: Dean Phillips

logged 41 votes, Jason Michael Palmer garnered seven, Stephen P. Lyons logged six, Armando “Mando” Perez-Serrato tallied five, and Gabriel Cornejo and Frankie Lozada each logged two.

Of the 1,462 ballots cast in the race, 1,450 chose a candidate.

On the Republican side, 3,789 votes were cast, with 3,753 of those votes choosing a candidate.

Trump tallied 2,521 votes in Archuleta County — 67.17 percent of the vote. Across the state, he took 63.27 percent of the vote.

Nikki Haley followed at both levels, with 1,108 votes, or 29.52 percent
■ See Vote A8

PAWSD offices close to public due to security concerns

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

In a Feb. 28 press release circulated to customers, the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD) announced that it would be closing its offices at 100 Lyn Ave. to the public on March 1 until further notice “per guidelines set forth by the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency.”

The PAWSD Board of Directors previously discussed a closure of the office due to concerns about security issues at the office and increased amounts of aggression directed by customers and members of the public at staff.

These concerns and the district’s plans were covered in the Jan. 4 issue of The SUN.

District Engineer/Manager Justin Ramsey explained in an interview that the office closure is a response to these concerns and the completion of previously announced plans to close the PAWSD offices.

He added that PAWSD is working on having a security analysis of its plants and offices done by an outside contractor to help improve security.

However, Ramsey indicated that this will have to be completed in phases due to the cost of the analysis being unexpectedly high.

Appointments will be available for customers or community members to

speaking with PAWSD staff at the office.

The press release notes that there are several options for customers to pay their bills with the office closure.

These options are cited for paying bills:

- Bills can be paid by placing the payment in the locked drop box in the driveway before the gate and near the fill station at the PAWSD offices at 100 Lyn Ave. The drop box is located in a slot in the PAWSD brick sign, according to the press release.

- Payments should be by cash or check and placed in an envelope with the name and account number of the customer written on it, the release states.

It adds that customers should be

sure to distinguish between fill station and utility accounts.

It also states that the drop box is checked each morning and payments are posted by noon, so customers should “plan accordingly to ensure timely payment.”

- Customers can pay by phone, the release indicates, including by calling the PAWSD office at (970) 731-2691 or by calling Xpress Bill Pay at (800) 768-7295, ext. 2.

- Customers can pay online at www.xpressbillpay.com, the release indicates.

It adds that customers can register on Xpress Bill Pay to make payments, manage their account and set up
■ See PAWSD A8

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Opinion

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Pagosa Springs
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OUR VIEW

A lot more to come

"The polls have closed."
 After the clock struck 7 p.m. on Tuesday evening and the announcement was made, teams of election officials set out to check, empty and lock drop boxes; transport ballots; continue counting ballots; verify signatures; and more.

We've observed election night counting numerous times over the years, waiting to receive results to report, and we've seen a lot of changes in the process in that time. Counting machines have shrunk, and the ability to count ballots as they come in (without the results being made known until after the polls have closed) has, thankfully, made nights of waiting for results shorter and shorter.

We used to pack several drinks and snacks to get us through the long hours of waiting. This week, we only took one water bottle and barely touched the work we took to work on while we observed and waited.

But the quick results don't mean fewer are voting or that the matters are less important.

Whether you're pleased with the results of Super Tuesday or not, we're now a step closer to the November election, which will feature not only the race for president, but

a number of important races taking place a little closer to home.

Colorado is still in the midst of political caucuses and assemblies to help determine what voters will see on upcoming ballots. After that comes another primary. Then the General Election.

That means there's a lot more to come. There will be a lot more rhetoric, a lot more promises, a lot more information (and misinformation), a lot more political mail and a lot more of, well, a lot more.

We'll be the first to say that politics is not our cup of tea. We often find that youth we interact with have better problem-solving and interpersonal skills than many of the politicians (from across the political spectrum) we see on the news.

But, that doesn't mean we should be apathetic.

Locally, we'll see several key positions up for grabs: Archuleta County commissioner for District 1, Archuleta County commissioner for District 2 and Archuleta County coroner.

With only three commissioners making up the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners, the vote in two districts has the potential to change the trajectory

of the county or keep it largely the same depending on what residents want. Both races currently feature veteran commissioners and newcomers.

Multiple candidates are already advertising in the race to try to help people understand how their skills and experiences would help them in that job.

On a more regional level, we'll be looking to elect a new district attorney for the 6th Judicial District, a representative for Congressional District 3, Colorado Senate District 6 and Colorado House District 59.

Despite feeling like election season has lasted for about 12 years now, it's only just begun. The state primary is set for June 25.

If you're eligible to register to vote but have not done so, we encourage you to. It's an easy process.

If you're registered, but haven't voted in a while, we encourage you to vote in the upcoming elections. It's also an easy process.

Each of these positions has the opportunity to help or harm us here in Archuleta County. It will be on each one of us to do our homework for each race to make an informed vote for the sake of our community, our state and our nation.

Randi Pierce

LEGACIES

By Shari Pierce

100 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
 March 7, 1924

By a vote of six to one the taxpayers of School District No. 1 last Saturday afternoon voted in favor of the issuance of \$75,000 in bonds for the purpose of erecting a new school building in Pagosa Springs to take the place of the one destroyed by fire in January. The actual vote was 145 to 24, as the result was never in doubt — merely a question as to the majority.

Following the election, the school board on Monday let a contract to The Desjardins Company, architects of Denver and Pueblo, to draw the plans and to supervise the construction of the building accepted.

The next question is the matter of the school site and the air is full of pros and cons concerning about every piece of property within the town limits. We were informed yesterday that the matter would be submitted to the people, as was originally promised, but no definite time has been set nor the details yet arranged.

75 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
 March 4, 1949

The special school election held last Saturday for the purpose of voting on the unification of districts numbers 1, 16, 9, 14 and 4 resulted in a vote against the proposal in two districts. The vote against was in District 3 or the Dyke district and there was no vote cast in District 16, the Bayles District. The Dyke District was the key district in the matter as the districts to the west could not unify unless it did because of geographical boundaries.

The local school board and the boards in the interested districts are studying other methods of accomplishing this unification. The smaller schools are just not able to operate under present regulations and salary requirements. School District One will continue with their building program, which was started before the question of the school unification came up. The other districts, even if the unification had been or is accomplished would not have been obligated for any of the funds for this program. Nor would they have been obligated for the bonded indebtedness of School District One.

About ten and three-fourths inches of snow fell during the past week and this is the first week for several months that there has not been a below zero night although one night registered just zero. The snow continues to thaw and all side roads are getting sloppy as are the streets and alleys of the town.

50 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
 March 7, 1974

Bill Lynn and Ralph (Hoppo) Yamaguchi were named as the outstanding boxing coaches in the San Juan Basin at a boxing meet in Aztec last weekend. The two men sponsor the Pagosa Springs Club and have been responsible for many young boys becoming interested in the sport and good sportsmanship. The trophy and award was given on the basis of conduct of members of the club, boxing style, and coaching results. This was a well deserved honor.

The Pagosa Golf Club and proshop and club house is nearing completion, according to word from Bud McGonnagil, golf pro at the club. The club house is a very attractive structure, will be complete with pro shop, locker rooms, equipment sales and other facilities. It will be ready for use when the golf club opens for the 1974 season and is a handsome and attractive addition to the recreation facilities at Pagosa in the Pines.

25 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
 March 4, 1999

Accord was reached here Tuesday between the Upper San Juan Humane Society and the Archuleta County Commissioners concerning application for 40 acres of Bureau of Land Management land located near Stevens Field.

The agreement was reached at the regular meeting of the county commissioners. Attending the meeting was Charlie Higby, a BLM field office representative.

Discussed was the proper process for the Humane Society to follow in order to obtain a portion of the 40 acres for future expansion. After listening to Higby, a verbal agreement was reached allowing the Humane Society to apply for 10 acres of the property. The county will amend its application to read 30 acres instead of 40 acres.

Representing the Humane Society was Mary Jo Coulehan. Coulehan said the present animal shelter needs to move in order to expand and to find a location where "barking dogs do not irritate neighbors. When the present shelter was built 15 years ago, there were no neighbors in the vicinity."



From the Feb. 20, 2003, Pagosa SUN — Mike Valdez works to warm a female elk calf rescued from Lake Hatcher. The calf fell through the ice near one of the aerators. Members of the Upper San Juan Search and Rescue and the Pagosa Fire Protection District worked to pull the animal to safety. She was later released in the Turkey Springs area.

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I WANNA CONGRATULATE YOU ON YOUR FORECAST FOR TODAY...

WEATHER HOTLINE

...TH' PART ABOUT "OCCASIONAL GUSTS!"

Barry '00



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.

Smoke and mirrors

Dear Editor: As we move into election season you can expect to see declining numbers of illegal border crossers. The border is the biggest issue for most voters, and the Biden Administration needs to give the impression they are doing something about the problem if they have any hope of winning in the Fall. What changes can you expect to see?

Instead of the single, military age men that pose a threat to our secu-

city, mainstream media will highlight families looking for a better life.

However, like almost everything done by Biden and company, this downturn in numbers at the border will be all smoke and mirrors because the administration has figured out a way to keep the American people in the dark once again. Our Homeland Security Department has established facilities in Central and South America where they process illegals before flying them directly into the United States, bypassing the border and any news cameras stationed there.

According to the Associated Press, illegals - oh excuse me, "newcomers" - entering the US in this way are being granted asylum before boarding planes. This way when they arrive in the United States, they are considered refugees who have already met the requirements to be legally allowed to live and work here.

The reporter doing the heavy lifting on this story is Ben Bergquam of Real America's Voice. He and his partner, Oscar Ramirez, have been to the Darien Gap four times and have observed firsthand what is happening with this smuggling operation. According to Bergquam, the Biden Administration, the UN, and NGOs (non-government organizations) paid with taxpayer money are all complicit with the cartels in this operation.

During interviews with some of the asylum seekers waiting to board flights to the United States, Ramirez learned that even they recognized the dangers in this operation. Ramirez was told by some people boarding flights that they were worried about the possibility of terrorists being on the flights heading north into the heartland of America and the possibility of Americans being killed as a result.

There is much more to this story, including videos shot by Bergquam and Ramirez, so for a deeper dive I would encourage you to visit The Gateway Pundit, (thegatewaypundit.com). This story can be found under the heading, "Massive Groups of Military Age Males." The story may have rotated to a back page, so use the search function to find it. Watch the videos - they will shock you.

Why is this being done by the Biden Administration? In addition to the obvious optics a reduced border flow would portray before an election, I believe it is all part of a plan by the globalists and elites in this country to destroy America and our way of life. The United States stands for freedom and until we can be brought to our knees, we will remain a beacon of hope and a thorn in the side of those who would rule the world. We need to wake up.

Milt Dodge

Initiative 89

Dear Editor: Volunteers are circulating peti-

tions to place on the November ballot Initiative 89, which would protect women's reproductive rights. As a constitutional amendment this initiative will ensure that women and their doctors make their own decisions concerning their reproductive actions.

For more information contact Coloradans for Reproductive Freedom (coloradansforreproductivefreedom.com) or Cobalt (cobaltadvocates.org).

Isabelle Emerson

Biden and Trump

Dear Editor: We need to think rationally about the age of the two leading presidential candidates. Would it be better to have younger candidates? Maybe it would be, depending on their experience and temperament. For some reason, the greater criticism seems to fall on Biden even though both of them are old. It is because of his halting gait due to him having broken his foot a few years ago. Also, Biden was a stutterer in his youth which has caused some disfluency when he speaks extemporaneously. Both men have verbal slips, calling people the wrong names, most notably when Trump made a long speech confusing Nikki Haley and Nancy Pelosi. Many elderly people never lose their mental capacity. My mother lived to be 95 and did not lose any short-term memory until a couple of years before her death. All of Biden's advisors and staff members have said that he is alert, engaged, and expertly responsive in staff meetings and when making decisions. None of his advisors have resigned in disgust. We cannot say that about the former president! There must be a record number of "tell all" books written about his erratic, irresponsible, unpredictable, and immoral behavior. We can and will debate who will make the better president for the next four years. But, for me, the choice is clear. I will go for the intelligent, moral, and compassionate Biden over the other guy.

Lynn R. Frederick

Cultivated meat

Dear Editor: Cultivated meat has faced some opposition recently. For those who don't know, cultivated meat is grown from animal cells, without slaughter. Strangely, opponents have argued

both the new protein isn't technologically feasible and it should be banned. You would think, if these folks truly believed the former, the latter shouldn't be necessary.

The truth is cultivated meat faces a number of hurdles before it can be mass produced, but these can be overcome with increased public funding for research into the field. Given the potential animal-welfare, public-health, and environmental benefits of cellular agriculture, forward-thinking legislators should help nurture this nascent industry. It's the right thing to do.

Jon Hochschartner
Granby, Conn.

Trump and Putin

Dear Editor: Trump lives by the art of the deal. In his world view, possession of presidential papers and military information equates to ownership (notwithstanding federal law that clearly states otherwise) and support for Western democracies to oppose tyranny and risk of war cascading through Europe depends on financial contributions without considering the strategic and economic value of US alliances.

Trump's business deals have been less than artful. He squandered much of his vast inheritance on failed ventures like his Atlantic City casino and Trump University. He propped up the Trump organization with fraudulently inflated financials, and he racked up enough losses (or used other tax ploys) to pay less federal tax than most of us who work for a living.

Putin, by comparison, was a Soviet bureaucrat. He didn't inherit great wealth. As politician in a society that jails its dissenters based on sham prosecutions, Putin put in place a program of corruption to shake-down the oligarchs and take control of Russia's industry and resources as his own personal wealth. Don't believe me? FoxBusiness recently wrote that Putin - who officially makes about \$140,000 annually - may rival Elon Musk as the richest person in the world. (Peter Aitken, Feb. 24, 2024, reporting "Putin's net worth is estimated to be between \$70 billion and \$200 billion.")

What does Trump want from government service? The power to pardon himself, his family, and friends

■ See Letters A4

28th Annual Knights of Columbus Lenten Fish Fry



starts February 16

Every Friday, February 16 to March 22
4:30-6:30 pm

Take Out only at Pope John Paul II Catholic Church, 353 S. Pagosa Blvd.

Serving one meal of 2-large fried fish filets, French fries and coleslaw

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Letters

The SUN welcomes letters from readers.

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

All letters must:

- be 500 words or less
- be signed by the author, unless emailed
- include the author's address and daytime phone number
- be received by The SUN by noon on Tuesday (deadline may move up due to a holiday)

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

Letters quoting other people must contain proper attribution.

There is no guarantee letters will be published.

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

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

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

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Bob Hemenger
in the Lounge
Wednesdays, March 6 & 20
5:30-8:30 pm

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Obituaries

Rita M. Werner

Rita M. Werner, 81, of Pagosa Springs, Colo., was called home by our Lord on Feb. 23, 2024, in Midland, Texas. Rita was born in Cedar Falls, Iowa, to Herb and Ruth Lockard on Easter Sunday, April 5, 1942.



Rita lived with her family in Waterloo, Iowa, graduating from East High School in 1960. She attended a community college for a year and started her career as a legal secretary. A few years later, she moved to Denver, Colo., and worked for a law firm. In 1966 she met Walt Werner (Forest Service ranger) while

skiing at Aspen. After a four-month whirlwind of dating, Walt and Rita eloped in Sydney, Neb., in January of 1966. Walt was soon transferred to Winter Park, Colo., and their two kids, Stephanie and Michael, were born. Walt and Rita transferred to Idaho Springs, Colo., for one year and Walt was sent to Washington, D.C., and the family moved to Bowie, Md., in 1971. Walt was again transferred to Durango, Colo., in 1974. Both Walt and Rita were thrilled to be back in their beloved Colorado. Walt was transferred to Pagosa Springs, Colo., and the family followed and moved into their new community in 1980. Mom became active in the community. She had a small legal secretary business, was active with the Chamber of Commerce and went to Our Savior Lutheran Church. She soon became the deputy court clerk at the Archuleta County Courthouse until her retirement. She and Walt

were active in their kids' lives, taking them on grand adventures, camping, rafting, skiing or cheering them on through their various activities. Mom had 25 wonderful years of marriage to her beloved Walt, who passed away in 1991. She continued to live in Pagosa Springs after her husband's death. She remained active, playing cards, going to events in Pagosa, traveling with her friends and family, dancing, and being a social butterfly who loved to laugh and enjoy her life. She moved to Midland, Texas, to be close to Stephanie. She missed Pagosa Springs very much, but she kept up her "social butterfly" and did endear herself to her aides/nurses and made some new friends, too. She touched many lives, and she will be greatly missed.

Rita was preceded in death by Walt (husband), Herb and Ruth Lockard (parents), stepmom JoAnn Lockard, brother Al Lockard, in-laws

Alex and Iva Werner, two nephews, and a great niece.

Rita is survived by her daughter, Stephanie Marton (Paul); son Michael Werner (Carol Viau); brother Robert Lockard; and many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

A memorial service will be held in Pagosa Springs, to be determined. Graveside will be held in Greeley, Colo., where she will be laid to rest next to her beloved husband, Walt.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to her favorite charities, St. Jude (<http://www.stjude.org/>), Alzheimer's Association (<http://www.alz.org/>) or Our Savior Lutheran Church, Pagosa Springs (<http://www.oslcpagosa.org/>).

Arrangements are entrusted to Willowbrook Funeral Home and Cremation Services of Midland, Texas. To place online condolences, please visit www.willowbrk.com.

Letters

Continued from A3
from their crimes. The power to replace civil service with patronage appointees who will do his bidding. The privatization of federal assets and enterprises. (Ask your friends stuck with Medicare Advantage how that's working out.) And control over your personal freedoms by judges who want to return society to Puritans. Why? For his personal benefit and aggrandizement.

I know some people believe Trump is a patriot who will uphold the presidential oath to protect and defend the Constitution. If you fall in that camp and overlook all evidence to the contrary, I'm sure he'd also be glad to sell you a bridge that crosses the East River from Manhattan to Brooklyn.

Candace Jones

Oil and gas bill

Dear Editor:
According to the Epoch Times, Colorado's Democrat controlled state government has introduced a new bill that will stop oil and gas development in our state. This nonsensical bill will target Colorado's largest private industry which, according to IBIS World, generates 37 billion dollars of economic benefit to our state. Its passage would definitely cause our

state to lose a lot of tax revenue.
A thinking person might ask why Colorado Democrats would do this when any fifth grader knows that reducing the availability of anything, in this case oil and gas, makes it more expensive. Lower income Coloradans are already struggling with high food prices, why make them pay more to drive their cars, pay more to use natural gas or propane to heat their homes, pay more to landlords because they must raise rents to cover increased utility bills, etc?

Perhaps Colorado Democrats are under the delusion that shutting down our state's oil and gas industry will help stop climate change, global warming, etc. NEWSFLASH to Colorado's Democrat legislators: The earth has had warming, cooling, storms, floods, drought, etc. since time began. To think that passing this harmful law will change that is a pipe dream that will especially harm poorer Colorado families.

Meanwhile, the rest of the world has moved on with China and India building numerous new coal plants. Even Germany has cut back on the climate change kool-aid after Russia cut them off from cheap natural gas causing the Germans to start burning coal again to heat their homes.

Yet, here in Colorado our legisla-

tors want to do away with the cheap and secure benefits of oil and gas. This even though the Colorado Oil and Gas commission points out that we have some of the cleanest energy in the world because of state-of-the-art techniques and strict regulations. Hopefully, Colorado voters will awaken someday to the fact that our Democrat legislators are more interested in chasing climate pipe dreams than in helping families struggling to pay their bills.

Charles Newton

Religion in politics

Dear Editor:
A couple of weeks ago, the Conservative Political Action Conference, CPAC, commenced with a welcome from Jack Posobiec, a right wing activist who was instrumental in ginning up the Pizzagate conspiracy theory. Here are his words: "Welcome to the end of democracy. We are here to overthrow it completely. We didn't get all the way there on January 6, but we will endeavor to get rid of it and replace it with this right here." He held up his fist with a dangling cross necklace and went on: "After we burn that swamp to the ground, we will establish the new American republic on its ashes, and our first

order of business will be righteous retribution for those who betrayed America."

I just wanted to alert people that the Christian Nationalists are now saying the quiet part out loud. That quote chills me to the core. As it should everyone including those members of our community that think having a Christian nation is a good idea. Consider the possibility that the ascendant version of Christianity is not yours. It might chafe a bit to have the law of the land based on a theology that you don't agree with — what irony!

The term "chafe" is understating what it's like to live in a theocracy. You should check out life in Iran or google "religious persecution", the "Inquisition" or "Salem witch trials" if you think theocracy sounds heavenly. This is why, back in the day, Baptists worked with Thomas Jefferson to guarantee the prohibition of a state religion in our constitution. Freedom of religion should also be understood as freedom from religion — don't force your particular band of religion on me and I'll be likewise considerate. I'm pretty sure most Christians are not trying to overthrow democracy. To those who think it might be a good idea, be careful what you wish for.

Lee Stopher

Record number of Coloradans apply for energy assistance through LEAP

By John Rosa
Colorado Department of Human Services

Colorado's Low-income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP) has received a record number of applications this winter heating season.

As of February, more than 112,000 Coloradans have applied for the program, a 4.4 percent increase over last season.

LEAP helps eligible individuals and families pay a portion of winter home heating costs by making a onetime payment directly to the utility company on behalf of each LEAP-eligible household. This season, eligible families can expect to receive between \$200 to \$1,000 in energy assistance, depending on the type of heating fuel, household income and other factors.

Applications will be accepted through April 30.

"Recent data shows that we are spending more of our income on food than we have in over 30 years. This leaves less money available for other household necessities like home energy bills," said Theresa Kullen, LEAP manager. "LEAP helps alleviate some of this financial burden. We encourage all

Coloradans who think they may be eligible to apply."

To qualify for LEAP, Coloradans may have an income of up to 60 percent of the state median income. This equates to a household income of less than \$71,112 a year for a family of four.

For a further breakdown of income requirements, visit the LEAP website. Additionally, LEAP recipients must pay home heating costs directly to a utility company or landlord as part of their rent and have at least one U.S. citizen or permanent legal resident of the U.S. living in the household.

In addition to home heating bill assistance, LEAP recipients may be eligible to receive furnace repair and replacement in heat-related emergencies and weatherization services pending the results of a home energy audit.

To access an application, visit the LEAP website. Online applications are processed through the Colorado PEAK system. You can also call the HEAT HELP line at (866) HEAT-HELP [(866) 432-8435] to receive an application via mail or email or visit your county department of human services office to pick up or drop off an application.

Dems plan caucus, assembly, convention

By John Porco
Archuleta County Democratic Party

In accordance with Colorado state law, the Archuleta County Democratic Party will hold its caucus, assembly, and convention on Saturday, March 9.

The caucus starts at 9:30 a.m., and the assembly and convention will follow immediately after adjournment of the caucus.

The events will be held virtually via Zoom. To ensure eligibility, pre-registration is required to attend the events. Go to archuletaadems.org to preregister. You must preregister by 7 p.m. on Friday, March 8, to participate and receive a link to the event.

Everyone is welcome to participate in the caucuses, but only those who meet certain criteria will be allowed to vote. If you live in Archuleta County and were registered as a Democrat on or before Feb. 17, you are eligible. In addition, 16- and 17-year-olds who preregistered as Democrats by Feb. 17 are eligible.

Note that if you are registered as unaffiliated, you are not eligible to vote in the caucus, but you will be able to vote in the June general primary election.

If you plan to attend your caucus,

it is worthwhile to ascertain what election precinct you live in. You can find out by going to govotecolorado.com and clicking on "Find My Registration." Enter the requested information on name and birth date and click on search. Finally, click on the "County and District Information" tab to find your precinct. This will facilitate the organization of participants into precinct breakout rooms during the Zoom caucus.

All caucus attendees will automatically become delegates to the county assembly, which will follow the caucus. A person must attend the caucus to be a delegate to the assembly.

At the assembly, preference polls will be conducted for CU regent-at-large. Five delegates to each of the State House District 59, Congressional District 3, State Senate District 6, Judicial District 6 and the state assemblies will also be selected. All of these assemblies will be conducted virtually in April.

Candidates for various offices have been invited to participate in the caucus and assembly by live Zoom link or video.

Questions can be directed to the County Chair Carl Young at (602) 791-0518. Information is also available on the party website, archuletaadems.org.

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Business

Commissioners discuss licensing property managers

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

At a Feb. 20 work session, the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) discussed licensing for property managers and the prospect of shifting county short-term rental (STR) regulations from the Archuleta County Land Use Regulations (LUR) to an ordinance.

Development Director Pamela Flowers opened the discussion of licensing for property managers by explaining that the county currently has no mechanism to control or incentivize good performance and obedience to regulations from property managers.

She added that the departments she oversees have frequently had difficulties with property managers who attempt to "circumvent the rules."

Flowers commented that, currently, she has no way to punish these violations except by taking action against the owners of the property managed, which she indicated has not been effective.

If the county moves its current regulations on STRs from the LUR to an ordinance, Flowers explained, that would allow the county to implement licensing and set standards of behavior for property managers.

She stated that creating licensing would give the county something that could be taken away when property managers violate county regulations, which would incentivize good performance.

Flowers added that changing the regulations to an ordinance would not give the county significant additional powers or enforcement tools beyond implementing licensing.

County Attorney Todd Weaver commented that shifting STR regulations to an ordinance and thus shifting STR permits to a license could

add additional "teeth" to the county's regulation of STRs.

Commissioner Ronnie Maez asked if the permits would require current property managers to receive additional training or licenses and added that he would oppose requiring any additional elements.

Flowers stated that the county could designate the requirements for the licenses, which could be as simple as requiring attendance at a class on local STR regulations provided by the county.

Weaver added that an ordinance would also allow the county to order advertisement-hosting platforms to remove advertisements for unpermitted STRs.

Flowers noted that she has had property managers submit falsified documents to the county as well as encourage violations of the guest number limits included in their STR permits.

In response to a question from Commissioner Veronica Medina, Flowers stated that she has spoken with Sheriff Mike Le Roux about the document falsification, which she noted is a felony, but he indicated that such falsifications are difficult to prove.

Medina commented that she agrees with property managers being "held accountable," but that she wants to ensure that the county does not "overstep" such as by requiring property managers to take class on county regulations.

She added that property managers should know the relevant laws and ordinances, and violations could be punished by losing their license.

Flowers stated that she would accept not having a required class, but would like to provide an optional class or training materials to help prevent mistakes.

Flowers added that she was look-

ing for direction from the BoCC for her to work with Weaver to transform the STR regulations into an ordinance.

Maez raised concerns that the implementation of ordinances would grow and eventually all businesses in the county would be required to have a license.

Flowers and Weaver noted that the county cannot implement licenses for all businesses in the county.

Commissioner Warren Brown asked how the county currently handles issues with property managers.

Flowers explained that the county currently can only take action against the property owners and that such action has proved ineffective at both improving the behavior of managers and getting owners to switch to more effective managers.

Brown asked how many problematic managers are in the area.

"There's a few that I always look very closely at what they're doing because I suspect that they may be trying to twist the rules," Flowers said. "A handful that are a real problem, but they have a few hundred properties that they manage."

She noted that this means that the community has hundreds of STRs that are likely operating "out of bounds" until the Planning Department can locate and attempt to correct violations in the regulations.

Flowers added that the total number of people who would need a property manager license is "less than 20."

In response to a comment from Maez, Flowers emphasized that the current approach to enforcement may temporarily return property managers to compliance on specific issues, but is extremely time consuming and not effective at ensuring compliance with all regulations.

Weaver commented that the current enforcement mechanism targets

enforcement at owners who may not be aware of the violations that are occurring.

He added that he is in favor of licensing as it would allow enforcement to target the actual violators.

Medina commented that the licenses would help create consequences for violations in a way that fining the property owner does not.

Flowers then discussed the cost of the licenses, noting that the cost could be minimal and that the main purpose is to give a mechanism to ensure compliance.

"If implemented at a low cost," Maez said, "it does help keep people in line, but it also gives us the ability to take even deeper action if we need to."

Brown asked County Manager Derek Woodman if the county STR committee considered property manager licensing or an ordinance.

Woodman and Flowers stated that the ordinance was not considered, but the committee wanted increased accountability for property managers.

Maez commented that he would not be against implementing licensing as long as it does not come with high costs or require training for the property managers.

Brown commented that the ordinance would be enforced and adjudicated in court, providing independent review of actions on licenses.

Weaver commented that the process for revocation of a property manager license would be spelled out in the ordinance, but revocation could ultimately be subject to review in district court.

Medina concluded the discussion by stating that, based on the discussion, her direction to staff would be to examine what ordinances have been created by other counties and what steps the BoCC would need to take to implement a potential ordinance, as well as to revoke licenses under one.

She added that she would not feel comfortable moving forward with an ordinance until she receives further information.

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LPEA appoints Graham Smith as interim CEO

By Amanda Anderson
La Plata Electric Association

La Plata Electric Association (LPEA) announces the appointment of Graham Smith as the interim CEO to replace Jessica Matlock, who has accepted the CEO position at PNGC Power after serving almost five years as LPEA's CEO.

This change will be effective after Matlock leaves on March 16, 2024.

Smith, who serves as LPEA's general counsel, was appointed by the LPEA Board of Directors and steps

into this dual role with much experience and a deep understanding of the current opportunities and challenges the cooperative is facing.

"We are proud that LPEA's leadership team can rise to the challenge and support the Board of Directors in this time of change," said Ted Compton, board president of LPEA. "Graham is the obvious choice because he currently partners closely with Jessica on all decisions and strategy and will create a consistent and smooth transition."

As interim CEO, Smith will work

closely with LPEA's Board of Directors and leadership team to ensure continuity of operations and strategic planning.

"Stepping into the role of interim CEO is both a privilege and a responsibility. I am deeply committed to guiding LPEA through this transitional period," he said.

The LPEA Board of Directors will conduct a comprehensive, nationwide search for a permanent CEO.

Thanks

Boy Scout Troop 807

Boy Scout Troop 807 would like to thank all those who supported us and attended our 2nd Annual Fundraiser Dinner. We would also like to offer a special Thank You to Vets for Vets, the American Legion, and the Rotary Club for their donations. We appreciate your generosity and kindness.

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Nonprofits invited to 'Resilience in Action' workshop set for April 2

By Briggan Wrinkle

Community Foundation serving Southwest Colorado

In partnership with Knudsen Coaching and Consulting, the Community Foundation serving Southwest Colorado is hosting a professional development opportunity for Southwest Colorado nonprofits through a three-hour workshop tailored for any size organization.

"Resilience in Action: Empowering Southwest Colorado Nonprofits" will delve into the critical aspects of building resilient organizations, covering topics such as organizational structure, succession planning, and leveraging the Let's Do Good Well™ mapping tool as a resource for action planning and implementation.

The workshop will be held in Pagosa Springs at First Southwest

Bank from 9 a.m. to noon on April 2.

Register at www.swcommunityfoundation.org/nonprofit-resources.

This transformative workshop is ideal for:

- Nonprofits of all sizes: Whether you're a small grassroots organization or a large, established entity, this workshop is tailored to meet the needs of nonprofits at every stage of development.

- Strategy leaders: Board members, executives and leadership teams will benefit from gaining deeper insights into building stronger organizations and fostering resilience.

- Anyone seeking to strengthen organizational knowledge and resources: From program managers to volunteers, anyone invested in the sustainability and success of nonprofit organizations will find value in this workshop.



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GALLES PROPERTIES

Commissioners dispute outdoor storage regulation

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

The Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) discussed county regulation of outdoor storage and the nuisance ordinance at its Feb. 20 work session, and ended with a heated debate and direction to staff to look into revising both ordinances.

Development Director Pamela Flowers explained that the departments she oversees have received a large number of complaints about outdoor storage in recent months and that, in reviewing the Archuleta County Land Use Regulations (LUR) on the topic, she found some gaps in the regulations.

She stated that outdoor storage is currently defined as “keeping, for more than 24 hours, in an unroofed area, equipment, goods, material, merchandise or vehicles.”

Flowers added that these regulations do not cover junk or nonfunctional vehicles, which are addressed in the nuisance ordinance.

She also explained that the current LUR allows commercial storage of equipment, goods or other items with a board conditional use permit in the agricultural ranching and agricultural estates zoning districts but this is not allowed elsewhere.

She added that the LUR does not consider storage as an accessory use to a residence, meaning that it is allowed in all zoning districts assuming it follows the standard that all storage is enclosed by a fence, barn, landscaping or other screening to minimize visibility from nearby properties and roads.

Flowers stated that the LUR also states that offices of builders or contractors on residential property without outdoor storage may qualify as a home occupation, but offices with outdoor storage would fall back to the commercial storage rules, which prohibit storage in all but two zoning districts.

She explained that home occupations do not allow for any commercial parking or storage.

Flowers then covered gaps in these regulations, including that some businesses such as water haulers or dog sledding companies cannot qualify for home occupation because they are not building contractors although they operate similarly to them; that some groups, such as real estate agents or plumbers, commonly park their vehicles at their home which is not currently allowed without screening; that all commercial vehicles are treated the same, from dump trucks to buses or pickup trucks; and that the regulations also apply to personal vehicles such as recreational vehicles (RVs), which must be screened, according to the LUR.

Flowers recommended that, at a minimum, the county should expand the rules covering commercial storage by building contractors to cover locations where equipment is stored but not office is present and determine if this type of use should require a permit.

She added that the county should define and establish permitting requirements for commercial activities other than building contractors and either distinguish between personal and commercial outdoor storage or arrange storage rules around the size and type of vehicle involved.

Flowers stated that she looked at the rules in other counties, such as Chaffee County, which have a range of different approaches to the issue.

“That’s the problem, and I’m looking for some guidance on what, if anything, we should do to try to fill the gaps,” she said.

“Well, I don’t care for any of it,” Commissioner Ronnie Maez said.

Flowers noted that eliminating the regulations is also an option.

Maez commented that he spoke with La Plata County Commissioner Marsha Porter-Norton, who stated that her county is less restrictive and does not have a junk ordinance, although it does have rules concerning potential health issues.

“The one thing I would like to see is where, if people have their stuff and they’re storing their stuff, whether it’s junk or not to us or to another individual, one man’s junk is another man’s treasure,” Maez said.

“So, what we gotta do is take that into ... but if they’re attracting a bunch of mice, rats, chipmunks, anything that contributes to a health hazard, I think that needs to be addressed. But, as far as storing your own toys and stuff on your own property that you paid for, on both sides of it, it’s your property. ... We’re not a [homeowner’s association (HOA)], so I’m not going to think about that. If you wanna live in that type of conformity and you want that type of regulation and stuff, then you need to live in an HOA because we have plenty of them.”

Flowers noted that HOAs are the primary source of complaints about storage.

Maez commented that HOAs are trying to use the county as the “enforcer” for rules they should have put into place.

Maez then raised the case of a resident who purchased an agricultural property and parked his heavy equipment on it but was then told he could not.

Flowers noted that she was confused because portions of Maez’s comments related to the nuisance ordinance instead of the outdoor storage rules.

“It all falls under,” Maez said.

Flowers added that there is not currently an agricultural exemption for outdoor storage, although she feels there should be.

Maez commented that he respected Flowers’ opinion, but would likely not agree with it, adding, “I just think we’re over-restrictive in this code and I think when it was passed or put through I don’t think a lot of people read into to see the ... devil in the details. And now that we have more people living here and we have the resources to provide the people to do their job, now it’s comin’ to light.”

Flowers commented that this is the reason why she brings issues before the commissioners to hear their opinions.

She added, in response to a comment from Maez, that most of La Plata County’s residents live in municipalities, while most in Archuleta County do not, which makes them “not comparable” in her view.

Maez commented he does see them as comparable because they are adjoining and that he sees a large number of properties in La Plata County that would be violating the Archuleta County LUR, yet “they’re doing fine.”

Flowers and Maez then argued about a specific case that Flowers indicated is connected to the nuisance ordinance, not the LUR.

County Manager Derek Woodman commented that the two codes are “commingled” due to the nuisance ordinance also covering vehicles.

He added that he does not agree with either regulation, raising the ex-

ample that a truck for snow plowing could not be parked on his property without a license plate even if the truck does not leave his property.

He pointed out that both regulations were created prior to 2010 and that he believes there are “opportunities for refinement” in both.

Woodman noted that many people park RVs, boats or other items in their driveways in violation of the regulations.

“So, I think there’s an opportunity to come in here and put some thought and look at both of these documents and these areas for opportunity for refinement,” he said. “Not to make it more restrictive, but to make it more usable.”

Maez commented that the codes are “raising problems,” such as HOAs attempting to use the county codes to address issues that he believes the HOA should address.

Woodman recommended that staff be directed to examine the codes and look at ways to refine both the outdoor storage rules and the nuisance ordinance.

He added that, while this occurs, he would recommend putting in place a “moratorium in enforcement” on the rules being reviewed.

“I have to tell you, I’m not willing to throw the baby out with the bathwater,” Commissioner Warren Brown said. “Many sections of this is a significant overreach, and it’s not the county’s business to tell people what to do with their property that live outside the HOA to a large degree, but we do need some in place. So, I think where it sounds like that maybe is being entertained, I think we need to work on this and do better, less restrictive, not make it as difficult to live here or do business here and have something that makes sense.”

Commissioner Veronica Medina stated that the direction to staff would be to look at the regulations and to “reduce the restrictions.”

She commented that “a lot of this just needs to go away” due to the county being “way too restrictive,” although she noted she does not want to “throw out the baby with the bathwater” either.

Flowers asked if the county should make a distinction between commercial and personal use, to which Maez and Medina answered no.

Brown commented that the county is “trying to split hairs too much” and has enough regulations that it is “almost impossible to do anything.”

“I think we need some easily definable, densely enforceable, commonsense regulation on this,” Brown said.

“Honestly, what you guys are sayin’, we just need no regulations on this,” Flowers said.

“No, that’s not what I’m sayin’,” Brown responded.

“I’m good with that,” said Maez to Flowers.

“I’m struggling to understand what ...” Flowers interjected.

“I’ll be happy to red line the whole document for you,” Medina added. “If I need to do that I can do that because we’re definitely not saying no regulation. But, there’s a distinct difference between way too much regulation versus let people live on their property.”

“But, if we’re letting them live on their property, what are our regulations supposed to say?” Flowers asked.

“What I think it really comes down to is not enforcing verbatim,” Woodman said. “There is ...”

“What is enforcing verbatim?” Flowers interrupted. “Because if I

don’t abide by ...”

“You can, it’s called discretion,” Woodman countered.

“I’m not allowed to ...” Flowers began.

“I’m not going to argue about this now,” Woodman interrupted. “So, we’ll figure this out.”

“I will make it clear,” Flowers said. “It can be,” Woodman said. “It absolutely can be and it will be.”

“OK, all right,” Flowers said.

Weaver commented that the regulations should be “workable,” adding that if someone has a house and a one acre property, “you shouldn’t be allowed to store 10 dump trucks on your property. That’s not workable.”

“Nobody’s doing that right now,” Maez said.

“But, that scenario ...” Weaver continued.

“Why should it be the county’s responsibility to tell you that you have an acre of land and you can’t store 10 dump trucks?” Medina asked. “Why?”

“Because the neighbors have rights, too,” Weaver responded.

The discussion then evolved into Maez, Weaver, Medina and Flowers talking over each other in raised voices, with Weaver advocating for neighbors having rights, Medina suggesting that this issue is not the county’s responsibility and Maez suggesting that the neighbors should buy out the property of those whose habits offend them.

“I’m not sure if we’re going to be able to resuscitate this dead horse right now,” Brown commented.

The discussion concluded with Maez thanking Flowers and Medina commenting, “Good thing you have a tough skin, girl!”

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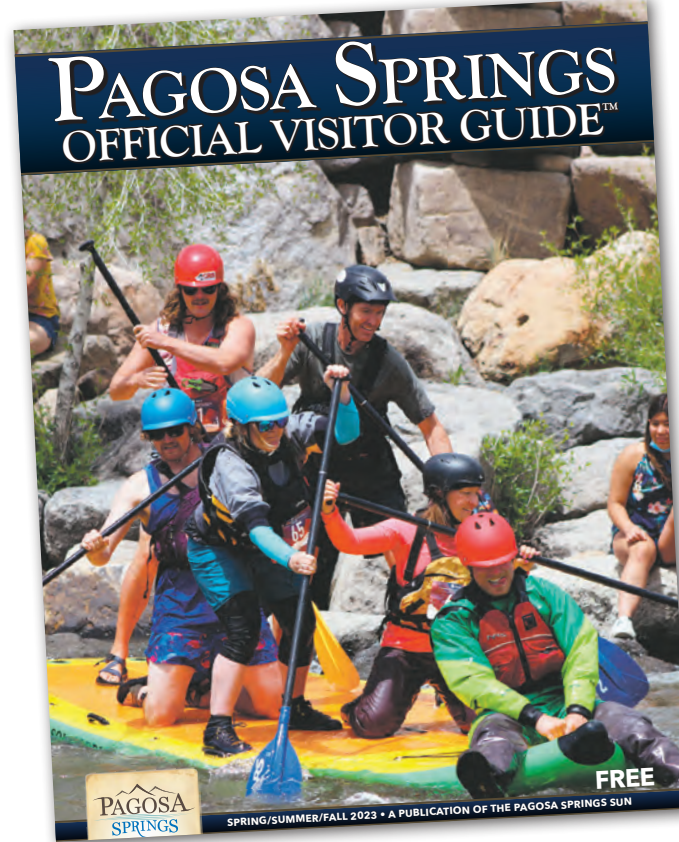
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Judicial launches website for Colorado appellate opinions dating to 1871

Colorado Judicial Department

Published opinions issued by the Colorado Supreme Court and Colorado Court of Appeals dating to 1871 are now easily available free of charge through a new website.

The Judicial Department, through a competitive bidding process, hired a vendor in 2022 to comply with the terms of House Bill 22-1091. The bill called for the Judicial Department to build a website to allow public access to all Supreme Court opinions and all published opinions of the Court of

Appeals, or those opinions selected by that court as setting precedent in case law. Later this year, all Court of Appeals unpublished opinions will be added to the site, <https://research.coloradojudicial.gov/>.

“This new website, offering free and easy access to every opinion by both of Colorado’s appellate courts, provides anybody with important information as they make decisions about their own legal matters or simply seek to study the law,” said Supreme Court Chief Justice Brian D. Boatright. “We were happy to work with the sponsors of this important

legislation to make this valuable service available.”

Boatright also noted he is pleased with the choice of the bill’s short title: the “Justice Gregory Hobbs Public Access to Case Law Act” to honor the memory of the former Colorado Supreme Court justice who was a passionate advocate for improving Coloradans’ access to justice through the courts.

The website will be updated within a day each time new opinions are issued: Mondays for the Supreme Court and Thursdays for the Court of Appeals.

PagosaSUN.com

County moves forward with acquiring grant-funded buses

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

The Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) accepted a 2023 award from the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) for a Federal Transit Administration (FTA) grant for the purchase of three low-emissions, propane-fueled buses at its Feb. 20 meeting.

At the BoCC work session earlier in the day, Transportation Coordinator Kevin Bruce explained that CDOT awarded funding for the buses to the county in 2023 and that, since then, CDOT broke the grant into three parts and altered the match amounts.

He stated that the budget for the

buses was originally approximately \$150,000 but that, because CDOT allowed the county to pursue vehicles compliant with the American Disabilities Act (ADA), this lowered the match amount for the buses to \$137,720.

According to the meeting agenda, the total amount for the award is \$753,118.

He stated that he was asking the board for direction on accepting the awards and finalizing the scope of work for acquiring the buses.

Commissioner Veronica Medina stated that grant awards looked "good" and that she would advise staff to move forward with the process.

Bruce stated that the first step would be to accept the award, fol-

lowed by finalizing the scope of work to purchase the vehicles, and completing maintenance enhancements and workforce training also funded by the grant.

Commissioner Ronnie Maez commented that he would support moving forward.

Commissioner Warren Brown commented that CDOT rarely reduces the match for a grant and added, "I think this is where we're headed anyway. This is just a good opportunity to take advantage of where we are with things."

Bruce added that the BoCC meeting agenda also included the purchase of a bus originally budgeted in 2022 that is supported by another

FTA grant.

The agenda documentation indicates that the total cost of this vehicle would be \$152,605, but that the FTA award would reimburse the county for 80 percent of the cost.

Bruce stated that the bus would likely arrive in June.

He also discussed with the board a federal funding opportunity that would potentially help support the creation of a park-and-ride location in Aspen Springs and was directed to move forward with applying for it by the BoCC.

At the BoCC meeting, the board unanimously approved the purchase of the four buses.

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Archuleta County Public Health Department announces open house

By Ashley Springer
Archuleta County

The Archuleta County Public Health Department (ACPHD) will host an open house on April 3 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at its offices, located at 502 S. 8th St.

Along with Public Health Awareness Week, held April 1-7, the ACPHD encourages the public to stop by the open house for an inside look at its new offices, clinic and a showcase of the programs currently being offered by the department.

"Public health — it impacts everyone in the community," said Executive Director Ashley Wilson. "From restaurants and sanitation to air quality and smoking cessation, the clinic may be the most visible offering, but there's lots of things happening behind the scenes as well."

Wilson added clinic hours currently offer sexually transmitted infection testing and treatment, pregnancy tests, and childhood and adult vaccines.

Wilson's team of nine includes staff members furthering the development of offerings such as health insurance assistance, youth tobacco pre-

vention programs, emergency readiness, family, community services and clinic offerings.

Clinic hours have recently been extended to include Thursday evening, March 18, until 7 p.m., and one Saturday a month from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. March's Saturday clinic will be held on March 16, and April's Saturday clinic is slated for April 13.

More details will be provided as the event nears. For more information, please contact the ACPHD at (970) 264-2409 or email Administrative Assistant Berklee Ruthardt at bruthardt@archuletacounty.org.

Archuleta County to offer Landowner Basics 101 classes Tuesdays in April

By Ashley Springer
Archuleta County

The Colorado State University (CSU) Extension Center will be holding Landowner Basics 101 classes every Tuesday in April.

The program will cover a diverse range of topics geared toward educating new landowners on proper stewardship and how to be mindful of local resources while learning key management principles for care of personal property.

This first class, weed management, taught by County Weed and Pest Supervisor Ethan Proud, will be held on April 1 beginning at 6 p.m.

Proud will cover landowner noxious weed responsibilities, local and state laws governing noxious weeds, and integrated management.

"Property owners in Colorado have a responsibility to act as stewards of the land," said Proud. "Removing and managing invasive plant species is a critical step to promoting healthy landscapes for native plant species, pollinators and wildlife."

Future classes include water basics on April 9, living with wildlife on April 16, forest fire mitigation and evacuation planning on April 23 and, finally, range and soil health on April 30.

"Being a good steward of your land not only helps you, but your neighbors too," commented CSU Director Robin Young. "Understanding how to work with the land and its resources is imperative to conservation for generations to come."

Last year's workshop received

great feedback from residents, saying it was "so informative" and "(as) a new landowner, I now understand a lot more on how to manage my resources."

Hosted by the CSU Extension office, the classes are sponsored by San Juan Conservation District, making them free to the public.



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John Ranson Republican for County Commissioner District 2



"The secret to change comes not from fighting the old, but in building the new."

— Socrates

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COMMITTED

John volunteered to serve as a Financial Task Force member in 2007 when Archuleta County discovered a serious financial crisis. Following that, John served for a period of time as County Commissioner. In addition, he recently sat on the committee to form, and budget for, Archuleta County's new Health Department. He has an unwavering commitment to the fiscal health and well-being of our County. John's leadership, as Commissioner and Task Force Member, not only rescued the county from financial turmoil, but also set the stage for a prosperous future.

KEY PRIORITIES

- 1) Provide financial restraint in order to invest the amount required, not only to maintain, but improve OUR ROADS.
- 2) Invest more into infrastructure that can add to our economic growth — TECHNOLOGY.
- 3) Build stronger and better working relationships.



OPPORTUNITIES

- 1) Roads — not just maintain, but IMPROVE
- 2) Implement NEW Budgetary Process
- 3) Work TOGETHER as a Board and Community

CHALLENGES

- 1) Landfill — highest priority! Expense and liability reasons
- 2) County Administration Building Location
- 3) Financial Management — Debt

To learn more about John Ranson's campaign:
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Re-elect Warren Brown County Commissioner District 1



Archuleta County, I humbly ask for your support in my re-election bid for District 1 County Commissioner.

During my next term, I want to **focus my efforts to improve our infrastructure** including roads, buildings, human capital and partnerships.

My plan is an **outcome-based, data driven strategy** to provide consistency in scheduling road and building maintenance, improvements and replacement.

By identifying and publishing the county's **medium and long range infrastructure needs**, the taxpayers and the commissioners can better assure the correct decisions are being made.

Archuleta County should be a place everyone should want to work. Creating **strategic recruiting and retention hiring processes** that recognize and reward the employee's performance will better assure continuity of operations and longer retention of employees.

Lastly, I plan to **build upon our valuable relationships** with local business owners, citizens, and stakeholders, while being a good partner to our regional, state and federal counterparts.

Now is the time to keep moving forward and continue getting things done.
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Regulations

■ Continued from front

contains 10,837 housing units for its 20,074-person population, while Archuleta County contains 13,726 housing units for its 13,790-person population.

Griffin commented that one of the major differences between the counties is that only 7 percent of Archuleta County's residences are contained in the Town of Pagosa Springs, while 47 percent of Chaffee County's residences are located within its three municipalities.

He pointed out that STR regulation is often left to town governments, but commented that this approach has a low impact in Archuleta County since the vast majority of housing units are not in the town.

In Chaffee County, Griffin explained that the county currently caps STRs at 310 permits for the county, resulting in an effective 5.4 percent density cap on STRs once the fact that about 50 percent of residences in the county are within the jurisdiction of municipalities is factored in.

He added that conversations with the planning staff and the public suggested that this cap would likely be too low for Archuleta County, particularly due to the county having more residential units available compared to its population than Chaffee County.

Griffin stated that the Planning Department has identified approximately 800 permitted and unpermitted STRs in Archuleta County, meaning that 6 percent of residences in the community are STRs.

He added that, because the county does not have a cap on STR density, theoretically all housing units in the county could be STRs, although he noted that, "currently we're in a good space."

Griffin moved on to discuss the reasons for why the relatively small number of STRs in the community generate the large number of complaints and concerns that they do.

He stated that the complaints surrounding STRs typically focus on excessive noise, increased neighborhood traffic, trespassing, vandalism and other issues.

"In general, the complaint is that full-time residents do not want to live next to a revolving door of strangers," Griffin said. "Tourists change the character of a neighborhood. They do this by displacing long-term residents, which changes the neighborhood's safety, demographics, stability, economic landscape and sense of community."

He displayed a graph of one county neighborhood with a single long-term resident surrounded by STRs as an example of this problem.

Griffin also presented another

graphic of the neighborhood where he lives, which contains five STRs interspersed with long-term residents.

"This is the goal for the county in general," Griffin said, adding that this density of STRs has not damaged neighborhood cohesion or his quality of living.

However, he noted, other residents in his neighborhood are fully surrounded by STRs and any house could become so since the county has no regulations on density of STRs.

He also noted the case of a multi-family dwelling which contains one long-term resident surrounded by three STRs.

Griffin indicated that he sought comments from this resident, but that she recently listed her home for sale.

He commented that the overall density of STRs in the county is "great" and that most community members he has spoken to would support a 10 or 20 percent density cap.

However, he pointed out that the proximity of STRs to long-term residents and the potential for those residents to become surrounded is a major source of complaints.

Griffin then shared an email the Planning Department received from Mountain Vista Townhomes resident Ronald Barnum which expressed support for density caps on STRs.

The email notes that 10 of the 20 units in Mountain Vista are currently STRs, with the potential for 12 of 20 to become STRs given the units currently for sale.

"Any sense of community or belonging to the community by our owners is sadly past," the email reads. "Density restrictions must be put in place to assist communities like Mountain Vista and stop/reduce the growing number of STRs that reduce communities to nothing more than a motel with no general manager, inadequate parking, exponential liability issues, constant trash problems and 'owners' that contribute nothing... nothing to the good of the community except dues payments and headaches. I don't know what a 'fair' density cap should be but 50 [percent] at Mountain Vista is too much. 'Grandfathering' the current situation doesn't solve the issues either. I hope this topic will be discussed at the upcoming Commissioner Meeting with a much-needed resolution that helps the subject communities and ultimately the citizens of Archuleta County."

Griffin then presented potential solutions to the issue of STRs in the area, including the restriction that no non-STR unit shall have more than one STR adjacent to it and a STR cap of 10 percent per subdivision or multiunit housing complex.

Griffin also presented another

He noted that the cap would not apply to minor subdivisions or rural parcels.

Griffin added that neither of these options would apply to current permits, which would be grandfathered in.

He commented that, with these regulations, reducing density of STRs in neighborhoods would be a slow process, with regulations only taking effect as STR permits are not renewed or properties change ownership.

Planning commission member Dave Pribble stated that he likes the proposed regulations and asked if there would be any mechanism to more quickly remedy high levels of saturation for long-term residents who are surrounded.

Development Director Pamela Flowers commented that this would likely have to happen over time.

"And I certainly don't think there's any appetite on the Board of County Commissioners [BoCC] to do anything anyway, but certainly ... not that would affect people that currently have permits," Flowers added.

The group then discussed how having density caps in place would impact the dynamics of how STRs are sold and purchased in the county.

Planning commission member Matt Nobles commented that he likes the residential density caps, but that he thought such a density cap might be a "really hard stretch" in multifamily units.

Griffin commented that the cap in multifamily units could be higher.

Flowers stated that "others might say" that multifamily units are the most likely places for those working in the community to be able to live and afford.

Griffin stated that his conversations suggested that the rule on how many STRs could be adjacent to a non-STR building was "No. 1 by a

wide margin" in terms of community interest.

He also noted that the adjacency rules would likely count properties across a road, greenbelt or lake as adjacent if they fell within a certain distance measurement.

The group then discussed the complexities of STR density regulations in towns, with Griffin noting that many communities use extremely complex rules surrounding density and locations where STRs are allowed.

Griffin reiterated his comment that the adjacency issue is the most important and noted that complaints are concentrated in areas with large numbers of highly concentrated STRs.

Nobles asked Flowers to speak to the commission about the BoCC's interest in STR regulations.

Flowers commented that she is "not in their head."

Audience member Bill Hudson commented, "They've come a long way ... they're not where I want them to be, but they've come a long way."

"It's hard to say since you need only two out of three," Flowers said. "If you could get two, possibly."

Nobles commented that he finds it "very interesting" that the county is one of the only communities or governments that does not have a cap.

Flowers noted that the first time she brought STR regulations to the BoCC three years ago, there were only 400 STRs in the county, compared to the 800 at present.

"I think it's an addressable issue that we need to start putting some language ...," Nobles said.

Planning commission member Mont McAllister commented that the county's previous STR task force was unable to come to a recommendation about density caps.

Flowers explained that the group identified density and rewriting the STR regulations as priorities and

chose to address rewriting the regulations first.

Once the rewrite was complete, Flowers stated, the group disbanded and did not address density.

"The purpose was to talk about density, and they managed to finagle it to not talk about density," she said.

McAllister indicated the biggest opponents to efforts to implement density caps are real estate agents.

"I think we need to cap 'em, so let's go down the road and see what we can get through this time," he added.

Several commission members commented that STRs are increasing in number before Flowers commented, "Who's going to buy me the T-shirt with the target on it?"

Nobles commented that he would do this and Flowers responded she would get him one.

"I'll wear it proudly," Nobles responded, adding that a 10 percent cap would allow a doubling in STR numbers from their current levels.

Planning commission associate member Jemal Mihalik raised the issue of the impact of STRs on affordable housing.

Flowers explained that most STRs are unsuitable for affordable rental or purchase and would not be converted into such housing, but that STRs in multifamily residences are more likely to convert into affordable housing.

She added that the "larger impact" of the changes in STR regulations would be on quality of life and cohesion in neighborhoods.

Griffin commented that data does not suggest that STRs drive the high housing prices in the area and that any STR regulations should be focused on improving quality of life, although he noted that reducing the number of STRs in multifamily housing would potentially have a small impact on the housing market.

Planning commission member Peter Beaudry commented that he liked the suggestions Griffin presented and made a motion that the commission direct planning staff to bring back language on similar regulations for approval, including provisions that would reduce the amount of STRs in high-density areas as they are sold off.

Griffin noted that the turnover of owners among STRs is higher than that of other housing types and that the density reductions might be faster than expected.

The planning commission unanimously voted to approve Beaudry's motion.

The commission then heard public comments on the issue, including a comment from local real estate agent Lauri Heraty pointing out the potential impact of legislation to raise property taxes on STRs on the local STR market and the potential differences in long-term occupancy potential between multifamily units with garages and without them.

Flowers commented that Heraty's comments were useful and that the upcoming legislation could significantly alter the circumstances concerning STRs in the area.

She added that this legislation will likely have passed or failed by the time she could present regulations to the commission in March, potentially clarifying the situation.

Hudson then made a comment that STRs pay a lower rate of taxes compared to other businesses and that, if they find supporting local governments and services at the same rate as other businesses "oppressive," they should leave the industry.

He also commended the quality of the presentation and Heraty's comments.

"Keep up the good work," he concluded.

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Vote

■ Continued from front

of the votes cast in the race, being in her favor. Across the state, 33.45 percent of the votes went to Haley.

Other Archuleta County vote totals are as follows: Ron DeSantis logged 64 votes, Chris Christie tallied 26, Vivek Ramaswamy garnered 22, Ryan L. Binkley tallied seven and Asa Hutchinson logged five.

On Monday, March 4, the Supreme Court ruled Trump could ap-

pear on the primary ballot, meaning Trump's votes would count.

Following that decision, Colorado Secretary of State Jenna Griswold issued a statement: "The United States Supreme Court has ruled that states do not have the authority to enforce Section 3 of the 14th Amendment for federal candidates. In accordance with this decision, Donald Trump is an eligible candidate on Colorado's 2024 Presidential Primary."

PAWSD

■ Continued from front

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"If you require assistance other than to make a payment, entrance will be by appointment only. Appointments are made Tues, Weds and Thurs - 8:30 - 4:30," the press release states.

It adds that community members can call the main office at (970) 731-2691 to discuss scheduling an appointment.

josh@pagosason.com

Crash

■ Continued from front

he stated he believes he could have fallen asleep.

Rockensock added there are no claims relating to a medical condition causing the crash, and there is no probable cause Smith was under the influence at the time of the accident.

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

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

"Initial information advised a white sport utility vehicle collided

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

The driver of the SUV, the release states, had to be extricated from the vehicle by PFPD personnel.

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

It further states U.S. 160 was closed with the help of the Colorado Department of Transportation and the Archuleta County Sheriff's Office until the accident was cleared at 9:05 a.m.

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Paving

■ Continued from front

Pagosa Boulevard and Navajo Trail Drive, Country Center Drive and Village Drive to be redesigned in the near future, the project would involve milling and relaying the existing asphalt, but would not include any redesign or engineering.

Commissioner Veronica Medina questioned if this would improve the road and how much the county would spend on doing the project "halfway," as Commissioner Ronnie Maez characterized it.

Torres stated that the bids for the project were around \$350,000 last year and that he feels the project would likely cost a similar amount this year.

Medina stated that paving on North Pagosa Boulevard is a "no-brainer," but that she was skeptical of paving on Navajo Trail Drive due to the work being only done "halfway."

"If we're going to do it, let's do it the right way and figure it out," she said.

County Manager Derek Woodman explained that the redesign of intersections to North Pagosa Boulevard has been planned for seven years and that the plan to exclude design and engineering from the paving project is intended to reduce the risks of the county spending large amounts of money on the project and then having to tear up the work to complete a redesign.

Woodman commented that the project is a "Band-Aid," and Torres added that the project is intended to make the roadway "passable without taking the front end out of your car."

Maez commented that the high level of traffic on the road is a justification for a high-quality repair.

He added that, eight years ago, discussions about intersection redesign stalled due to disputes about how to design the intersection and how to pay for it.

"Everybody was all good about it as long as the county was footing the whole bill," he said. "We need to take care of what we need to take care of as a county. If we're responsible for North Pagosa up to Bastille, then we need to do it and do it right."

He added that negotiations about the intersections could occur later and that the road might not have to be torn up since he believes the majority of the conversations would revolve around access points to the road from neighboring businesses.

Torres stated that the county is unsure about what lies beneath the surface of the roads and the maintenance history of the area.

He commented that the repaving would be done to ensure it would last, but would not include full design and reconstruction.

Maez advocated for doing the project "right," noting that previous negotiations stalled due to the conflicting desires of the entities involved and that it is the county's responsibility to take care of the road.

"If the other entities want to come in and throw ... some money down to do what they think is gonna be great or more aesthetic, then come on in and throw some money down and let's get it done right," he said. "But, don't expect Archuleta County to take on the whole weight of that. The road is our responsibility."

Woodman noted that, based on a study from seven years ago, construction in the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) right of way that extends approximately 100 feet down North Pagosa Boulevard would terminate access to the two gas stations closest to the highway.

Maez suggested that the county not do any work in the CDOT right of way and only do repaving in the area under its control.

Woodman commented that CDOT would not maintain the right of way area, but would restrict access to the nearby businesses if a paving project were to occur there.

Medina noted that road conditions are at their worst within the CDOT right of way.

"Why do we have to do what we're not responsible for?" Maez asked.

The group then discussed the issue of public perception, with Maez suggesting that the county should take steps to shift the blame for the road conditions in the right of way onto CDOT and Torres noting that having construction occurring near the right of way but not in it would likely attract public complaints directed at the county.

"I think it's been long enough, we just need to do it," Commissioner Warren Brown said. "I totally get where you're coming from and, from a principled standpoint, I totally agree. But as a citizen, I'm sick and tired of driving through that crap day after day and I don't care who fixes it. As a citizen not as a commissioner, I don't care who fixes it, just fix it."

In response to a question from Maez, Woodman explained that the county paved a portion of CDOT right of way at the junction between Colo. 151 and CR 982 after CDOT gave permission to the county to work in the right of way.

Woodman added that the county already has such permission for the North Pagosa Boulevard right of way.

"Let's mill and repair that first 100 feet and let's fix the rest of the frickin' road," Maez said.

"I can live with that," Brown said. Torres then moved on to discuss repaving work on CR 119, also known as Light Plant Road.

He noted that this will be a "major bypass" during CDOT work on U.S. 160 in downtown Pagosa Springs.

He explained that the road was built in 2002 and chip sealed in 2011 with a length of 2.12 miles.

Torres stated that the base of the road is in good condition and, in

response to a question from Medina, added that the county failed to obtain a CDOT grant to assist in paving on the road.

He stated that the county secured a portion of the grant funds to assist with magnesium chloride application.

Torres stated that work on the project will begin as soon as possible.

Brown commented that the project needs to be completed before the CDOT work begins on U.S. 160 or done after it.

Maez and Torres both noted that the condition of the road would deteriorate significantly if the work was done after the CDOT project, and Brown voiced support for moving forward with the repaving.

Torres stated that the final paving project the county can afford this year is a "full-depth reclamation" on South Pagosa Boulevard from the Town of Pagosa Springs limits to Cameron Place.

He added that he would have designs completed for paving from the town limits to Meadows Drive, although this project would have to be completed later.

He explained that these road projects would cost approximately \$4 million.

Torres stated that this would consume most of the Road and Bridge paving budget and that he would like to spend the remainder of the budget paving smaller roads that have been chip sealed.

In response to a question from Brown, Torres explained that paving the chip-sealed roads would improve the county's ability to maintain and repair them.

He indicated that chip seal is effective on roadways with light traffic, but is not "the answer for everything."

He stated that chip and seal on gravel roads that the county intends to pave later is not effective since the chip and seal would have to be removed prior to paving.

Medina asked if the county has assessed the conditions of roads where work has been completed recently and what the schedule for maintenance will be.

Torres explained that he hopes to have the maintenance work done by a third-party vendor and to keep records of what when maintenance has been completed.

He stated that he has not started on maintenance work for the year due to being focused on putting paving projects out to bid.

He added that, depending on Road and Bridge staffing levels, it could be possible for the department to have a dedicated paved road maintenance crew.

Torres stated that the maintenance plan would involve rating the roads annually and prioritizing based on these assessments.

Brown commented that he would

like to have the scheduled maintenance work publicized to improve public understanding and communication.

Medina recommended that Torres could do trips to view road conditions with commissioners and members of the newly formed Road and Bridge Advisory Committee to improve knowledge of local roads.

Torres commented that he would be open to having the commissioners or others join him to look at road conditions.

Medina asked what the plan for communicating road grading or magnesium chloride application schedules to the public is.

Torres stated that he is investigating software options to communicate where county road work and snow plowing is occurring.

He added that, in terms of magnesium chloride application, the starting location for work this year has not been determined.

He stated that the location tracking software might help improve public communication, but that social media is currently the main tool the department has and that it has been highly effective.

Maez commented that educating the public about the cost of property taxes and the amount that goes to Road and Bridge is critical.

"There's the reality of it," he said. "Because, in reality, we have so many roads and so many people traveling, we don't have enough money to keep up with it. We're always gonna be behind the eight ball. ... And I've repeatedly expressed to people, approximately, if your house is valued at \$250,000, you're contributing about \$45 a year to Road and Bridge."

He explained that the voters could increase the mill levy and dedicate the increase to road maintenance and paving.

"That's the only way we're gonna get ahead," he said. "But, right now, we're behind, and if we keep going at the rate we are right now, we're gonna still stay behind."

Woodman noted that the mill levy Maez referred to generates approximately \$300,000 a year while the county is spending \$4.7 million for new projects out of the general fund.

He added that the overall Road and Bridge budget is around \$7 million.

Maez commented that the funds currently used for Road and Bridge could be dedicated to other infrastructure projects.

County Attorney Todd Weaver commented that the county could use the Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Association (PLPOA) newsletter and other media to communicate to the public about work occurring in PLPOA.

"They're definitely going to be on my call list," Torres concluded.

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Education

Finance director announces retirement from school district

By Robert Moore
Staff Writer

In a recent letter to the Archuleta School District (ASD) staff and community, Superintendent Rick Holt announced that Finance Director Michael Hodgson submitted his resignation effective at the end of the current school year.

In the letter, Holt highlights Hodgson's contributions to the district, stating, "during his tenure, Mike has made significant contributions to our district, spearheading initiatives that have positively impacted our educational community. Under his

leadership, we successfully passed two mill levy overrides, providing essential funding for vital programs and resources."

Holt also notes that Hodgson "played a pivotal role in implementing substantial salary increases for all staff members, recognizing their dedication and hard work."

Holt continues, "We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Mike for his professionalism and unwavering commitment to the betterment of our school district. Personally, I want to acknowledge his incredible depth of knowledge, his dedication to fiscal responsibility, and the healthy financial

position he has left our district. Mike has been an invaluable resource during my transition into the district and his guidance will be greatly missed."

When Hodgson's resignation was addressed at the Feb. 13 Board of Education meeting, board president Bob Lynch told him "We congratulate you; we will miss you. You will be very hard to replace."

Holt also indicated in the meeting that "we will be saddened to begin that search [for Hodgson's replacement], and so we're prepared to post I think tomorrow, and we'll begin that search as soon as possible."

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School board hears about family survey, mid-year report on superintendent

By Robert Moore
Staff Writer

The Archuleta School District (ASD) Board of Education conducted its regular monthly meeting Tuesday, Feb. 13, covering a number of topics, including a report from the District Accountability Committee (DAC), proving mid-year feedback on Superintendent Rick Holt and more.

The board's next regular meeting will be at 6 p.m. Tuesday, March 12 in the middle school library.

DAC presentation

Julie Buchner, chair of the DAC, presented to the board on the DAC focus project for the current academic year, which is the Family-School Relationships Survey.

Buchner stated that this project aligns with two of the responsibilities established for the DAC: assisting the district in implementing the district's engagement policy and assisting school personnel in increasing parents engagement with educators.

Buchner explained that family engagement matters, as "we all want the students of ASD to flourish, and studies have shown that schools that effectively engage families find that their students earn higher grades, score higher on tests, develop better social skills and are more likely to graduate."

She also cited Dr. Karen Mapp to define family-school relationships: "School relationships are a two-way street — schools and districts hoping to improve family engagement must focus on building the capacity of both families and staff around student learning and development. Only then can schools and districts cultivate deep partnerships with families that support student achievement and other key educational outcomes."

Buchner indicated that the DAC would like to measure family-school relationships by asking parents and guardians to provide feedback through a "standardized, thoughtfully developed survey."

Per Buchner, the survey was developed by Panorama Education, a company that is committed "to providing school districts and families the tools to improve two key components of student success — academic progress and wellbeing."

She explained that the survey will help the DAC gather actionable data and help the schools within ASD to better understand how to build effective partnerships with families.

"We intend to use it as a needs

assessment to determine strengths and areas for improvement around family/school relationships," she said. "It will provide us with a clear picture of family attitudes across an array of topics, including family engagement, school climate, learning behaviors, school safety, etc. It will give families the opportunity to share how schools can create a more welcoming school environment support student learning at home, and build lasting partnerships that contribute to student success."

A survey announcement and link was sent in English and Spanish to all ASD families the week of Feb. 19.

Buchner added that both DAC and staff members would be present at parent/teacher conference meetings "so that we can speak with, engage families and promote them to complete the survey ... our dream would be to repeat this annually and to be able to get some comparative data."

Superintendent mid-year feedback

Board president Bob Lynch facilitated a discussion with board members on the mid-year feedback and status of the goals established for Holt.

Regarding the objective to "Retain and Recruit Staff," Holt reported that the salary and benefits committee had not met yet, as the state of Colorado has yet to determine what funds will be allocated for the 2024-2025 school year.

He also indicated that five common Fridays were set as district wide opportunities to improve collaboration across departments and across buildings, and that initial feedback has been positive, saying, it's "the idea of building what I've been calling a collaborative learning culture, trying to get people together to do learning about their craft, and also to build the climate and culture of someplace you want to be and belong."

Holt also stated that the building leaders program is continuing to focus on "providing school-wide professional development aligned to our second strategic outcome, increase student outcomes."

Speaking to "Increasing Student Outcomes," Holt reported that building leaders are tracking the number of coaching cycles per staff member and that all schools continue to show increases in the number of coaching cycles.

He added that the teacher-coaching cohort had completed five of

six whole-group instructional sessions, and teachers are beginning to schedule and conduct individualized professional development with him.

Holt indicated that the schools have implemented research-based math and literacy programs in K-8 classrooms, and that the middle and elementary schools are tracking both the implementation and student outcomes.

Regarding curriculum, he reported that the high school Math Department narrowed down its curriculum review and is currently piloting three different units, and the English Department had opted to select a common assessment aligned to the SAT as a means of tracking performance of their existing lessons.

Holt indicated that the implementation of the student data management system continues, and that the middle school crafted "an early warning system" that monitors student behavior referrals, attendance and academic performance.

He explained the system identifies which students "we should be concerned about ... and really allows us to be efficient and not let students just fall through the cracks."

Holt then referred the board to the planning document for additional highlights.

"There's a confidence that you and the leaders and teachers are doing the right things, that there is an emphasis on the process of how and what we teach, how we teach it, and how we engage students in so outcomes are improving over time," Lynch said.

Holt responded, "I'd be remiss if I didn't say I was very fortunate to work with a gifted group of building leaders and fine office staff."

Master plan update

Holt reported to the board that the district is "engaging with RTA to do an initial assessment of our buildings," which will eventually become the facilities master plan discussed in the prior board meeting.

He also indicated that this work would begin in March, but that the district is also putting out a request for proposal for the larger facilities master plan.

Holt stated that the district has invested about \$700,000 in maintenance and repairs just to keep the buildings functional.

"We do need to do a good assessment of them to determine if there's going to be a breaking point there, and if so, when is that," he said.

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Charter school receives clean audit

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Peak Open School (PPOS) Board of Directors heard good news on Wednesday, Feb. 21: The school received a clean audit.

The audit information was presented by Jessica Bogner, audit partner with Wall, Smith and Bateman.

"This is the type of opinion that you want," she said.

The board greeted Bogner's statement with celebratory statements before Bogner delved into the school's numbers.

During her presentation, Bogner presented the school's statement of net position, findings and improvements over previous audits, among other things.

The statement of net position shows total assets of \$5,900,215, total deferred outflows of resources of

\$537,880, total liabilities of \$4,924,101 and deferred inflows of resources of \$243,185 for a total net position of \$1,270,809.

That total net position includes \$2,407,125 in net investment in capital assets, \$67,000 restricted in accordance with the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights (also commonly known as TABOR) and -\$1,203,316 in unrestricted.

Bogner and the audit document clarify that the deficit for the unrestricted net position relates to pension and the Colorado Public Employees' Retirement Association (PERA).

Bogner noted the negative number is not something for the school to "get hung up on."

The audit document notes under the financial highlights section: "The School's unrestricted net position shows a deficit of \$1,203,316 and is primarily the result of GASB State-

ments 68 and 75, which require the School to report its proportionate share of the PERA School Division Statewide Defined Benefit Pension Plan and Post Employment Benefit Plan Other Than Pensions ('OPEB') net pension liabilities and related deferred inflows and outflows of resources. Over time, PERA is expected to eliminate its unfunded pension obligation through increased contribution rates and additional funding from the State of Colorado."

The audit document also includes within the section on financial highlights that PPOS increased its net position by \$143,615.

The section on the financial highlights also states, "At the close of the fiscal year the School's governmental funds reported a combined ending fund balance of \$420,572, a decrease of \$171,156."

■ See Audit A10

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Pagosa Peak Open School students Lupita, Tenzin and Jaxon explain the stages of an avalanche with their model during the class Celebration of Learning on March 1.

Photo courtesy Pagosa Peak Open School

Charter school students investigate San Juans

By Emily Murphy
Pagosa Peak Open School

Avalanches, mines, volcanoes: This is a San Juan mountain range story.

The narrators of this story are fourth-graders at Pagosa Peak Open School (PPOS). Alongside their advisors Laura Hamilton and Kelle Bruno, these students got curious about the mountains that surround them.

"We look at these mountains every day, and I wondered how many students and families know how they were formed, what they're called, and how big the range is," Hamilton said about this class project. "I was curious — do we know what it is that we're looking at?"

Through their project, students researched the human uses, recreational opportunities, hazards, species and geological histories of this range.

On Friday, March 1, they shared this newfound knowledge with a group of 40 adults and their peers. The space filled with mountain models, maps, papers, experiments, artwork, skits and oral presentations. Every student was represented and presented.

"The San Juan Mountains are formed by and are still left over by

volcanoes," fourth-grader Esparanza said. "I thought it was interesting that during the formation of these mountains, diamonds and gold were made."

Other students were also surprised and interested to learn that these mountains close by were once active volcanoes.

"What really surprised me was that we're home to the biggest volcano in the world — La Garita — it erupted last 23 million years ago," fourth-grader William added.

Geological discussions led the class into the history of mining, where advisors saw a change in the students' interest. From science to social studies standards, students switched their focus.

"A lot of energy went into concepts surrounding human connection," Hamilton said. "The students wanted to know more about what Coloradans and miners went through in the past. There was curiosity about inequality, how the mining companies treated and employed their workers."

Fourth-grader Darla jumped in. "Mining can kill you," she said. "There is gas and dust particles that can stop you from breathing, and you

start coughing and can die."

Cambria continued the story. "I learned that the way mining companies worked was that the people would be paid and the company would get the money back when the miners spent their money at a store that the company owned," Cambria said.

Students also studied the importance of relationships in regard to safety in the San Juans, referencing the need for friends when recreating in the backcountry.

"You need to have friends because an avalanche could bury you," Maleko said. "With friends you might be saved."

Sedona added her knowledge around avalanche education.

"There is a higher risk of avalanche if there are three layers to the snow: a large, clumpy layer; a smaller clumpy layer; and then a powdery top layer," she said.

This science project built upon the students' previous project, when they studied Colorado history. Together the students have a full picture of the land that surrounds them and they call home.

PPOS is a K-8 district charter

school focused on implementing a project-based learning curriculum. Authentic audiences and settings where students share their learning are foundational to project-based learning.

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Audit

Continued from A10

The School's operations are funded primarily through tax revenue received under Colorado's School Finance Act (Per Pupil Revenue, or PPR). PPR revenue for the year ended June 30, 2023 was \$1,209,979."

Bogner further reported to the board that there was only one journal entry, which relates to leases and has no effect on the bottom line.

She also pointed out a pair of overbudget issues, but noted they were not deemed material weaknesses.

According to the audit document, "Expenditures exceeded appropriations in the General Fund by \$22,743 and Activity Fund by \$321 during fiscal year 2023. This may be a violation of Colorado Revised Statutes 22-44-115(1)."

Bogner noted the school will probably receive a letter from the

state auditor regarding the deficits.

In later conversation, PPOS School Director Angela Reali-Crossland explained there were late bills that came in following the June budget revision.

Bogner also indicated the improvement over last year's audit.

Last year, she explained, there was a material weakness letter.

"We had overbudgets last year, and we also were not able to find some information in fiscal year 2022 related to ... the turnover that happened. So, this year we don't have any of those issues," she said, clarifying the overbudget situations in the current audit are not a material weakness because of the amount. "But we don't have any other issues, so that's great."

The audit document also notes, relating to stewardship, that the PPOS Building Corporation, a 501(c) (3) nonprofit, did not adopt a budget

during fiscal year 2023.

Prior to Bogner's presentation, Reali-Crossland explained PPOS is at the end of its three-year agreement with Wall, Smith and Bateman, but she is hopeful the firm will continue on with the school under a new agreement in the future.

"Jessica ... and her team have been absolutely amazing at supporting us through this process," Reali-Crossland said. "As many of you know, finance isn't always my best thing, but she's been able to help me through and walk me through step by step of what she needs and help me solve some problems so that ... we are representing our ... financials the way that we should be. So, I appreciate, Jessica, everything that you and your team have done."

The PPOS board unanimously accepted the audit.
randi@pagosasun.com

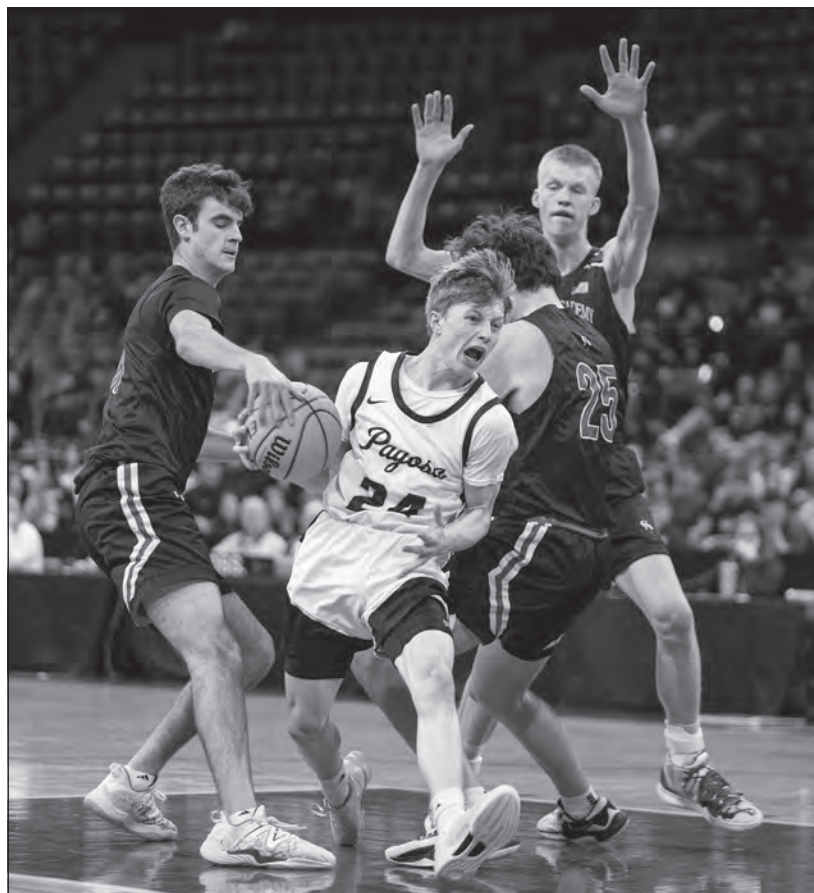
Sports

BASKETBALL



Great 8 battle

SUN photos/Chad Richardson
The Pirate basketball team battles Colorado Academy in the 4A basketball playoffs in Denver on March 2. The Pirates lost the affair, but finished the season as the undefeated champion of the Intermountain league and ended the year with an overall record of 24-2.



Pirates' 'fantastic year' ends at Great 8

By Robert Moore
 Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Pirate basketball team traveled to Denver last week to face the Colorado Academy Mustangs in quarterfinal action at the 4A basketball playoffs Saturday, March 2.

The Mustangs defeated the Pirates by a score of 63-43 to end the Pirates' run at the state title and bring the team's season to a close.

In addition to making it to the Great 8, the Pirates completed the year with an overall record of 24-2, and the team also finished as the undefeated champions of the Intermountain League with a 10-0 record.

In the game against Colorado Academy, Ridge Wilson was fouled on a 3-point attempt in the first quarter, made all three free throws, and Colt Lewis sank a 3-pointer late in the period to give Pagosa a 15-13 lead. Unfortunately, the Mustangs hit a 3-pointer at the buzzer to take a 16-15 lead entering into the second quarter.

The Pirates took a one-point lead early in the second period, but Colorado Academy began to pull away, building a 12-point lead. Blake Laner scored four points to close out the second quarter to pull Pagosa within eight, trailing the Mustangs by a score of 29-21 at halftime.

Colorado Academy came out strong in the third period and out-scored Pagosa by 12 points to extend their lead to 55-35 at the end of the third quarter.

The Pirates played evenly with the Mustangs in the final period, but could not put together a rally against Colorado Academy, and the final score was 63-43, pinning the Pirates with only their second loss of the year. Additional game and player statis-

tics for the game were not available by press time.

Coach Wes Lewis indicated that he wanted to "first start off by congratulating the girls on a fantastic season and coach [Sarah] Osborn for getting her team to the Great 8. That's a big accomplishment, especially for a second year head coach. And I just want to congratulate the girls on a fantastic season."

"When we lost our seniors last year, I think a lot of the teams wrote us off. ... We lost three good players last year, but we bounced back and had a great year and different kids stepped up and different kids improved."

Coach Wes Lewis

Wes Lewis then added, "I'd like to thank my assistants, starting with Yul Wilson, who has become a very, very good assistant, somebody I lean on a lot. I have a lot of trust in his thoughts, his decisions, and his help is very, very valuable. And then moving on to Darren Davis, who continues to improve and get better, and [has] learned my system and how we do things. And then, lastly, Brandon Forster, who is our C team coach, and I appreciated his time when he was able to be with us." Commenting on the game, Wes

Lewis said, "We played well in the early going ... [Colorado Academy] went to their 1-3-1 zone in the second quarter and it did its job. It frustrated us, and that's probably the only thing I'm disappointed in over the weekend."

The coach added that the team also made some poor decisions, turned the ball over, and "it just snowballed from there," but also indicated that they were a break or two from getting back into the game.

Reflecting on the season, Wes Lewis stated that "our record is 24-2. We're taking a team to the Great 8 for

the first time since 2013. And I just couldn't be more proud of the guys. We had a fantastic year, and we had a lot of improvement over the season."

Coach praises Pirate seniors

The Pirates basketball team will lose five seniors to graduation this year: Trey Garcia, Chase Harper, Nathaniel Kinsley, Blake Laner and Ridge Wilson.

Wes Lewis was effusive in his praise for each one.

"I'll start with Trey Garcia," he

■ See Pirates A11

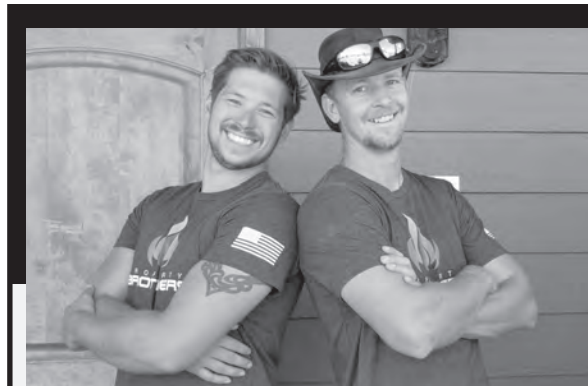
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BASKETBALL



The Lady Pirates take on Resurrection Christian in the 4A basketball playoffs in Denver on March 2. The Lady Pirates fell short in the game, but logged a 21-5 record this season and won the Intermountain league championship.



SUN photos/Chad Richardson

Pirates

Continued from A11

“He’s just such a great teammate ... and so much of it’s about timing — if Trey was going to be a senior next year, I mean, he’d see a lot of time, but he’s such a great kid, such a great teammate. He kind of took on a role as being the scout team leader ... and he joined the scout team voluntarily to make us better and give us a better look. And he’s a very, very intelligent kid, basketball included, and he just did such a good job. He never once complained about his lack of minutes. He had a great attitude. He was coachable, he was fun to be around and I’m just going to miss the heck out of Trey and his personality and his commitment. I think if you looked up teammate in the dictionary, you’d find a picture of Trey because he just was always cheering for his teammates.”

The coach then moved on to Nathaniel Kinsley.

“Nate had a fantastic year. He had limited minutes last year as a junior ... and then he just kind of blossomed this summer. He’s an athletic kid, he’s got some length, he jumps well, he crashes the boards for us. He was able to score and become a threat from the 3-point line. And Nate just had a great year. He’s a lot of fun to be around, just a really good kid, and we’re going to miss the heck out of him.”

Ridge Wilson was next.

“Ridge had a great year as well,” Wes Lewis continued. “He came into the season and I wasn’t sure if he was going to start or how much he’d play ... [but] he rebounded well this year, he was able to get into the paint and mix it up on the offensive and defensive ends. He is very intelligent ... knowing everybody’s role and responsibility and what everybody does on every set ... Another thing that made Ridge kind of an X factor a little bit for us is that he was able to step out to the 3-point line and be a threat there ... So, Ridge had a great senior year ... and he just became a really good player that we’re going to miss.”

Wes Lewis then moved on to Chase Harper.

“Chase really became a good basketball player,” he said. “He was our backup point guard. Many nights I would put him on the other team’s best player and he just got to where he was a very solid force in a lot of different ways. ... He had kind of an uncanny ability to score against bigger guys and beating guys with his first step and getting some separation and just kind of a tenacious little defender that never ran out of energy ... Chase had a great year and turned into a really good basketball player for us, and I have really enjoyed getting to know him and his family over the last four years.”

He continued, “And last but not least is Blake. He’s just such an athlete — blocking shots, rebounding the basketball, scoring the basketball. I mean, he just did a little bit of everything for us and he’s going to be missed immensely next year. ... He worked hard, he loves the game, coachable and did what we asked him to do. ... Blake is just a very special basketball player ... I started coaching Blake when he was just a little boy, probably in about the third or fourth grade. I have known his family forever and, I mean, he’s just a special kid, means a lot to me on and off the court, and he’s going to be missed. It’s hard to put into words how much we’re going to miss Blake Laner next year.”

Looking ahead

Wes Lewis indicated he thinks next season’s Pirate team will be good again.

“When we lost our seniors last year, I think a lot of the teams wrote us off. ... We lost three good players last year, but we bounced back and had a great year and different kids stepped up and different kids improved,” he said. “And I don’t expect anything different next year. I am not saying we’re going to duplicate our record or anything like that, but we’ve still got a good core nucleus coming back.”

The coach indicated that nucleus will include Colt Lewis, Creede Dozier, Jaxten Schiel and Seth Ziegler. robert@pagosasun.com

‘I can’t be more proud’: Lady Pirates end season at Great 8

By Robert Moore
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Lady Pirate basketball team’s run at the state title ended with a loss to the Resurrection Christian Cougars in quarterfinal action at the 4A basketball playoffs in Denver on Saturday, March 2.

The Cougars defeated the Lady Pirates by a score of 53-44, but Pagosa was the only team in the Great 8 that kept the margin of defeat in the single digits.

The trip to the Great 8 capped off a 21-5 season for the Lady Pirates, with the team also finishing as champions of the Intermountain League with a 9-1 record.

In the matchup against Resurrection Christian, the Cougars opened with full-court pressure against Pagosa, which the Lady Pirates quickly broke. The two teams battled evenly throughout the first quarter, but a technical call against Pagosa for illegal substitution and a 3-pointer allowed the Cougars to open a five-point lead.

Led by Karsyn Shahan’s defense and scoring late in the period, the Pirates battled back to take a one-point lead, 17-16, over Resurrection Christian at the end of the first quarter.

The Lady Pirates and the Cougars played evenly through most of the second quarter until approximately three minutes were left in the period.

At that point, the Lady Pirates were in foul trouble and Resurrection Christian made the most of it, hitting five throws, which helped stake the Cougars to a 29-19 lead at halftime.

Referencing the second quarter after the game, coach Sarah Osborn indicated, “That was our bad quarter and, going back and rewatching it, I just think it wasn’t our night ... I don’t think there was anything that they did to stop us. We got the shots we wanted. We missed three layups in the second quarter. We missed two

easy jumpers ... we were getting the looks [we] wanted, we just could not get one drop.”

Olivia Klein had 16 points for the Cougars in the first half, but the Lady Pirates made defensive adjustments, limiting her to only two points in the second half.

“We have such hard workers and skilled players and girls with a lot of heart that are willing to really sacrifice it all. They’re ready to put their body on the line, they’re ready to work with each other and play through whatever they need to get the job done.”

Coach Sarah Osborn

Unfortunately, other Resurrection Christian players stepped up to provide the Cougars with a 16-point lead, 46-30, at the end of the third quarter.

The Lady Pirates never quit fighting, however, and outscored the Cougars 14-7 in the fourth quarter, closing the gap to only six points at one point in the period.

Resurrection Christian then entered into its delay game to preserve the victory, winning by a final score of 53-44.

“We went into fourth quarter down by 16, and I just told my girls, ‘I don’t care about the outcome of this game, but you’re going to play together, and you’re going to play hard and

you’re not going to let anything be left on this court,” Osborn said. “And I can’t be more proud of them for that.”

The Lady Pirates were led by Shahan with 13 points, two rebounds, two assists, one steal and one block. Kylie Ketchum chipped in 11 points, five rebounds, three assists and three steals. Daveyann Snarr added eight points, six rebounds and two steals. Elizabeth Currier had five points, eight rebounds, one assist, one steal and two blocks. Amber Snarr added five points, two rebounds and one assist. Annie O’Donnell had two points, seven rebounds, two assists and one steal. Adelyn Hittle contributed two rebounds.

For the game, Pagosa had 32 rebounds, 17 of which were offensive rebounds. The team also had nine assists, eight steals, five blocks and committed 11 turnovers.

The Lady Pirates made five of eight free throws for 63 percent.

Reflections on the Lady Pirate seniors

After the game, Osborn took time to reflect on the contributions made this season by the seniors on the Lady Pirate team.

“Daveyann Snarr and Annie O’Donnell are my two seniors. I’ve gotten to coach both of those girls since they were in fourth grade,” she said. “So, it’s pretty fun watching them grow up to where they’re at today.”

She continued, “They both came in as freshmen that were talented, but I mean they had to work to get where they are today. They both led our team — Annie brings more energy and passion and excitement to the team than any of the other girls on my team. And Daveyann is kind of like our glue ... They have a great work ethic, they both are great listeners, great leaders, and both are good students at school ... So, that’s pretty special.”

Looking ahead to next season

Osborn indicated she is ready for

next season to begin.

“I’m already excited and looking forward to next year. We’re already planning, we’re already scheming, we’re already thinking about summer ball tournaments,” she said.

She added, “We have such hard workers and skilled players and girls with a lot of heart that are willing to really sacrifice it all. They’re ready to put their body on the line, they’re ready to work with each other and play through whatever they need to get the job done. That I think will [translate] to success next year ... We want to make it this deep in the playoffs as many years as possible. And I think the girls are excited about that.”

robert@pagosasun.com



Triple Impact Student-Athlete of the Week
Trey Garcia
Golf, soccer, basketball

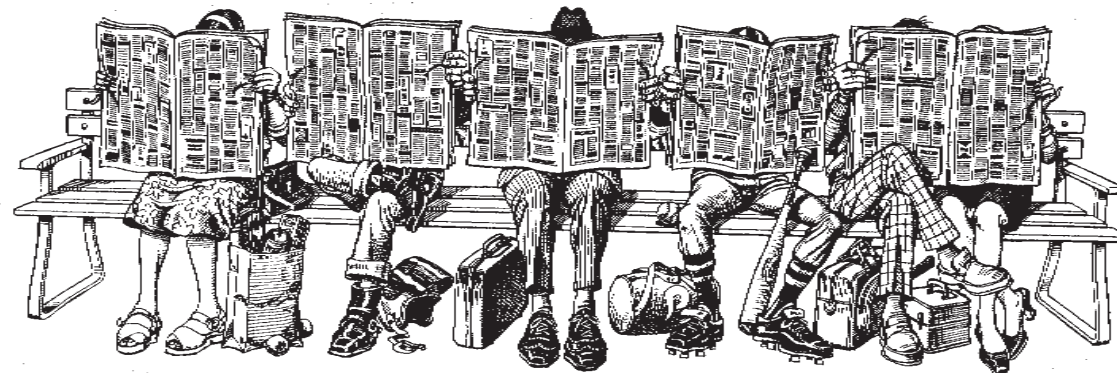


Favorite subject: English
Comments from coach Wes Lewis: “Trey is an outstanding young man with great character and understands the definition of team. Trey had a very limited role as far as playing time this year, but you will never find a better teammate than Trey Garcia. He understood his role and actually became the

leader of the scout team. Trey did a phenomenal job of helping our varsity prepare for our state run. Although his minutes were limited, he had a fantastic attitude and was a tremendous teammate all year long, doing anything anyone ever asked of him. He is such an outstanding young man and will be greatly missed next year.”

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RECREATION NEWS

Registration open for spring rec programs

By Matt Zaborowski
Town of Pagosa Springs

All program registrations for 2024 will be released seasonally. For the spring 2024 season, we have several programs available, including adult volleyball, 4- to 5-year-old T-ball and adult soccer. Online registration is available through the town website at pagosasprings.co.gov or in person at the Ross Aragon Community Center. Please call the Recreation Department with any questions, (970) 264-4151, ext. 524.

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Photo courtesy Kevin Bruce, Wolf Creek Ski Area

Racers ready themselves for the Jane and Pitch Tribute Race at Wolf Creek Ski Area on March 2.

Ski area announces results for Jane and Pitch Tribute Race

By Shelley Raymond
Wolf Creek Ski Area

Wolf Creek Ski Area hosted its annual Jane and Pitch Tribute Race on Saturday, March 2, to honor Wolf Creek founders Jane and Kingsbury Pitcher.

The modified grand slalom course was held on Lower Charisma and was groomed nicely with beautiful conditions due to the 10-inch storm earlier in the week. The skies were fair

to partly cloudy with temperatures in the mid-20s.

Racers came from as far as Louisiana and Wisconsin to participate in this special race.

The overall fastest time of the day was in our men's race — Jordan Sunshine of Denver, CO completed the course in an amazing time of 28.66 seconds. Charlie Chapman, of Santa Fe, N.M., came in just behind Jordan with a time of 29.57. Finishing out the men's group was another Santa

Fe resident, Grant Saylor, with a time of 30.51. Less than two seconds separated all three finishers, which gave way to a very exciting race.

The ladies also offered some excellent race times, with only two seconds separating the top three winners. Kathy Daley, of Del Norte, came out on top with a time of 32.99. Second place went to Ilana Steele, of Denver, with a time of 33.66. Amanda Farthing, of Golden, finished in the third-place spot with an impressive

time of 34.08.

The race was a success and a great time was had by all who participated. Wolf Creek is looking forward to the next Fun Race this Saturday — the Spring Fling Fun Race.

The Spring Fling Race is usually one of the most exciting races as it brings together our local racers with spring break racers from around the country. It's going to be a great weekend to cheer everyone on at Wolf Creek.

SOCCER

Lady Pirate soccer to kick off March 7 under new coaches

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Lady Pirate girls' soccer team will kick off its season with a game against Del Norte in Del Norte at 4 p.m. on March 7.

Following the retirement of former coach Lindsey Kurt-Mason in December 2023 and the February resignation of former assistant coach Scott Galabota, the team will have new coaches at the helm.

The team's new head coach is Trevor Gian and Dyan Rice, who Gian states in a communication to The SUN is a math teacher at the high school, is the assistant coach.

Gian explained in an interview that he grew up playing both club soccer and high school varsity soccer in Houston, Texas, before playing as a starter for Concordia University Texas

in Austin for four years.

He explained that he did some coaching in Texas before moving to Pagosa Springs approximately 15 years ago.

Gian stated that, about 10 years ago, he became involved with the Pagosa Youth Soccer program, coaching at a range of age levels and serving as a board member and director of coaching for the program.

Gian explained that the Lady Pirate team for the season currently has 26 members.

He added that he expects the team to be able to field a junior varsity team in addition to the varsity team, noting this is the first time that has been possible for several years.

The team includes 17 freshman and sophomore players, Gian stated, as well as nine returning players from last season.

He added that many of the freshman and sophomore players have experience playing soccer through the youth soccer program offered by the Town of Pagosa Springs Parks and Recreation Department.

The coach indicated that the team is focusing on refining basic technical skills such as passing, shooting and dribbling as well as first touch and maintaining possession currently and will shift toward refining its strategic skills later in the season once it has had more time on the field.

Schedule

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

Following the Lady Pirates' first game against Del Norte on March 7, the team will play Lake County at home at Golden Peaks Stadium on

March 19 at 4 p.m.

Pagosa will then face Telluride in an away game in Telluride at 4 p.m. on April 3, followed by a home game against Alamosa at 4 p.m. on April 5.

On April 9, the Lady Pirates will play Bayfield in Bayfield at 4 p.m.

That will be followed by a match against Montezuma-Cortez in Pagosa at 11 a.m. on April 13.

The team will play Ignacio in Ignacio at 4:30 p.m. on April 16, and the Durango junior varsity team at home at 11 a.m. on April 20.

On April 23, the Lady Pirates will face Bayfield again, this time in a home game at 4 p.m.

On April 26, the Lady Pirates will host a rematch against Ignacio at 4 p.m.

The team will then play Montezuma-Cortez at Alamosa High School at 10 a.m. on April 27.

Pagosa will play another rematch, this time against Del Norte, at home on April 30, followed by a final game against Crested Butte on May 3 in Crested Butte at 4 p.m. to close the regular season.

BASEBALL

New baseball coach hopes to 'make some noise'

By Robert Moore
Staff Writer

Ben Garcia is entering his first year as the baseball coach for Pagosa Springs High School and hopes that the team can "make some noise" this year and well into the future.

In an interview, Garcia expressed his excitement to take on a team that posted a record of 10-14 last season, and indicated that his plan is to build a program that will bring and continue to attract more athletes to play baseball.

"Hopefully we can make some noise this year," Garcia said, "but in the future, it will bring kids to really like baseball because the thing that I heard from a lot of the youth is, yeah, I'll probably play football, probably play soccer. I don't know that I want to play baseball. And I thought, let's pique that interest again and try and get it going."

Garcia stated he believes that selling his philosophy to the athletes will lead to success this year and also in the future, saying, "Half the battle, I think, of coaching is to have your team buy into whatever you are selling as a philosophy."

He noted he also considers setting both short- and long-term goals is important.

He indicated that this year he wants the team to get better every day, to practice hard and to not "beat themselves."

He also shared that he believes that defense wins championships and that his teams will begin by focusing on the fundamentals.

"That's my philosophy," he said. "If you go out and do all the routine plays,

I can't ask for anything else. I want you to be able to do all the routine plays, catch, throw the ball, all those things really, that are trying to get you to be a better ball player from the standpoint of being able to do all the simple things. Now, if you start making the spectacular plays, then that's going to take care of itself. You're going to be all-conference, all-state and then move on to a different level. But, we have got to be fundamentally sound."

Garcia brings a rich baseball background with him to Pagosa.

He explained he played baseball in the minors, and began coaching softball in Pueblo and took his teams to the state championships in 18 of the 20 years he coached there.

He also coached baseball at Colorado Mesa University, the University of Northern Colorado and Utah Valley University.

Although Garcia admitted that practicing indoors and playing away games for the first five to six weeks of the season is a challenge, he is excited to be coaching in Pagosa.

"The excitement is there. The love for the game, those burning butterflies in the stomach are all there. And I think it's there for the kids, too," he said. "It's exciting to see them when they come to practice. It's kind of like, 'Hey, this is fun,' ... So, that's first and foremost — let's go out, have fun, enjoy what we're doing and then hey, if we win some games, let's take advantage of that and let's figure out how we can continue to win more."

The Pirates will play their first games of the season at the Aztec Tiger Invite to be held this week in Aztec, N.M.

The first game is Thursday, March 7, at 3 p.m. against Aztec. The team

will play again on Friday, March 8, at 10 a.m. against the Bosque School, and then play Saturday, March 9, at 12:30 p.m. against Page.

Schedule

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

Following this week's tournament to open the season, the Pirates will take part in the Delta Tournament.

The Pirates will take on Cedaredge at 1:30 p.m. on March 15 in Cedaredge.

The following day, they will take on North Fork, on March 16, at 11 a.m. at North Fork High School and Olathe at 1:30 p.m. at Olathe High School.

The Pirates will then head to the Roaring Fork Tournament on April 4, 5 and 6, with teams and times to be announced.

On April 9, the team will head to Durango for a doubleheader that will begin at 2 p.m. at Durango High School.

The team will host Montezuma-Cortez for a doubleheader on April 13 at 10 a.m.

The Pirates will then host Del Norte for a doubleheader on April 16 at 3 p.m.

The team will then travel to La Jara for a doubleheader against Centauri on April 20, which is set to begin at 11 a.m. at Centauri High School.

The team will face Bayfield in a doubleheader beginning at 11 a.m. on April 27 in Bayfield.

The Pirates will then travel to Ignacio on May 9 for a 3 p.m. matchup with Ignacio.

The team will close the regular season with a home doubleheader against Alamosa beginning at 11 a.m. on May 11.

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Outdoors



Volunteer opportunities available with Chimney Rock Interpretive Association

By Dave Bouquet

Chimney Rock Interpretive Association

My name is Dave. I am a retired geologist who lives in Pagosa Springs. I really enjoy volunteering at Chimney Rock National Monument (CRNM) through the Chimney Rock Interpretive Association (CIA) organization.

Here are just a few reasons why:

1. Whatever expertise you have, there is a way to share your knowledge with visitors. As a geologist, I give a geology tour, which is very rewarding for me.

2. Volunteering may seem intimidating at first, but CIA makes it easy through its training, both formal and on the job. Soon, you will be answering questions like an "expert."

3. I meet interesting people from all over the world. I love sharing my knowledge with them and learning a bit about where they are from.

4. The enthusiasm of kids is the best. It's great to share in their sense of wonderment.

5. You will learn something new about Native American culture, nature, science or yourself every day. As a retired person, it helps me to stay connected to the wider world.

6. CIA is a nonprofit, volunteer organization. The leaders and volunteers of the organization are doing it for the right reasons. They want to help preserve the site and help to educate visitors and locals alike about the many wonders of CRNM. Those wonders may be natural, archaeological, spiritual and more.

7. Our volunteers share a sense of community and you will make many new friends.

8. The people at the U.S. Forest Service share our priorities and our love of the place. They are all great to work with.

9. Finally, CIA and the Forest Service both respect what this place means to all the Native American



Photo courtesy Amy Nuttall

Dave Bouquet volunteers at Chimney Rock National Monument. The Chimney Rock Interpretive Association will hold volunteer recruitment events on March 27 and April 11.

people in the area, especially the Puebloan people, who are direct descendants of the people who populated this special place.

As you see, volunteering at Chimney Rock is rewarding, fulfilling, interesting and just plain fun.

To learn about the various volunteer opportunities at Chimney Rock, CIA will host a volunteer recruitment event at the Ruby Sisson Library on March 27 from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Another recruitment will be held at the Ross Aragon Community Center on April 11 from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m.

A number of CIA volunteers will be on hand at each event to introduce guests to volunteer positions

available for the 2024 season — May 15 to Oct. 21. Some of the volunteer positions include: gift shop, mesa host, night programs, plaza host, tour guide and youth workshop.

In addition, CIA offers a yearly volunteer orientation for those of you interested in joining our team. This year the volunteer training will take place on April 26 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Methodist Church located at 434 Lewis St. The second day of training will take place on April 27 at CRNM from 9 a.m. to noon.

If you cannot attend one of our volunteer recruitment events, you can find more detailed information about the various volunteer posi-

tions available on our website, www.chimneyrockco.org. A volunteer form can easily be filled out online and submitted electronically, or feel free to call our office at (970) 731-7133.

For more information about CRNM and volunteer opportunities, we encourage you to stop by one of our two volunteer recruitment events. Come join our team and "meet the world" through our many visitors at Chimney Rock.

CIA is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that runs the gift shop and interpretive programs/tours at CRNM in partnership with the USDA Forest Service and the San Juan National Forest.

Town seeks grant funding to complete Town-to-Lakes Trail

By Derek Kutzer
Staff Writer

On Feb. 22, the Pagosa Springs Town Council passed a resolution supporting the town's submission of a grant application that, if awarded, would fund the completion of the Town-to-Lakes Trail system.

The funding would go toward building the last segment of a comprehensive nonmotorized trail system that would link uptown to downtown.

The grant being sought is a federal grant, called the Rebuilding America's Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant. It's administered through the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT).

"The grant application will request up to \$15 million towards funding the trail project," states agenda documentation on the matter.

Town Project Manager David Hilborn explained that the town has the opportunity to apply for "no-match" funding through this application, since 93 percent of the trail project would be situated within what the federal government has identified, in its 2020 U.S. Census, as a rural and historically disadvantaged community.

"This grant opportunity is exceptionally rare as it requires no matching funds. If awarded, the Town will not be required to allocate any funds, provided that the project expenses do not surpass the amount awarded," states agenda documentation.

If the town is awarded the grant funding, "the town would not be obligated to provide any funds [toward the project], but we would be responsible for any costs incurred prior to the funding obligation," Hilborn said.

In addition to the nonmotorized trail, "the proposed project also includes the design and construction of a connecting road between Harman Park Drive and Cornerstone Drive. This will enable the inclusion of this section of trail along and detached from the new connecting roadway," states agenda documentation.

Hilborn said, "Town staff has been working pretty diligently over the last month and a half to bring an application forward that we feel is going to be very competitive to win this award."

He described the proposed segment of trail as a 12-foot-wide

concrete trail stretching from Great West Avenue to Harman Park Drive.

Included in the project "would be a bus turnaround at Great West Avenue, two pedestrian bridges, a local road that would connect Harman Park and Cornerstone Drive ... a trail from Pinon Causeway to North Pagosa [Boulevard] and South Pagosa [Boulevard], and then a 10-foot trail finishing the linkage on South Pagosa to the hospital and from Highway 160 to Village Drive," he said.

DOT's funding obligation deadline would be Sept. 30, 2028, and all funds must be expended by the town for the project by Sept. 30, 2033, states agenda documentation.

Council member Madeline Bergon asked Hilborn about the funding obligation language, asking if "anything is done before 2028," are "we responsible" to fund it?

"Is that saying that construction wouldn't be able to take place until that time?" she asked.

Hilborn responded, "So, basically ... what would happen is that we would have to be obligated for ... engineering and design. At that point, we would be awarded money specifically for that aspect," explaining that "each phase" (engineering and design, land acquisition and construction) "has to be completed before the next one starts, and that is how the funds would become available."

Bergon also asked how the town decided on a 12-foot width for the pathway, with Community Development Director James Dickhoff chiming in to say, "I think what we're seeing, with the advent of electric bikes on trails, is that there needs to be a little bit more elbow room."

Dickhoff explained how the "trail-width standard" across the country "is starting to widen" and that the presence of multimodal forms of transportation, from electric bikes to people "walking their babies with strollers and skateboards and things like that," would require a wider trail than the 10-foot trail originally proposed and already constructed in some places.

Council member Mat deGraaf thanked town staff for putting the application together, saying, "I was a part of this [Town-to-Lakes Trail idea] when we started it in 2009, and now, here we are, and it's actually in motion."

He emphasized that the grant would amount to "the completion" ■ See Trail A15

Spring forest road closures to begin soon

By Gregg Goodland
Rio Grande National Forest

The Rio Grande National Forest announced this week that annual spring road closures have begun across the forest.

Each year, as temperatures rise and the snow melts, the forest roadbeds are prone to softening and are at an increased risk of damage from vehicle traffic. Road repairs can be costly and may not happen very soon.

Wheels often create ruts in roads, creating a rough road and possibly

increasing water runoff velocity, which could lead to subsequent erosion. Increased silting into local water sources can be damaging to both the waterway and the aquatic life within. Vehicles on soft roads can also cause large mud holes.

To avoid these problems, roads are closed for short periods of time to allow for drying and hardening of the roadbed. The closures typically last from three to six weeks.

"These short-term closures help protect our national forest resources," said Dennis Kuhnel, forest supervisor

for the Rio Grande National Forest. "They typically don't last long and, by respecting them, we can together provide a damage free roadbed to use the rest of the year."

Kuhnel recognized that the restricted access to your favorite locations can be frustrating, but encourages the public to help prevent the potential for widespread negative effects.

As soon as it is determined that the roadbeds will not be damaged by heavy vehicles, the closed roads are opened. It is important to note that some roads may appear to be dry in lower eleva-

tions near the closure, but they will remain closed until the higher sections of the roads are also appropriately dry enough for vehicle use.

Current road conditions can be found on the Rio Grande National Forest's home page by navigating to the individual ranger district's "road conditions" link on the right side of the page.

All travel on the forest is regulated by the motor vehicle use maps that can be found online.

For information on the Rio Grande National Forest, call (719) 850-2374 or visit the forest website.

Public Notices

COMBINED NOTICE - PUBLICATION
CRS §38-38-103 FORECLOSURE SALE
NO. 2023-011

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

On December 28, 2023, the undersigned Public Trustee caused the Notice of Election and Demand relating to the Deed of Trust described below to be recorded in the County of Archuleta records.

Original Grantor(s) Glenn W. Keilar and Miriam Keilar
Original Beneficiary(ies) Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Beneficiary, as nominee for Countrywide Home Loans, Inc., its successors and assigns

Current Holder of Evidence of Debt The Bank of New York Mellon fka The Bank of New York, as Trustee for the Certificateholders of the CVALT, Inc., Alternative Loan Trust 2006-33CB, Mortgage Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2006-33CB

Date of Deed of Trust October 14, 2005
County of Archuleta
Recording Date of Deed of Trust October 21, 2005
Recording Information (Reception No. and/or Book/ Page No.) 20511341
Original Principal Amount \$360,000.00
Outstanding Principal Balance \$240,341.76

Pursuant to CRS §38-38-101(4)(i), you are hereby notified that the covenants of the deed of trust have been violated as follows: Failure to make timely payments as required under the Evidence of Debt and Deed of Trust. **THE LIEN FORECLOSURE MAY NOT BE A FIRST LIEN.**

Lot 25, The Reserve at Pagosa Peak Phase 2, according to the plat thereof recorded October 5, 2005 as Reception No. 20510466, in the office of the Clerk and Recorder, Archuleta County, Colorado.
Also known by street and number as: 196 Dylan Dr, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147.
THE PROPERTY DESCRIBED HEREIN IS ALL OF THE PROPERTY CURRENTLY ENCMBERED BY THE LIEN OF THE DEED OF TRUST.

NOTICE OF SALE

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

HEREFORE, Notice Is Hereby Given that I will at public auction, at 10:00 A.M. on Thursday, 04/25/2024, at the Archuleta County Treasurer's Office at 449 San Juan St. Pagosa Springs, CO 81147, sell to the highest and best bidder for cash, the said real property and all interest of the said Grantor(s), Grantee(s) heirs, and assigns therein, for the purpose of paying the indebtedness provided in said Evidence of Debt secured by the Deed of Trust, plus attorneys' fees, the expenses of sale and other items allowed by law, and will issue

to the purchaser a Certificate of Purchase, all as provided by law.

First Publication 2/29/2024
3/28/2024
Last Publication

Name of Publication Pagosa Springs Sun
IF THE SALE DATE IS CONTINUED TO A LATER DATE, THE DEADLINE TO FILE A NOTICE OF INTENT TO CURE BY THOSE PARTIES ENTITLED TO CURE MAY ALSO BE EXTENDED;

DATE: 12/26/2023
Elsa P. White, Public Trustee in and for the County of Archuleta, State of Colorado
By: Elsa P. White, Public Trustee

The name, address, business telephone number and bar registration number of the attorney(s) representing the legal holder of the indebtedness is:
Amanda Ferguson #44893
Halliday, Watkins & Mann, P.C. 355 Union Blvd. Ste 250, Lakewood, CO 80228 (303) 274-0155
Attorney File # CO22626

The Attorney above is acting as a debt collector and is attempting to collect a debt. Any information provided may be used for that purpose.

Published February 29 and March 7, 14, 21, & 28, 2024 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (225096)

County Court
Archuleta County, Colorado
Court Address:
Archuleta Combined Courts
109 Harman Park Dr., PO Box 148
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147

In the Matter of the Petition of:
Adult: Lisa Marie Johnson
For a Change of Name to:
Lisa Marie Johnson Canilao
DATE FILED: February 13, 2024
Case Number: 24C13
Division 1 Courtroom 1

PUBLIC NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME

Public Notice is given on 2/16/24 that a Petition for a Change of Name of an Adult has been filed with the Archuleta Court.

The Petition requests that the name of Lisa Marie Johnson be changed to Lisa Marie Johnson Canilao.
By C. Turner, Deputy Clerk
Published February 22, 29 & March 7, 2024 in *The Pagosa Springs Sun*. (229411)

County Court
Archuleta County, Colorado
Court Address:
Archuleta Combined Courts

109 Harman Park Dr., PO Box 148
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147

In the Matter of the Petition of:
Adult: Paulette Angela Bennett
For a Change of Name to:
Paulette Angela Bianucci
DATE FILED: February 20, 2024 8:44 AM
Case Number: 24C14
Division 1 Courtroom 1

AMENDED PUBLIC NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME

Public Notice is given on 2/16/24 that a Petition for a Change of Name of an Adult has been filed with the Archuleta Combined Court.

The Petition requests that the name of Paulette Angela Bennett be changed to Paulette Angela Bianucci.
By Cheryl Mulberry, Clerk of Court/Deputy Clerk
Published February 22, 29 & March 7, 2024 in *The Pagosa Springs Sun*. (229331)

County Court
Archuleta County, Colorado
Court Address:
Archuleta Combined Courts
109 Harman Park Dr., PO Box 148
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147

In the Matter of the Petition of:
Adult: Alexandra Caeley Brown
For a Change of Name to:
Alexandra Caeley Finkelston-Brown
DATE FILED: February 28, 2024 4:32 PM
Case Number: 24C16
Division 1 Courtroom 1

PUBLIC NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME

Public Notice is given on 3/1/24 that a Petition for a Change of Name of an Adult has been filed with the Archuleta Combined Court.

The Petition requests that the name of Alexandra Caeley Brown be changed to Alexandra Caeley Finkelston-Brown.
By Svetlana Lohner, Clerk of Court/Deputy Clerk
Published March 7, 14, 21, 2024 in *The Pagosa Springs Sun*. (230443)

District Court
Archuleta County, Colorado
Court Address:
Archuleta County Justice Center
109 Harman Park Drive
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
In the Matter of the Estate of Kathi Lou Creech,

AKA Kathi Creech, AKA Kathi S. Creech, Deceased
Attorney or Party Without Attorney (Name and Address)
Charlotte P. Yochem, Attorney at Law
1351 Country Center Drive, FMB 477
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
Phone Number: (512) 529-6288
E-mail: charlotte@yochemlaw.com
Division 1 Courtroom 1
Atty. Reg. #: 54998
Case Number: 24PR30009
Division 1 Courtroom

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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Estate of Kathi Lou Creech, AKA Kathi Creech, AKA Kathi S. Creech, Deceased
Case Number 24PR30009

All persons having claims against the above named estate are required to present them to the personal representative or to District Court of Archuleta County, Colorado on or before June 29, 2024, or the claims may be forever barred.

Bob Minchew
1401 Meadowlark Cove
Round Rock, TX 78664
Published February 29 and March 7 & 14, 2024 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (229743)

DISTRICT COURT, ARCHULETA COUNTY, STATE OF COLORADO
Court Address:
Archuleta County District Court
PO Box 148
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
Case No.: 2023CV030086
Division: 1

Plaintiff: PAGOSA LAKES PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION
v.
Defendants: AARON BOWMAN
Attorneys for Plaintiff:
ORTEN CAVANAGH HOLMES & HUNT, LLC
Hal R. Kyles, #23891
1445 Market St., Suite 350
Denver, Colorado 80202
Phone Number: (720) 221-9780
Matter ID #1019.0807

SUMMONS [BY PUBLICATION]

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 an answer or other response. You are required to file your answer or other response within 35 days after the

service of this Summons upon you. Service of this summons shall be complete on the day of the last publication. A copy of the complaint may be obtained from the clerk of the court.

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

This is an action of foreclosure pursuant to Rule 105, C.R.C.P. to the real property situate in Pagosa Springs, Colorado more particularly described as Lot 361, ORTEN CAVANAGH HOLMES & HUNT, LLC
Pagosa Highlands Estates according to the plat thereof recorded February 7, 1972 at Reception No. 75409, and as recorded in Book 156 Page 60, in the office of the Clerk and Recorder, Archuleta County, Colorado.
Dated: February 6, 2024.
By: *Hal R. Kyles*
Hal R. Kyles, #23891
Published in The Pagosa Springs Sun
First Publication: February 15, 2024
Last Publication: March 14, 2024

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

Published February 15, 22, 29 & March 7 & 14, 2024 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (228581)

NOTICE OF PURCHASE OF PROPERTY AT TAX LIEN SALE AND OF APPLICATION FOR ISSUANCE OF TREASURER'S DEED

To Every Person in Actual Possession or Occupancy of the hereinafter Described Land, Lot or Premises, and to the Person in Whose Name the same was Taxed or Specially Assessed, and to all Persons having Interest of Title of Record in or to the said Premises and to Whom It May Concern, and more especially to:

PATRICIA A. SCANLIN
6141 EDSALL RD, APT J
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22304

You and each of you are hereby notified that on the 5th day of November 2020, the then County Treasurer of Archuleta County, in the State of Colorado, sold at public tax lien sale to PATRICK G. MULLOY the following described property situate in the County of Archuleta, State of Colorado, to-wit:

LOT 28 IN THE PAGOSA HIGHLAND ESTATES, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF FILED FOR RECORD FEBRUARY 7, 1972 AS RECEPTION NO. 75409.

Account Number: R000879
Schedule Number: 558325201009
Tax Sale Certificate Number: 2020-05094
and said County Treasurer issued a certificate of purchase therefore to PATRICK G. MULLOY.
That said tax lien sale was made to satisfy the

delinquent property (and special assessment) taxes assessed against said property for the year 2019; That said property was taxed or specially assessed in the name(s) of PATRICIA A. SCANLIN for said year 2019;

That said PATRICK G. MULLOY on the 29th day of January 2024, the present holder of said certificate (who) has made request upon the Treasurer of said County for a deed to said property;

That a Treasurer's Deed will be issued for said property to PATRICK G. MULLOY on the 10th day of July 2024, unless the same has been redeemed; Said property may be redeemed from said sale at any time prior to the actual execution of said Treasurer's Deed.

Witness my hand this 5th day of February 2024
Elsa P. White, Treasurer of Archuleta County, Colorado
Published February 29, & March 7, 14, 2024 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (229141)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Estate of James Daniel Avery, Case Number 2024 PR 30007

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 June 22, 2024, or the claims may be forever barred.

Daniel L. Fiedler, Attorney at Law
190 Talisman Drive, Suite D-6
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
Published February 22, 29 & March 7, 2024 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (229029)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Estate of TERRY MICEK a/k/a TERRY M. MICEK a/k/a TERRY MICHAEL MICEK a/k/a TERENCE MICEK a/k/a TERENCE M. MICEK a/k/a TERENCE MICHAEL MICEK, Deceased
Case No. 24PR30005

All persons having claims against the above-named estate are required to present them to the undersigned or to the District Court of Archuleta County, Colorado on or before July 7, 2024, or said claims may be forever barred.

Jessica A. Rinker,
Personal Representative
c/o Zachary T. Reams, Esq.
Reams & Reams
222 N. 7th Street
Grand Junction, CO 81501
Published March 7, 14, & 21, 2024 in *The Pagosa Springs Sun*. (230298)

The Blotter

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

Archuleta County Sheriff's Office

Calls for service for week: 247.
 Feb. 26 — Trespass warning, Antelope Avenue.
 Feb. 26 — Trespass warning, Cloman Boulevard.
 Feb. 26 — Violation of restraining order, Knife Edge Place.
 Feb. 26 — Warrant arrest, Starlight Place.
 Feb. 27 — Information only, domestic violence, Beaver Circle.
 Feb. 27 — Violation of restraining order, information on, Simmons Drive.
 Feb. 27 — First-degree criminal trespass-other intent, Davis Cup Drive.
 Feb. 28 — Violation of restraining order, domestic violence, Surrey Drive.
 Feb. 28 — Drove vehicle without valid driver's license, expired license plates, drove vehicle without insurance, Eaton Drive/Village Drive.

Feb. 29 — Careless driving, West U.S. 160.
 Feb. 29 — Vicious dog with injury, Park Avenue/Hopi Drive.
 March 1 — Obstructing governmental operations, harassment by phone or computer threaten bodily injury, menacing-misdemeanor, criminal mischief, domestic violence, tampering with physical evidence, throwing missiles at vehicle, Laguna Place.
 March 2 — Unlawful possession of a controlled substance, prohibited use of weapons, reckless endangerment, child abuse, speeding mph over limit not listed, possession of drug paraphernalia-penalty, U.S. 160.
 March 3 — Driving under the influence of alcohol, driver failed to yield right of way at stop sign, Vista Boulevard/Park Avenue.
Town of Pagosa Springs Police Department
 No report.
Pagosa Springs Municipal Court: Judge Anthony D. Edwards
 No report.
Archuleta County Court: Judge Justin P. Fay
 Feb. 14 — Dale A. Hood, speeding 1-4 over, fines and costs — \$85.
 Feb. 15 — Thomas Joseph

Lynch, speeding 10-19 over, fines and costs — \$190.
 Feb. 16 — Lucian Steven James Brewster, speeding 10-19 over, fines and costs — \$190.
 Feb. 21 — Tye B. Fehrenbacher, license plates-expired, fines and costs — \$155.50.
 Feb. 21 — Noah James Gorman, speeding 5-9 over, fines and costs — \$125.
 Feb. 21 — Ronda H. Grimsley, speeding 10-19 over, fines and costs — \$160.
 Feb. 21 — Peggy R. Lee, license plates-expired, fines and costs — \$120.50.
 Feb. 21 — Christopher Merrill, driving under restraint, tail lamp violation, fines and costs — \$164.50.
 Feb. 21 — Robert J. Moore, obedience to official traffic control device, fines and costs — \$166.
 Feb. 21 — Alan Octavio Porras, license plates-expired, fines and costs — \$155.50.
 Feb. 21 — Falena D. Puerto, registration-unregistered vehicle, driver's license-driving without, fines and costs — \$207.50.
 Feb. 21 — Kalyann Alarice Tucson Medina, speeding 10-19 over, fines and costs — \$190.
 Feb. 21 — Deegan V. Veneno Dreamer, pedestrian-disregard traf-

fic signal, registration-unregistered vehicle, driver's license-not in possession, fines and costs — \$294.50.
 Feb. 21 — Jose Lopez Jr., agriculture-grazing on roadway, agriculture-horse/mule at large, fines and costs — \$85.50.
 Feb. 21 — Melonie Jolenn Huntsman, driving under the influence, 25 days jail suspended imposition, 48 hours community service, 12 months probation alcohol evaluation and supervision, fines and costs — \$720.50.
 Feb. 21 — Jessie Elledge, disorderly conduct-unreasonable noise, 10 days jail suspended imposition, 20 hours community service, fines and costs — \$36.
 Feb. 22 — Helena Irene Vicenti, driving under the influence, 425 days jail, 48 hours community service, 365 days jail suspended imposition, two years probation, fines and costs — \$1,985.50.
 Feb. 23 — Abraham Fernando Guzman Bhaggan, speeding 10-19 over, fines and costs — \$190.
 Feb. 23 — Mathew V. Kendall, speeding 20-24 over, fines and costs — \$255.
 Feb. 23 — Caderra Deanna Amarilla, obedience to official traffic control device, fines and costs — \$160.
 Feb. 23 — Brian Robert Hart,

obedience to official traffic control device, fines and costs — \$135.
 Feb. 23 — Christine Carol Hester, speeding 10-19 over, fines and costs — \$190.
 Feb. 23 — Michael C. Mahaffey, obedience to official traffic control device, fines and costs — \$135.
 Feb. 23 — Alex Ray Pena, obedience to official traffic control device, fines and costs — \$135.
 Feb. 23 — Herbert Clayton Weaver, speeding 1-4 over, fines and costs — \$85.
 Feb. 23 — Dustin Ryan Smith, speeding 10-19 over, fines and costs — \$190.
 Feb. 28 — AJ Blaze Connors, license plates-expired, license plates improperly attached or not visible, fines and costs — \$142.50.
 Feb. 28 — Darla Faye Lieb, speeding 10-19 over, fines and costs — \$190.
 Feb. 28 — Matthew Issa Candido, speeding 10-19 over, fines and costs — \$225.
 Feb. 28 — Shelby Jean Hammer, speeding 20-24 over, fines and costs — \$290.
 Feb. 28 — Vincent Alvin John,

speeding 20-24 over, fines and costs — \$290.
 Feb. 28 — Jason Gregory Shafter, speeding 10-19 over, fines and costs — \$190.
 Feb. 28 — James E. Smith, license plates-expired, fines and costs — \$120.50.
 Feb. 28 — Shawn B. Vicenti, driver's license-driving without, fines and costs — \$107.50.
 Feb. 28 — Foziljon B. Maidaev, careless driving, driver's license-no commercial license, fines and costs — \$343.50.
 March 1 — Toby R. Martinez, license plates-expired, driving under restraint, fines and costs — \$236.50.
6th Judicial District Court: Judge Justin P. Fay
 Feb. 21 — Gary Kay Morann Jr., assault 3-know/reckless cause injury, 180 days jail, fines and costs — \$258.50.
6th Judicial District Court: Judge Jeffrey R. Wilson
 March 4 — Tammy Eve Smith, criminal mischief-\$300-\$1,000, three years unsupervised probation, fines and costs — \$12,747.50.

Public Meetings

The following meetings are subject to change.

Thursday, March 7

Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District Board of Directors special meeting. 2 p.m. 100 Lyn Ave. For more information, visits pawsd.org.
Combined Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. 5:30 p.m. Town Hall, 551 Hot Springs Blvd. See town website for participation information: https://pagosasprings.civicweb.net/portal/
Main Street Advisory Board work session. 4 p.m., Ross Aragon Community Center, 451 Hot Springs Blvd. See town website for participation information: https://pagosasprings.civicweb.net/portal/.

Tuesday, March 12

Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners work session. 8:30 a.m., Archuleta County administration building, commissioners' meeting room, 398 Lewis St. View Zoom meeting at: https://zoom.us/j/91609048375?pwd=dFFF0J1cGVKa1NHWHFsa2taeGxtZz09, meeting ID: 916 0904 8375, passcode: 4141885. For more information, visit http://archuletacounty.org/agendacenter.
Main Street Advisory Board meeting with Colorado Department of Transportation. 5:30-7:30 p.m., South Conference Room, Ross Aragon Community Center, 451 Hot Springs Blvd. To join on Zoom: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88554742993?pwd=N0theitOZ013YzVQWkzS2dzTWtHdz09, meeting ID: 885 5474 2993, passcode: 525329. A meeting to address needs prior to and during the downtown reconstruction project.

Wednesday, March 13

San Juan Water Conservancy District work session. 1-3 p.m., 46 Eaton Drive, Suite 5. For more information, visit sjwcd.org.

March 14

Main Street Advisory Board meeting. 4 p.m., Visitor Center, 105 Hot Springs Blvd.

Monday, March 18

San Juan Water Conservancy District special meeting. 4 p.m., 46 Eaton Drive, Suite 5. For more information, visit sjwcd.org.

Trail

Continued from A14 of the trail system, rather than adding "just another segment."

Dickhoff then recommended that the council allow staff to tweak the language of the application to ask for "up to \$16 million," so that if staff sees any changes before the application is due, it would not need to bring the resolution back before the council.

When a motion was made to approve the resolution supporting the RAISE grant application, with the included amendment to ask for up to \$16 million, it was seconded and then passed unanimously by the council.

Mayor Shari Pierce then thanked Dickhoff "and all the people" in his department "for this work ... and everything that you do."
 derek@pagosasun.com

Tuesday, March 19

Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners work session. 8:30 a.m., Archuleta County administration building, commissioners' meeting room, 398 Lewis St. View Zoom meeting at: https://zoom.us/j/91609048375?pwd=dFFF0J1cGVKa1NHWHFsa2taeGxtZz09, meeting ID: 916 0904 8375, passcode: 4141885. For more information, visit http://archuletacounty.org/agendacenter.

Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners meeting. 1:30 p.m., Archuleta County administration building, commissioners' meeting room, 398 Lewis St. View Zoom meeting at: https://zoom.us/j/91609048375?pwd=dFFF0J1cGVKa1NHWHFsa2taeGxtZz09, meeting ID: 916 0904 8375, passcode: 4141885. For more information, visit http://archuletacounty.org/agendacenter.

Thursday, March 21

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.

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/.

Monday, March 25

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.

Tuesday, March 26

Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners work session. 8:30 a.m., Archuleta County administration building, commissioners' meeting room, 398 Lewis St. View Zoom meeting at: https://zoom.us/j/91609048375?pwd=dFFF0J1cGVKa1NHWHFsa2taeGxtZz09, meeting ID: 916 0904 8375, passcode: 4141885. For more information, visit http://archuletacounty.org/agendacenter.

Upper San Juan Health Service District Board of Directors meeting. 5 p.m., Pagosa Springs Medical Center board room, 95 S. Pagosa

Blvd. View the meeting on Microsoft Teams using meeting ID: 211 697 380 209, passcode: 72rBqf.

Thursday, March 28

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

Archuleta County Planning Commission meeting. 6 p.m., Archuleta County administration building, commissioners' meeting room, 398 Lewis St. View Zoom meeting at: https://zoom.us/j/91609048375?pwd=dFFF0J1cGVKa1NHWHFsa2taeGxtZz09, meeting ID: 916 0904 8375, passcode: 4141885. For more information, visit http://archuletacounty.org/agendacenter.

Tuesday, April 16

Main Street Advisory Board meeting with Colorado Department of Transportation. 5:30-7:30 p.m., South Conference Room, Ross Aragon Community Center, 451 Hot Springs Blvd. To join on Zoom: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88554742993?pwd=N0theitOZ013YzVQWkzS2dzTWtHdz09, meeting ID: 885 5474 2993, passcode: 525329. A meeting to address needs prior to and during the downtown reconstruction project.

Tuesday, April 23

Upper San Juan Health Service District Board of Directors meeting. 5 p.m., Pagosa Springs Medical Center board room, 95 S. Pagosa Blvd. View the meeting on Microsoft Teams using meeting ID: 211 697 380 209, passcode: 72rBqf.

Tuesday, May 14

Main Street Advisory Board meeting with Colorado Department of Transportation. 5:30-7:30 p.m., South Conference Room, Ross Aragon Community Center, 451 Hot Springs Blvd. To join on Zoom: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88554742993?pwd=N0theitOZ013YzVQWkzS2dzTWtHdz09, meeting ID: 885 5474 2993, passcode: 525329. A meeting to address needs prior to and during the downtown reconstruction project.

Tuesday, May 28

Upper San Juan Health Service District Board of Directors meeting. 5 p.m., Pagosa Springs Medical

Democratic Club to hear about fire mitigation, insurance

By Lynn R. Frederick
 Archuleta County Democratic Club

Fire mitigation and homeowners' insurance will be the topic of the next Democratic Club meeting, which will be held on March 14 at 11:30 a.m. at Coyote Moon.

Bill Trimarco from Wildfire Adapted Partnership has said that he will cover "the historical forest and fire regimes in Archuleta County, the present conditions, measures that people can take to protect lives and property, what assistance is available, tax incentives and evacuation preparedness."

Lisa Jensen of Woolverton Insurance will explain some of the problems that homeowners have been having in securing insurance. There will be time to ask general questions. Please plan to come at 11:30 a.m. to order lunch. The presentation will begin at noon.

The Democratic Club is a social organization that seeks to sponsor programs about topics of local interest. Everyone is welcome. Do not feel that you need to be a registered Democrat to attend.

For more information, contact lynnfredrick1@gmail.com.

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preview

ARTS & LIFE

Night at the Library

4:30 p.m. • Saturday, March 9 • Ruby Sisson Library



Photo courtesy Ruby Sisson Library Foundation and Friends

Last chance to buy tickets to Saturday's Night at the Library

By Cindi Galabota
 Ruby Sisson Library Foundation and Friends

Don't miss our third Night at the Library crafting party this Saturday, March 9.

The doors will open at 4:30 p.m. at your Ruby Sisson Library.

Join your friends for an evening of fun, where you will make and take home a one-of-a-kind pearl bracelet fit for that special night out and a painted or collaged design you will want to show off in your home.

This event is lovingly sponsored by Debby Donovan and Renee Vanover.

Your \$50 ticket to Night at the Library provides you with all of your crafting supplies along with a delicious dinner and drinks.

Proceeds will support our Mountains of Opportu-

nity building campaign. The addition and renovations to the library will offer community meeting space, dedicated room for children's literacy programs, a room exclusively for teens and tweens, private study rooms, an intergenerational hands-on learning space, easy access to self-checkout and drop-off, and a beautiful outdoor reading garden.

This is a 21-and-over event. A limited number of tickets are being sold to this event. Buy your ticket today.

Tickets may be purchased online with credit card at pagosalibrary.org or in person at your Ruby Sisson Library with cash or check.

To learn more about Night at the Library Round Three or about our campaign, please contact Cindi Galabota at (970) 264-2209 or cindi@pagosalibrary.org.

We hope to see you on March 9 at your Ruby Sisson Library.

Live Performers



- Friday**
 The Springs Resort lodge atrium: Jason Rose, 5 p.m.
- Saturday**
 The Springs Resort lodge atrium: Maxwell Miller, 5 p.m.
- Monday**
 The Springs Resort lodge atrium: Dustin Burley, 5 p.m.
- Tuesday**
 The Springs Resort lodge atrium: San Juan Mountain Boys, 5 p.m.
- Wednesday**
 Alley House Grille lounge: Bob Hemenger, 5:30 p.m.
 The Den: Karaoke, 8 p.m.

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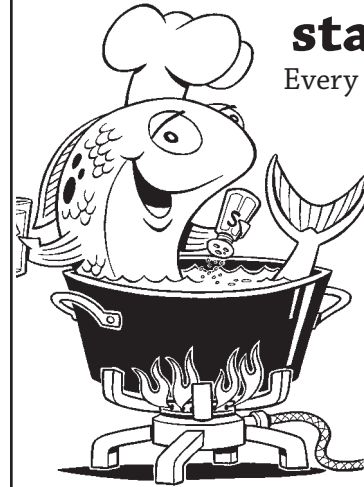
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New group to explore issues related to death

By Joan Mieritz
Special to The PREVIEW

On Wednesday, March 20, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. at the Ruby Sisson Library, will be the first meeting of brave, mature, practical, realistic, curious, responsible people who want to investigate and explore issues related to the practical, physical side of death.

Admittedly, this is not a fun topic. But, since this is something that happens to everyone whether we want to acknowledge it or not, it is a necessary topic to face. It should be helpful to consider the information available before we or someone close to us comes face-to-face with death.

Our first meeting will focus on increasing our level of comfort in investigating the topic and to find out what questions and issues are of interest to the group. We will also discuss what resources we can tap into to find answers to be presented at future meetings.

There may have been thoughts about death that have passed through your mind, but the solution was not simple, so you allowed them to exit. That is why you should come — because there is strength in numbers and purpose. We will band together to select important issues and work together to find their solutions.

One issue of interest is the fact that there is no place in Archuleta County for green burials. We will need to find out what that term means. With all the wonderful land in Pagosa, we should be able to find a place to offer this to our community.

Our neighbor on the other side of Wolf Creek, Crestone, offers a private cremation site where a family can personally cremate their loved one's body with support from the community. Also in Crestone is a green burial site. How was that accomplished and could our community create something similar?

We could discuss meeting with a mortuary staff person before they are absolutely needed. Why wait until you or a loved one are at your weak-

est moment? Why not gather your questions and ask them at a time of strength and clarity? It would be valuable to know what kinds of choices need to be made.

In 2016, a Colorado End-Of-Life Options Act was passed, but local people implemented a way to keep medical practitioners from being able to practice this law in Pagosa. How does this work? What information is available? Should this be a viable option in Pagosa?

These are just a few ideas that might lead to discussion and future research. In addition, there are many helpful films available, especially on how some European countries are handling these issues.

I have no idea how this meeting is going to turn out, but I for one have lived a fairly responsible life and would like to go out as I have lived — in the best way possible. If you agree and want to work with me to research this, I hope to see you there.

Register for a St. Patrick's Day-themed floral design session

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Photos courtesy Andy Green

St. Patrick's Episcopal Church will again host its St. Patrick's Day Festival, including the world's shortest parade — across the church parking lot. This year's event is set for March 16.

St. Patrick's Day Festival set for March 16

By Anthony Aldwell
St. Patrick's Episcopal Church

The world's shortest St. Patrick's Day Parade returns to Pagosa Springs on Saturday morning, March 16, at 11:15 a.m., at St. Patrick's Episcopal Church.

Featuring the emerald decorated float with green-clad Pagosa children, majorettes, bagpipers, Irish dancers and first-responder vehicles, this annual march signals spring is on its way. Even leashed dogs and their owners are encouraged to participate in the parade.

Twenty-four local vendors will be on-site in the St. Patrick's parking lot, along with free hot dogs, plus Irish coffee and beer for sale.

Plenty of parking will be available at the adjacent hospital and John Paul II Church lots, and attendees are welcome to contribute to the St. Patrick's food bank with donations of canned fruit and vegetables, peanut butter, or mac and cheese.

With activities for kids and adults alike, this festival promises to be a "shamrocking" good time.



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Free tax help and Night at the Library event announced

By Carole Howard
PREVIEW Columnist, and the library staff

If you would like help with your taxes, please call Kathy at (970) 553-9150 for an appointment for a free session at your library.

A representative of VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) will meet with those who have signed up in individual sessions next Monday, March 11, between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Registration is required in advance.

The VITA program from the IRS offers free, reliable basic tax return preparation to qualified individuals. A volunteer will help you collect all of the required information and transmit it to a remote site for preparation. The remote tax preparer will then set up a time to discuss the return over the phone with you to answer any questions that arise.

Library fundraiser on Saturday

We hope to see you this Saturday, March 9, at 4:30 p.m. for our third Late Night at the Library event, a fundraiser for our Mountains of Opportunity campaign to expand and renovate your library.

You'll enjoy dinner and drinks, and a fun time making beaded bracelets, painting and creating other book crafts with all supplies provided.

Tickets are \$50 per person. They can be purchased online at pagosalibrary.org or in person with cash or check at the library. This event is sponsored by Debby Donovan.

Early library closure

Your library will close early on Monday, March 11, for a staff meeting at 5 p.m. This is our regular staff meeting schedule — on the second Monday of the month.

Curbside service available

As we progress further into the winter germ season, we wanted to be sure you know that we continue to offer curbside service for those of you who prefer to have us bring your items outside to you to help limit your exposure to — or sharing of — potential germs. Or, you may have concerns about walking on snow or ice.

To take advantage of this service, simply phone us at (970) 264-2209 when you're outside in the parking lot and we will be happy to bring your items to you.

Virtual author talks

Our highly popular free online author talks continue with two more opportunities for you to interact with New York Times bestselling authors and ask questions in March.

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

Library News

upcoming .

Thursday, March 14, at 2 p.m. will showcase Christopher Paolini discussing "20 Years of Dragon Riding" in young adult fantasy.

On Thursday, March 21, at 5 p.m. we'll interact with Madeline Miller discussing "On Retelling Greek Classics: An Exploration of Modern Epics."

Online New York Times

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

Go to the library website at <https://pagosalibrary.org>. Click on Online Resources on the gray top line on the home page. Scroll down to the Ns for New York Times and click on that icon. Your access code will automatically be generated, good for 24 hours each time you sign on. You then will be asked for your email address to log in or to create an account.

Preschool playdough tomorrow

Preschoolers are invited to a free session to use stencils to make animals and other creations with playdough Friday, March 8, from 10 to 11 a.m.

Legal clinic tomorrow

This month's legal clinic on civil issues is by appointment tomorrow, Friday, March 8, from 2 to 3 p.m. Come to the library to meet privately via Zoom with our volunteer attorney.

To schedule an appointment, at the beginning of the month send an email titled "Sign-up for Free Legal Clinic" with your first name and phone number to ruby@pagosalibrary.org, or phone (970) 264-2209 or stop by the library.

Friday Flix tomorrow

Enjoy a PG movie and free popcorn Friday, March 8, from 2 to 4 p.m.

Chess Club Saturday

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

Knitters Circle Saturday

Join new and experienced knitters this Saturday, March 9, for our free Knitters Circle from 1 to 3 p.m. It is aimed at anyone over the age of

18 who would like to knit together or get some help if you are stuck on your project.

■ See Library on next page

Trinity Anglican Church



invites you to join us
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Photo courtesy Friends of the Library

Scott Tonges receives a free book from Friends of the Library, presented by Cindy Galabota, left, and Donna Mosher on his right. As a long-time member of Friends of the Library, Tonges was delighted to receive a free book in February. The Friends select a member each month and offer them an opportunity to choose a free book from a curated list.

Tonges' love of books has led to a collection numbering at least 2,000 volumes of nonfiction. He collects histories, biographies, autobiographies, psychology, marketing and business. He has read at least parts of each book in his lovingly collected library. Since he currently has an interest in early Christian history, his selection of "Dead Sea Scrolls" by John DeSalvo is fitting. As a patron, Tonges and his wife have watched the growth of Ruby Sisson Library since 1991 when they moved to Pagosa Springs from Texas.

Library

■ continued from previous page Teen/tween art camp

Each month we explore a different style or medium at this free event. In March, it's hand quilting with guest artist Mary Kurt-Mason. Join us Mondays, March 11 and 18, from 4 to 5 p.m. Preregistration is required.

Ruby's Book Club Tuesday

Ruby's Book Club will meet from 2 to 3 p.m. next Tuesday, March 12, to discuss "Valiant Women: The Extraordinary American Servicewomen Who Helped Win WW II" by Lena S. Andrews. Copies are available at your library.

This free book club is held the second Tuesday of each month, alternating between fiction and nonfiction titles, with snacks provided. Anyone is welcome to attend.

Dungeons and Dragons

Thursday, March 7, from 4 to 5:30 p.m., join our Dungeons and Dragons game free for teens and young adults. Preregistration is required because space is limited. Contact Josie@pagosalibrary.org to join.

Therapy dog visit

Next Wednesday, March 13, from 11 to 11:45 a.m., you are invited to come to the library for a free visit

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

Knowledge Bowl

Our free Knowledge Bowl for tweens and teens takes place next Thursday, March 14, from 4 to 5 p.m. Test your trivia skills on a wide range of subjects.

Elementary tutoring sessions

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

Family storytimes

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

Writers' guild

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

ESL classes

Free in-person evening classes take place on Tuesdays and Thurs-

days, with 4 to 5 p.m. reserved for beginners, 5 to 6 p.m. for intermediate and 6 to 7 p.m. for advanced students. Please help us share the word about these classes.

Tech Time

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

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

Pagosa Adult Learning Services (PALS)

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

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

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■ See Library on next page

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Holy Week and Easter Services

Following are the Lent, Holy Week and Easter services that were submitted to The PREVIEW. Events may be submitted to editor@pagosasun.com.

Friday, March 8

Stations of the Cross. 7 p.m., John Paul II Catholic Church.

Sunday, March 10

Service of Morning Prayer. 10 a.m., Trinity Anglican Church, 246 Harman Park Drive.

Wednesday, March 13

Rosary/Stations of the Cross. 4 p.m., Immaculate Heart of Mary

Catholic Church.

Friday, March 15

Stations of the Cross. 7 p.m., John Paul II Catholic Church.

Sunday, March 17

Service of Morning Prayer. 10 a.m., Trinity Anglican Church, 246 Harman Park Drive.

Wednesday, March 20

Rosary/Stations of the Cross. 4 p.m., Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church.

Friday, March 22

Stations of the Cross. 7 p.m., John Paul II Catholic Church.

Wednesday, March 27

Rosary/Stations of the Cross. 4 p.m., Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church.

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Library

continued from previous page

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

“Priscilla” is the story of Elvis’ young wife starting when they met in Germany. “Mudbound” follows two families, black and white, in the Mississippi Delta in the 1940s trying to survive in the Jim Crow South. “The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes” is the prequel to “The Hunger Games.”

Books on CD

“Antarctica Station” by A. G. Riddle is thriller about a secretive research project. “The Lantern’s Dance” by Laurie R. King is a suspense story featuring Mary Russell and Sherlock Holmes. “Leopard’s Hunt” by Christine Feehan is a paranormal romance. “Forty-Niners” by William W. and J.A. Johnstone is the story of brave men and women in gold rush days. “Three-inch Teeth” by C.J. Box features Wyoming game warden Joe Pickett.

Nonfiction

“The Holy Grail of Investing” by Tony Robbins with Christopher Zook reveals the ultimate strategies of some of the world’s greatest investors. “How to Win Friends and Influence Fungi” edited by Nerd Nite co-founders Dr. Chris Balakrishnan and Matt Wasowski is a collection of articles about quirks of STEM (science, tech, engineering and math).

Large print

“The Friendship Club” by Robyn Carr revolves around women dealing with marriage and being single. “Harbor Lights” by James Lee Burke is an anthology of five stories about

various forms of violence. “The Bad Weather Friend” by Dean Koontz is a sci-fi horror thriller. “The Fury” by Alex Michaelides follows friends of a celebrity invited to her private Greek island who are caught in a murder.

Donation guidelines

When we are open, material donations are accepted for the Friends of the Library at the front desk — not down the outside returns slot at the library or the drop box at City Market, please.

Here are the Friends’ new guidelines for donations: Yes to popular fiction books published in 2014 or later, nonfiction books published 2019 or later, and children’s and young adult books — all in excellent condition, please. No to CDs, DVDs, Blu-ray, VHS or cassette tapes; textbooks, outdated travel books or reference books because they do not sell. No more than two boxes at a time because of space constraints.

Quotable quote

“Remember that there is only one important time, and that is now. The present moment is the only time over which we have dominion. The most important person is always the person you are with — and the most important pursuit is making the person at your side happy.” — Leo Tolstoy (1828-1910), Russian writer regarded as one of the greatest and most influential authors of all time for books like “War and Peace” and “Anna Karenina.” He received nominations for the Nobel Prize in Literature every year from 1902 to 1906 and for the Nobel Peace Prize in 1901, 1902 and 1909.

Website

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

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Archuleta County, I humbly ask for your support in my re-election bid for District 1 County Commissioner.

During my next term, I want to **focus my efforts to improve our infrastructure** including roads, buildings, human capital and partnerships.

My plan is an **outcome-based, data driven strategy** to provide consistency in scheduling road and building maintenance, improvements and replacement.

By identifying and publishing the county’s **medium and long range infrastructure needs**, the taxpayers and the commissioners can better assure the correct decisions are being made.

Archuleta County should be a place everyone should want to work. Creating **strategic recruiting and retention hiring processes** that recognize and reward the employee’s performance will better assure continuity of operations and longer retention of employees.

Lastly, I plan to **build upon our valuable relationships** with local business owners, citizens, and stakeholders, while being a good partner to our regional, state and federal counterparts.

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Healthy Archuleta food drive a success

Upcoming events announced

Healthy Archuleta

The food drive held last weekend at City Market to support the seven food pantries in Archuleta County was an opportunity for community members to share in gathering food items needed by our neighbors.

Healthy Archuleta, alongside the Archuleta food pantries, want to express our gratitude to our community for contributing a number of food items to the event and to the many volunteers who supported the food drive.

The food donated at the event is taken to the Food Distribution Center, where it will be shared among all of the seven local food pantries.

Community members looking for other opportunities to get involved are invited to participate in these upcoming events.

On Wednesday, March 20, at 10 a.m. will be the first 2024 meeting of the Mountain High Garden Club.

The meeting will take place in the Community United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall and is an opportunity to participate in a gardening roundtable to bring questions, share knowledge and become a part of a community of gardeners.

Also this spring, Healthy Archuleta is hosting a Siembra la Cena class.

This five-week Spanish language course will teach participants the basics of gardening and prepare them to start their own plants either in garden beds and/or containers.

Finally, we encourage everyone to mark their calendars for the 2024 Archuleta Food Summit, which will be held May 11 at the Pagosa Springs High School.

This event will feature learning and networking opportunities related to our local food system and end with a farm-to-table lunch. Please plan on joining us to learn more about local food production, make connections with local growers and

producers, and be a part of a local food system movement.

Healthy Archuleta's Youth Community Learning and Leadership Council is also working on getting the word out about the Healthy School Meal for All program, which gives access to breakfast and lunch for all Archuleta School District youth at no cost to families.

This program began at the start of the 2023-2024 school year and according to Todd Stevens, the food service director, has seen a 40 percent increase over past school meal participation.

However, due to the increase in students eating these meals, the funding for the program doesn't cover the cost and it is very important that families fill out the Free and Reduced Lunch application as soon as possible to help continue the funding for this program.

Any families that have not yet filled out the application for the 2023-2024 school year are encouraged to do so.

For a copy of the application, please visit the Archuleta School District website at <https://www.mypagosaschools.com/> and click on the popup "Free and Reduced Lunch Application" in the upper right-hand corner.

For more information on any of these upcoming events and activities, please email us at fsfearchuleta@gmail.com or visit our website at <https://www.foodcoalition4archuleta.org>.

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Don't smell the dishes

By Jeff Alan

PREVIEW Columnist

Many years ago when I was living in Utah with my family, I had an unusual problem with my family that I had never had before. At the time we also had a family dog.

My job when I was living at home with my family was to wash the dishes. Since we did not have a working dishwasher, I washed the dishes by hand.

One day I noticed that my family started smelling the dishes that I had washed, which is something they had never done before. I am not sure not sure why they started smelling the dishes in the first place.

Of course, since I was responsible for washing the dishes, my family blamed me for they way the dishes smelled. My family said that the dishes smelled like our family dog. My family blaming me for smelly dishes lasted for a few years.

After living in a home without a working dishwasher, my family moved to new home with a dishwasher that worked.

I was happy because I was sure there would be end to the smelly dishes. Turns out I was wrong.

Dishes continued to smell even after putting them away from the dishwasher.

To make matters worse, my family continued to blame me for smelly dishes, telling me that it was my fault that dishes smelled. My family blaming me for smelly dishes continued for several more years.

No matter how I washed them, dishes continued to smell. It did not matter if the dishes were washed in the dishwasher or by hand. There

The Writers' Circle

was nothing I could do to prevent the dishes from smelling.

As I said, my family smelling dishes that I washed was something I had never seen them do before. I also thought that my family was the only strange one who smelled dishes.

After looking up smelly dishes on the Internet, I learned something new that I didn't know before. It turns out my family was not the only one who had problems with smelly dishes.

Through research I found that other people had the same problems with smelly dishes that my family had. It was nice to know that I was not alone.

Online I read that soaking dishes in the water can be a cause of smelly dishes. By soaking the dishes in the water, you are allowing germs to get on the dishes. I read that you should wash dishes with running water.

People have offered different solutions ranging from rinsing dishes in cold water to buying new hot water heater and new dishwashers. I don't know what dishes smell like because I don't smell them in the first place. If you don't want to know what your dishes smell like, don't smell the dishes.

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

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Suggested donation price for Senior Center meals lowered

By Rose Chavez
PREVIEW Columnists

Meals on Wheels of Pagosa Springs is a food service provided by the Archuleta Seniors Inc. (ASI) for those homebound older adults needing a hot, home-cooked and home-delivered meal at a low cost.

The cost of a meal historically was a \$5 donation. Starting in January 2023, the suggested donation was raised to \$10 for all meals (Meals on Wheels, caregiver, dine in, pick up, grab n go, guests) made by the Pagosa Senior Center and Community Cafe.

As a reminder, this increase in cost was being requested as a suggested donation and no one was turned away for failure to pay. The increase was primarily due to increasing food and labor costs along with a decrease in funding; however, this proved to be discouraging to clients and meal participation decreased.

With this in mind, the ASI board of directors met this February and voted to decrease the suggested donation amount to \$6 for meals (Meals on Wheels, caregiver, dine in, pick up, and Grab-N-Go), but for guests (anyone age 59 and younger) the meal price will be \$10.50 per meal.

We appreciate your support and are grateful to be serving the older adult community hot, nutritious, and delicious meals. If you have questions, please contact ASI at (970) 264-2167.

Senior Discount Card

The Senior Center is continuing its annual tradition of providing a local discount card for those ages 60 and better.

The discount card encourages seniors to support local recreational, restaurant, medical and retail services by obtaining a senior discount card for a small fee that serves as a fundraiser for ASI.

These local businesses provide a discount ranging from 5 percent to 20 percent off services.

For more information, visit <http://www.pseniors.org/discount-club.html> or stop by our offices at 451 Hot Springs Blvd. to pick up your card. For more information, contact us at (970) 264-2167.

Grant available for adult learners

Are you a BIPOC (Black, Indigenous or person of color) adult age 55 or better living in Archuleta County eager to pursue further education? Here's your chance.

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

The grant aims to support individuals seeking to enhance their skills,

Senior News

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

ASI and members of our local Spanish Fiesta Committee believe that education is a lifelong journey and it's never too late to invest in oneself. This grant is designed to remove financial barriers and empower adults in our community to pursue their educational goals.

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

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

Applications are now open and will be accepted until March 20. A scholarship selection committee composed of community leaders will review all applications and select the most deserving candidates.

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

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

For more information and to access the application form, contact the ASI office at (970) 264-2167 or stop by the office.

Healthy aging yoga therapy class series

This winter, a healthy aging yoga series will be offered as a hybrid class at the Senior Center on Mondays from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Classes will be structured by therapeutic yoga tools and techniques with chair movement, standing stretches, gentle postures, breathing practices and reflective meditative moments.

Monthly themes for the series will include topics such as sustainable strength for healthy aging in-

dividuals, brain health, heart and cardiovascular health, mental and emotional well-being, community connections, and stress management, to name a few.

Classes will be educational for participants to utilize practices in daily life and are meant for all levels of experience with yoga.

The class is hosted by local yoga therapist AJ Connors, with a hybrid focus for the winter months, blending in-person, online and, occasionally, recorded classes. Zoom sessions will be streamed at the Senior Center to provide the community experience to practice together or can be accessed at home if weather is a factor.

Mats and chairs will be provided at the Senior Center; some blocks and Therabands are available, too. The addition of yoga props is always welcomed.

We are requesting that individuals who are new to joining the series arrive early for intake inquiries and to please communicate with AJ di-

■ See Senior on next page

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Senior

■ continued from previous page

rectly by emailing ajconnorslove@gmail.com.

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 March 8, March 15, April 5 and April 19.

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

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

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

T'ai Chi Chih

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

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

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

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.

He will lead the group through mindfulness exercises and discussion of various topics pertaining to aging in Archuleta County. Explore and discover for yourself answers to your questions and concerns.

The meeting will be held in the Senior Center in the dining hall. Snacks will be provided.

Pagosa Springs Scrapbooking Club

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

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

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

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, including Fridays.

Our dining hall is open to all ages and welcomes you all with kindness and warmth. We provide hot/cold meals for anyone in the community interested in a nutritious and delicious meal. For those 60 or older we request a suggested donation of \$6, but no one will be turned away. There is a \$10.50 charge for guests under the age of 60.

Meals include a main course, side dish, fruit/dessert, garden salad plus beverage. Some popular menu items include Frito chili pie, pork tenderloin with harvest chutney, Singaporean pork ribs, vegetarian lasagna, Hawaiian shrimp with coconut rice and always a beautiful green salad. Many of our items are locally sourced and organic.

Our chef works with a team of local food professionals to hand-prepare your meal for dine-in service in our cozy dining room (with an amazing view of the San Juans) or for takeout (via our convenient drive-through). Our menu changes daily.

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

Community Cafe menu

Thursday, March 7 — Pork tenderloin with apricot glaze, pearled couscous, buttered turnips, garden salad, dessert, fruit and milk.

Friday, March 8 — Red curry cod with jasmine rice, green beans with peppers, garden salad, dessert, fruit and milk.

Monday, March 11 — BBQ pork ribs, creamed corn, garden salad, apple crisp and milk.

Tuesday, March 12 — NM chicken enchilada casserole, pinto beans, Spanish rice, garden salad, fruit, biscochitos and milk.

Wednesday, March 13 — Cajun shrimp and grits, zucchini casserole, garden salad, fruit, blueberry muffin, and milk.

Thursday, March 14 — Vegetarian lasagna with white sauce, broccolini, garlic bread, garden salad, fruit, lime tart and milk.

Friday, March 15 — Chipotle lime tilapia with tartar sauce, brown rice, sauteed kale, garden salad, cottage cheese, fruit and milk.

Grab-N-Go meals

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

for their inability to donate. Please call or text us at (970) 264-2167 to make a reservation.

Meals on Wheels

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

Mobile food pantry service discontinued

The Mobile Food Pantry Service has been discontinued due to funding shortages. Older adults needing a ride to a local food pantry should contact the MET to schedule a ride with its paratransit service. For more information, contact Lavonne at (970) 264-2250.

Text reservations

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

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

COVID-19 test kits available

Stop by the Senior Center to pick up a pack of six free COVID-19 tests for your personal use. These kits are available to anyone in the public who needs affordable access for health promotion and disease prevention.

Mahjong

Mahjong is a 19th century Chinese tile-based game that is commonly played with four players. Each player receives 13 tiles with a goal to make matching sets and pairs (like poker). To win, a player must form four sets and one pair.

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

Medicare call by appointment

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

Mindful drawing

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

Classes are every Wednesday at

■ See Senior on next page

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Habitat for Humanity volunteer spotlight: Duane Peters

By Monica Nigon

Habitat for Humanity of Archuleta County

Duane Peters said that he had very limited building experience when he started volunteering for Habitat for Humanity of Archuleta County five years ago.

Since then, he's assisted in building six houses and "feels much more confident in solving problems when building things."

"The people at Habitat are really good about training you and giving you the experience to tackle projects on your own," he said. "[To volunteer] you mainly need a desire to learn and the ability to put in a decent workday."

He added that there's enough different tasks on the jobsite that not everybody needs to be lifting heavy timbers, for example.

"There's a variety of skill levels that are required and a variety of jobs that people can do that they're comfortable with," he noted.

Peters spends his winters in Texas, but has owned a home in Pagosa Springs since 2011. As of his retirement four years ago, he and his wife live here full-time in the summers.

Peters spent his entire career as an archaeologist. He served as the vice president and director of archaeology and history studies within an environmental company.

"It was a great experience. I got to tell the stories of people who don't necessarily make the history books," he said.

He added he likes to be outdoors, specifically hiking and watching wildlife.

"When you have bears and mountain lions come through your backyard, we love that," he said.

Peters said that throughout his life, he's stressed that a person "ought to be a member of the community and contribute in some way."

He added, "My wife and I have been fortunate, and not everyone



Duane Peters

has the same opportunities in life. If I can do anything to help somebody else grasp that next opportunity ... I just feel good that I'm contributing in some manner."

He added, "Habitat's really good in that you're giving people a hand up, not a handout. I just think those of us that are fortunate in life ought to be extending a hand to help somebody else perhaps have those same opportunities."

Peters said that, as an owner of a second in the county, it's important that the workforce has a place to live.

"If you don't have anything in a community to provide for the workforce, there may not be a community eventually," he said.

Habitat Archuleta recruiting volunteers

Habitat Archuleta is recruiting volunteers to join Peters on the build sites for our 2024 season.

We're also looking for local businesses and organizations to "Adopt a Weekend," which would entail four to six people spending a Friday and

Saturday giving a "hand up" in our community.

To learn more about this opportunity, contact us at office@habitat-archuleta.org or call (970) 264-6960.

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Senior

■ continued from previous page

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

Bridge

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

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

taking card game using a standard 52-card deck. Come alone or bring a partner.

Hand and foot card game

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

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

No experience is necessary, so come willing to learn.

Sleeping single in a double bed

By Betty J. Slade
PREVIEW Columnist

The phone rang. Our children invited us to go to Arizona with them. It would be a quick trip, four days, lots of fun, great food, fix my Sweet Al's hearing aids, celebrate my grandson's birthday and get a pedicure.

Our daughter had me at pedicure. I said, "Yes, we'll go."

"We'll pick you and Daddy up at 7 a.m. Thursday morning."

At 3 a.m. Thursday morning, my Sweet Al woke up excited. He got ready to go, dressed with his coat and shoes on. Woke me up at 3:30. "You're going to be late. Get up."

"Al, it's only 3:30 in the morning. Wake me at 6."

At 4 a.m., "We're late. Here's your coffee."

"Al, thank you, but I don't want coffee right now. Let me sleep. We're not late. You drink the coffee."

I didn't know for the next three nights I'd be deprived of sleep.

I managed to stay in bed until 5:30, through many wake-up calls. By 7, we were in the truck, suitcases packed, exchanged excited morning pleasantries with our children and were off on an adventure.

The next night, Al woke at 2 a.m. when he got lost. He called out to me when he couldn't get out of the closet.

"Al, go to your left."

Left took him deeper into the closet. I woke up long enough to help him to the bathroom door.

He let me sleep until he got hung up in the covers and got crossways in the bed.

The next night, partially dark, I could see Al digging in my suitcase and tossing my clothes every which way. He couldn't find what he was looking for.

"Al, that's my suitcase. Yours is next to mine."

Four nights without sleep. I always wondered why my mother wouldn't make the trip from Las Cruces to Pagosa when I offered to drive down and bring her back. It felt like she didn't feel safe with me. She refused to come. I didn't understand; now I do.

Traveling brings on new challenges when people grow older. I sat my children down at the breakfast table in the hotel. "We haven't had this conversation before, but I need to go over some things. Not mad, not pointing fingers, not anything, but you've got to be aware that your dad and I are moving into another stage of growing old. You do many things for us, but we need to tell you where we are today."

I went over a list, everything could be done by a phone call, a nightlight or a trip to Home Depot. My own mother wouldn't tell me why she wouldn't stay with me and I couldn't understand her. I hadn't been there before so it was important to tell our children our growing limitations. "I don't want to be a burden, but we



I told Al, "It's important we go with our kids when they ask us, but when we travel if I lose another night's sleep, you're going to be sleeping single in a double bed. I'm getting my own room."

need a handicap room, close to the elevator if possible, which you always try to do, but is necessary."

On a trip to Costco to adjust Sweet Al's hearing aids, I met Ben. He said to me, "Your children are so respectful of you. You can tell they love you as to how they help you. I wait on the elderly all the time. I see how children treat their parents. Like they are burdens. They are so impatient with them."

I told Al, "It's important we go with our kids when they ask us, but when we travel if I lose another night's sleep, you're going to be sleeping single in a double bed. I'm getting my own room."

Final brushstroke: We didn't want to get old, but it's happening. If we're going to build relationships with our children, without the burden factor, they've got to be aware of where we are today. Five of us enjoyed a pedicure and walked out with brightly colored toenails and happy feet. All is good. We're looking forward to the next trip.

Reader comments

"Hi Betty, I hope you and Al are doing well. We get the Pagosa Sun and I read your article, Will They Cry For Me After I'm Gone? Mentioning my mom and the relationship she had with the grandkids was so kind and sweet of you. You are right. Mom loved us very much and the grandkids and made it a priority to build relationships and it was her legacy. She modeled what it's like to

have long-lasting relationships that hold up in the good times and in the storms of life.

"I often think of her and miss her very much! But as you know, we will one day be in heaven together worshipping the Lord! Thank you for sharing your gift of writing. Blessings, Dan Hyde, Central Services Director."

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

Views expressed do not necessarily represent those of *The SUN*.

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Level: Advanced

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!

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

ANSWER:

Fun By The Numbers

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

Photography Club meeting to be held March 13

By Gregg Heid

Pagosa Springs Photography Club

Our next Pagosa Springs Photography Club meeting will be March 13 at the Community United Methodist Church, located at 434 Lewis St.

Come at 6 p.m. for socializing. The presentation will begin at 6:30 p.m. Our featured topic this month will be the "Geologic History of Colorado," presented by Jeb Baxter.

This will be a hybrid meeting, presented in person and also available on Zoom. See below for the Zoom address.

If you are a landscape photographer, then you well know how important geology is to finding photographic opportunities. For examples, just look at the San Juan Mountains near Pagosa Springs, Chimney Rock, or the red rock canyons and arches of Utah.

Baxter's presentation will provide an overview of the geologic history of Colorado and localities where the evidence of this history is visible in the rocks.

He will begin with the screening of a 25-minute video by the Interactive Geology Project. The video will then be followed by an explanation of key geologic processes and additional evidence of geologic history in the Four Corners region.

The talk is designed to provoke discussion with the audience, and questions are welcomed throughout.

Baxter is a retired professional geologist and professor of geology, who now lives in Pagosa Springs.

For more information about Baxter and his presentation, see our website at: <http://pagosapings-photoclub.org/2024/03/02/geology-of-colorado/>.

Following Jeb's presentation, we will have our usual member's image share. PSPC Members may bring up to 5 images to share and discuss on a flash drive.

Future meetings will be April 10, when Doug and Andy will discuss websites for photographers; May 8, when Keith Bruno of Audubon Rockies will talk about birds and conservation photography; June 12, when Dave Duquemin will discuss deep space astrophotography and demo his setup for this type of photography; and July 10, when the Pagosa Weather team will discuss the summer monsoon and other weather topics of interest to photographers.

Virtual Shutter Therapy

Watch for our March Virtual Shutter Therapy topic, which will be released this weekend on the club Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/PagosaPhotoClub>, and will be open through April 6. The topic will be circles.

Share your photos on the theme in comments to the post on this subject. Be creative in your submissions (up to three per photographer) and like or comment on the images submitted.

Thanks to Barbara Jetley, who has volunteered to help out with the Shutter Therapy topics.

Upcoming events

March 8-10: Monte Vista Crane Festival

Prepare to be amazed at the National Wildlife Refuge over the pass at Monte Vista. At the Monte Vista Crane Festival you can enjoy thousands of sandhill cranes, ducks and geese flying against a backdrop of mountain scenery.

For more information, visit <http://mvtcranefest.org>. And if you can't make the festival, don't worry — many of the cranes and other birds will be around until late March.

April 8: total solar eclipse

The solar eclipse on April 8 will be partial in Pagosa Springs, with about 72 percent of the sun's diameter eclipsed at 12:33 p.m.

Several club members have made plans to travel to areas farther east to view totality. This will be the last total solar eclipse visible in the U.S. until Aug. 23, 2044.

For more information about the eclipse and places you can view totality, check out <https://www.timeanddate.com/eclipse/solar/2024-april-8>.

As a reminder, use solar glasses to observe the eclipse, and a solar filter to photograph it, to prevent damage to your eyes or your camera sensor.

2024 membership renewal

Thanks to many of you who have already renewed your Photography Club membership for 2024.

Membership remains at \$25 per year or an individual, or \$35 for a family. We have kept this low rate since 2014.

If you have not already done so, you may bring your membership payment to any club meeting or mail to Susanne Russell (our treasurer) at 84 Chipper Court, Pagosa Springs, 81147,

or take to Russell at her shop, Art and Framing of Pagosa, near City Market.

If any of your contact information has changed, please let us know by providing a revised membership application form. You can download this from our website at <https://pagosaphotoclub.files.wordpress.com/2023/12/pspc-memberapplication-2024.pdf>.



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FOODS FOR BRAIN HEALTH (Part 1)

The brain accounts for approximately 2% of the body's weight, but it consumes 20% of the body's total energy and oxygen. It is also made up of around 73% water. It makes sense to take care of your brain. A diet containing five whole foods can protect your brain now and as you get older.

Science has shown that there are immediate benefits from eating brain foods. Those benefits include a better mood, clearer thinking, and less depression. What you put on your plate can also pay off in the long term by helping protect against age-related deterioration and diseases such as Alzheimer's and dementia. The Mediterranean and MIND (Mediterranean-DASH Intervention for Neurodegenerative Delay) diets are among the plant-rich diets that have shown significant brain benefits. We will discuss 5 specific "brain foods" over the next three weeks. This week we will look at "Whole Grain Cereals."



WHOLE GRAIN CEREALS

Glucose from carbohydrates is your brain's preferred energy source. But where you get those carbs matters. Starting the day with a low glycemic index (G) whole-grain cereal will help to release glucose into your bloodstream more slowly, providing a steady supply of fuel for the brain. Be sure you check the labels for "100%" whole grains (organic is preferable). Many companies use processed grains which remove the healthy parts of the grain, which can ultimately cause a spike in your blood sugar. Studies have shown that eating breakfast can improve concentration, and when it comes to kids, that means better behavior and enhanced learning in school.

Join us next week for our second and third brain foods, blueberries and leafy greens, and some more fun facts about the brain.

"And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away." Revelation 21:4

Fun Bible Facts: The Bible contains 3,566,480 letters, 773,742 words, 31,173 verses, 1,189 chapters, and 66 books.

A public service from your Adventist friends & neighbors at Pagosa Springs Seventh Day Adventist Church.

Disclaimer: This and all our Nature's Remedies are for health information purposes only. The Seventh Day Adventist Church is not responsible for results.



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Adventist® Church**

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Veterans Crisis Line

free, confidential support to veterans in crisis, as well as their family and friends 24/7/365.

(800) 273-8255

or text 838255

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 downy woodpecker.

In the world of birds, sometimes being small has its advantages. Like larger woodpeckers, this smallest of the North American woodpeckers drills into the trunks and large limbs of trees to consume wood-boring insects that are often harmful to trees.

But its size and light weight also allow this woodpecker to forage on the slender upper branches that will not support larger birds. It can even glean insects from the stems of weeds and use its fine-tipped bill to pierce plant galls for the tiny insects and eggs hidden inside.

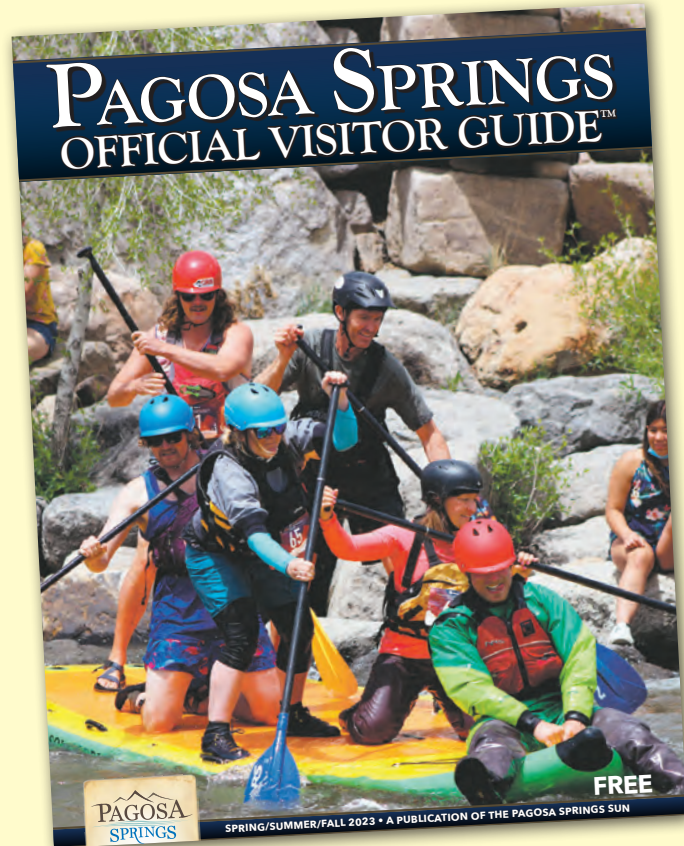
On the other hand, it's not a bad idea to avoid conflict by being mistaken for a larger, more aggressive bird, and this describes the downy's relationship to the nearly identical hairy woodpecker. Both display black upperparts with white checkering on the wings, a broad white stripe down the back and white undersides. Their heads have black and white stripes, and males of both species are distinguished by a red feather patch on the nape.

The size difference might not be apparent unless these birds are next to each other. To distinguish between hairys and downys, it is better to note the short, stubby bill of the downy and the long bill equaling the head length of the hairy. Downy woodpeckers readily come to suet feeders and are about the same length. The nasal bristles at the base of the bill which protect their nostrils from sawdust are more puffy in the downy.

Downy woodpeckers are resident birds across most of Canada and the United States, where they are common in a variety of wooded habitats, but prefer those with deciduous trees. In winter they often join mixed species flocks with other small birds to aid in finding food and for protection. In late winter, both males and females proclaim territory and attract a mate by using their bills to drum against wood, the woodpecker's equivalent of song.

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

Advertise your business in the guide visitors use.



Pagosa Springs Official Visitor Guide™

Advertising Deadline:

March 8, 2024

30,000 copies of the award-winning **Pagosa Springs Official Visitor Guide™** will be printed and distributed at Walmart, The Springs Resort, Wyndham, Pagosa Springs Area Visitor Center, The Choke Cherry Tree, many other area establishments, and welcome centers throughout Colorado. The guide

will be mailed in one edition of The Pagosa Springs SUN to subscribers. A digitally enhanced version of the guide will be online at **PagosaSUN.com** and **ExplorePagosa.com**. The Pagosa Area Tourism Board will provide a link to this guide on visitpagosasprings.com.

To ensure that your business is represented in Pagosa Springs' largest and most comprehensive visitor guide, call your Pagosa Springs SUN advertising representative today.

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Don't be late! We are running on a tight schedule!

Monday-Sunday from (by reservation only)

Wilderness Journeys	Alpen Haus	Quality Inn	Summit Ski & Sports
7:30 am	7:40 am	7:50 am	8:00 am

Return shuttle from Wolf Creek at 4:15pm

*CUSTOM rides may be scheduled based upon AVAILABILITY



Wilderness Journeys Pagosa, Inc

970-731-4081 to reserve your ride!

Or, book online at GoWJP.com

PUC# 16400

Preview Calendar

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

Thursday, March 7

Ruby's Writers Guild. 9-11 a.m., Sisson Library. Ruby's Writers Guild will welcome writers who are looking for opportunities, support and camaraderie with other writers. Members will provide support, resources and guidance for each other.

T'ai Chi Chih. 1:30-2:30, Senior Center. Free for those 60 and better.

Tech Time. 2-4 p.m., Sisson Library. Basic questions related to computers, smartphones, tablets, etc. Bring your device charger. We provide assistance with accessing any of the library's online resources. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information.

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

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

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

San Juan Outdoor Club. 6-8 p.m., PLPOA Clubhouse, 230 Port Ave. Missy Lee, native of Alaska, will tell her unique life story growing up in rural Alaska. She grew up in a family of explorers and had a dream of scaling the highest peak in North America. She will discuss the details of her 23-day adventure and hopes to inspire people to pursue their own dreams and life purposes. The meeting starts with a social half hour at 6 p.m. with light refreshments. The meeting will start at 6:30 p.m. For more information, email sanjuanoutdoorclub@gmail.com.

San Juan Stargazers. 7 p.m., Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St. There will be a social hour with coffee/tea and treats beginning at 6 p.m. The 7 p.m. meeting will cover the April 8 eclipse and "Mars, Exploring from Space and the Ground."

Friday, March 8

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

Preschool Playdough. 10-11 a.m.,

Sisson Library. Come play with playdough. Use various stencils to make your animals and other creations.

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.

Friday Flix. 2-4 p.m., Sisson Library. Join us to watch a PG movie. Popcorn will be provided.

Knights of Columbus Fish Fry. 4:30-6:30 p.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church, 353 S. Pagosa Blvd. Carry-out meals are available for \$15.

Saturday, March 9

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

Pagosa Springs Scrapbooking Club. 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Senior Center dining room. Bring your scrapbooking projects or any crafting project you may want to work on with the group.

GriefShare. 10-11:30 a.m., Centerpoint Church, 2750 Cornerstone Drive. GriefShare is a 13-week program providing support and encouragement after the death of a family member or friend. Contact Marie Rascoe at marierascoe67@gmail.com or call the church office at (970) 731-2205. There is no cost for this program, and you may start at any time.

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

DivorceCare. 4-5:30 p.m., Centerpoint Church, 2750 Cornerstone Drive. DivorceCare is a program that provides a safe environment for persons who have gone through, are going through or are considering going through a divorce. You may begin classes at any time throughout the session. For more information, please contact Lorena Medina at loremedina0817@gmail.com or the church at admin@centerpointpagosa.com. You can also register online at www.divorccare.org. Click on "find a group" and follow the prompts or register at any of the meetings. There is a \$20 fee for the cost of your workbook. Scholarships are available.

Night at the Library. 4:30 p.m., Sisson Library. This time we will be making beaded bracelets, painting and creating other book crafts. Your \$50 ticket includes all of your crafting supplies, plus dinner and drinks. Proceeds will support our Mountains of Opportunity building campaign. Limited tickets are available.

Sunday, March 10

Shower of Peace. 1 p.m. A group "shower of peace" to send peace

to all those involved with war from wherever you are.

Monday, March 11

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

■ See Calendar on next page

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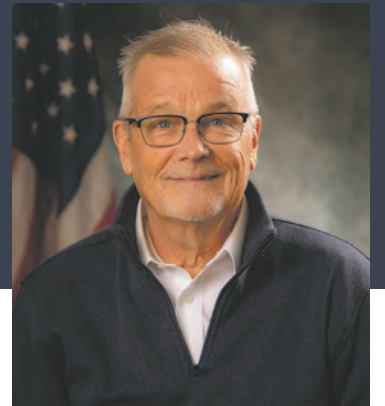
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John Ranson Republican for County Commissioner District 2



"The secret to change comes not from fighting the old, but in building the new."

— Socrates

EXPERIENCE — NOW MORE THAN EVER

With a long history of public finance experience and a proven track record of financial stewardship, John brings a wealth of experience to the Board of County Commissioners. His leadership in 2008 was instrumental in helping Archuleta County navigate through one of its most challenging periods ultimately leading to a period of stability and growth.

COMMITTED

John volunteered to serve as a Financial Task Force member in 2007 when Archuleta County discovered a serious financial crisis. Following that, John served for a period of time as County Commissioner. In addition, he recently sat on the committee to form, and budget for, Archuleta County's new Health Department. He has an unwavering commitment to the fiscal health and well-being of our County. John's leadership, as Commissioner and Task Force Member, not only rescued the county from financial turmoil, but also set the stage for a prosperous future.

KEY PRIORITIES

- 1) Provide financial restraint in order to invest the amount required, not only to maintain, but improve OUR ROADS.
- 2) Invest more into infrastructure that can add to our economic growth — TECHNOLOGY.
- 3) Build stronger and better working relationships.



OPPORTUNITIES

- 1) Roads — not just maintain, but IMPROVE
- 2) Implement NEW Budgetary Process
- 3) Work TOGETHER as a Board and Community

CHALLENGES

- 1) Landfill — highest priority! Expense and liability reasons
- 2) County Administration Building Location
- 3) Financial Management — Debt

To learn more about John Ranson's campaign:

RansonforBoCC@gmail.com

Follow us on Facebook at John Ranson for County Commissioner

Website: RansonforCommissioner.com

Advertisement Paid for by Ranson for Commissioner, Campaign Manager: Lisa Scott, Campaign Treasurer: Pete Graham.

Preview Calendar

■ continued from previous page
able.

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

Women's Fellowship. 9-11 a.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church classrooms.

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance. 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Sisson Library. Registration required. People who would like help with their taxes are encouraged to call Kathy at (970) 553-9150 for an appointment.

Line Dancing. 9:30-11:30 a.m., PLPOA Clubhouse, 230 Port Ave. Beginners at 9:30 and advance group at 10:30. If you have not attended before, call Beverly at (970) 264-2064 for more information.

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

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

Boy Scout Meeting. 4 p.m., Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St. Boys aged 11-17 are invited to attend meetings. Scouts learn outdoor and leadership skills, teamwork, support our community and, above all, have fun. Contact Jennifer Walterscheid at (970) 986-0387 or scoutmaster807@gmail.com for more details.

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

Deepening the Faith Classes. 6-8 p.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church classrooms.

Tuesday, March 12

Tech Time. 10 a.m.- noon, Sisson Library. Basic questions related to computers, smartphones, tablets, etc. Bring your device charger. We provide assistance with accessing any of the library's online resources. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information.

Pagosa Springs Stitchers. 10 a.m.-noon, Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St. Bring your current stitching project and a snack/drink if you wish, and enjoy the fellowship of other stitchers. All are welcome.

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

Hand and Foot Card Game. 1:15 p.m., Senior Center. No experience is necessary, so come willing to learn.

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

Ruby's Book Club. 2-3 p.m., Sisson Library. Join us to discuss "Valiant Women: The Extraordinary American Servicewomen Who Helped Win WWII" by Lena S. Andrews. Snacks provided. Pick up a copy at the library.

Dungeons and Dragons. 4-5:30 p.m.,

Sisson Library. Join the adventure. Preregistration is required because space is limited. Contact Josie@pagosalibrary.org to join.

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

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

Wednesday, March 13

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

Pickleball Beginner Lessons. 8:30-10:30 a.m., Community Center. Loaner paddles are available. Reservations are required and can be made at pagosapickleball.org under the "Play" tab.

Becoming Catholic: Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults. 10-11 a.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church, 353 S. Pagosa Blvd. For those interested in becoming Catholic.

Family Storytime. 10-11 a.m., Sisson Library. Join us for an educational hour of reading, singing and free play while building early literacy skills together. For all ages. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information.

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

Mindful Drawing. 1:15 p.m., Senior Center.

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

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

Thursday, March 14

Ruby's Writers Guild. 9-11 a.m., Sisson Library. Ruby's Writers Guild will welcome writers who are looking for opportunities, support and camaraderie with other writers. Members will provide support, resources and guidance for each other.

Archuleta County Democratic Club. 11:30 a.m., Coyote Moon. Bill Trimarco and Lisa Jensen will speak about wildfire mitigation and homeowners' insurance.

T'ai Chi Chih. 1:30-2:30, Senior Center. Free for those 60 and better.

Virtual Author Talk: Christopher Paolini. 2 p.m., virtual. Listen live

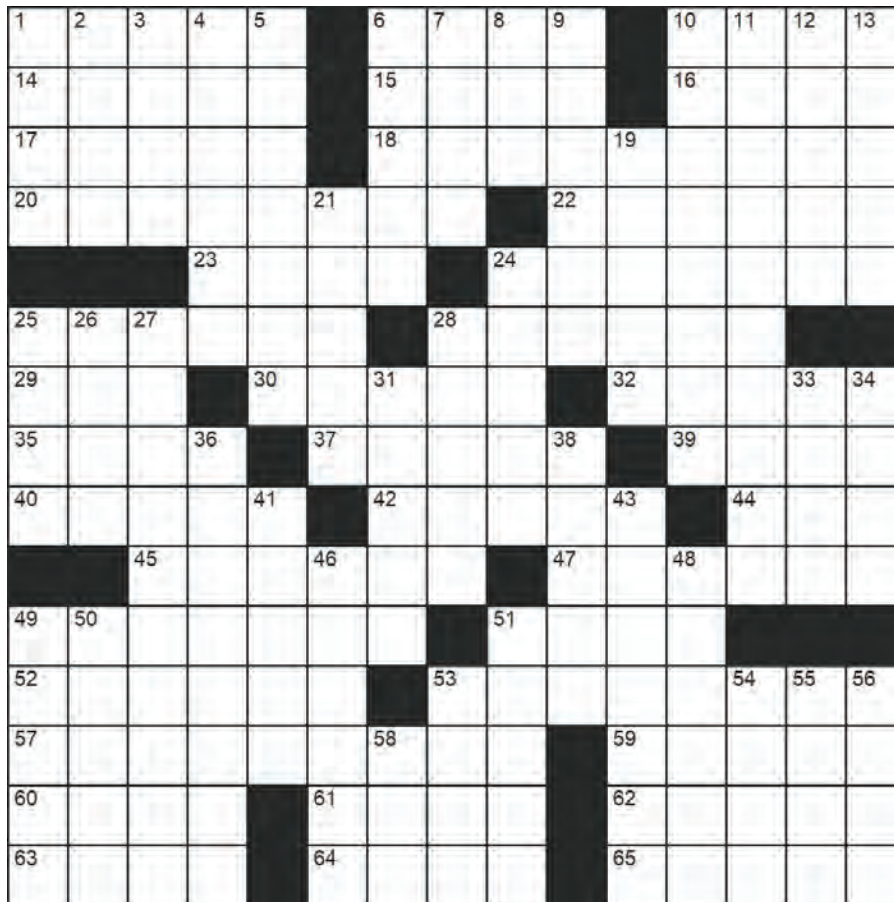
■ See Calendar on next page

The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

- 1 Brazilian dance
- 6 Wild guess
- 10 Silent film star Lillian
- 14 Golf shoe feature
- 15 Stash away
- 16 Golden rule word
- 17 Insurance seller
- 18 Like noteworthy days
- 20 Beaten-up
- 22 Apprentice doctor
- 23 One way to run
- 24 Election data
- 25 Like many a bikini
- 28 Alludes (to)
- 29 Comic Conway
- 30 Picker-upper
- 32 Mortgage seeker's concern
- 35 Ticklish one
- 37 Filled with cargo
- 39 Wash up, old-style
- 40 Tiger at the tee
- 42 More recent
- 44 Hamilton's bill
- 45 Ornate style
- 47 Cole Porter's "___ We Fools?"
- 49 Insatiable greed
- 51 "___ Only Just Begun"
- 52 It may be cast
- 53 Combative
- 57 Drove away
- 59 Small greenish songbird
- 60 Shares
- 61 Show of hands, e.g.
- 62 Keyed up
- 63 Custodian's collection
- 64 Fancy pitcher
- 65 Goes on



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Down

- 1 Sign of healing
- 2 Pond plant
- 3 Make the acquaintance of
- 4 Small chicken
- 5 Give it a go
- 6 Ogre who loved Fiona
- 7 20-20, e.g.
- 8 Say further
- 9 Agnostic's lack
- 10 Throaty sort of sound
- 11 Trucker's route
- 12 Back of a boat
- 13 Brass section
- 19 Reply to a knock
- 21 Palace dweller
- 24 Avoid cancellation
- 25 Crockpot dish
- 26 Metric prefix
- 27 Wickedness
- 28 Calgary Stampede, for one

31 Bass or

- Armstrong
- 33 Neck and neck
- 34 E-mailed
- 36 Like helium or argon
- 38 Staircase post
- 41 Discontinued Toyota line
- 43 Tent event
- 46 Musical stretch
- 48 Eye part

49 One way to be

- taken
- 50 Comparison shopper's quest
- 51 Dentist's request
- 53 Ration (out)
- 54 Star anagram
- 55 Cozy home
- 56 1992 Robin Williams movie
- 58 Road rescue

Answers to Previous Crossword:

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

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Preview Calendar

continued from previous page

or recorded. Featuring international bestselling author Christopher Paolini. For details and to register, go to <https://library.org/pagosalibrary/upcoming>.

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.

Knowledge Bowl. 4-5 p.m., Sisson Library. Test your trivia skills in a wide range of subjects.

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

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

Friday, March 15

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

Senior Planet. 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Sisson Library. A free program created through the AARP. We will interact via Zoom with other seniors from around the country and discuss aging issues.

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.

Board Game Central. 2-4 p.m., Sisson Library. Come and play a favorite game or bring one of your own to share.

Knights of Columbus Fish Fry. 4:30-6:30 p.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church, 353 S. Pagosa Blvd. Carry-out meals are available for \$15.

Saturday, March 16

GriefShare. 10-11:30 a.m., Centerpoint Church, 2750 Cornerstone Drive. GriefShare is a 13-week program providing support and encouragement after the death of a family member or friend. Contact Marie Rascoe at marierascoe67@gmail.com or call the church office at (970) 731-2205. There is no cost for this program, and you may start at any time.

St. Patrick's Day Festival. 11-1:30 p.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd. Parade starts at 11:15 a.m. Children

are welcome to ride the float, and leashed dogs can participate. Free hot dogs, plus Irish coffee and beer for sale. Vendors will also be on site. Canned goods for the food pantry are welcome. More info is available by calling (970) 731-5801.

LEGO Club. 11 a.m.-noon, Sisson Library. For kids 6-12 years old. We have the LEGO bricks, all you need to bring is your imagination. Contact the library at (970) 264-2209 for further information.

Pokémon Club. 12:30-2:30 p.m., Sisson Library. For kids 6-11 years old. Bring your cards to battle against others who love Pokémon too. No experience required. Contact the library at (970) 264-2209 for further information.

DivorceCare. 4-5:30 p.m., Centerpoint Church, 2750 Cornerstone Drive. DivorceCare is a program that provides a safe environment for persons who have gone through, are going through or are considering going through a divorce. You may begin classes at any time throughout the session. For more information, please contact Lorena Medina at loremedina0817@gmail.com or the church at admin@centerpointpagosa.com. You can also register online at www.divorcecare.org. Click on "find a group" and follow the prompts or register at any of the meetings. There is a \$20 fee for the cost of your workbook. Scholarships are available.

Monday, March 18

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

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

Women's Fellowship. 9-11 a.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church classrooms.

Line Dancing. 9:30-11:30 a.m., PLPOA Clubhouse, 230 Port Ave. Beginners at 9:30 and advance group at 10:30. If you have not attended before, call Beverly at (970) 264-2064 for more information.

Senior Conversations. 1:15 p.m., Senior Center.
Healthy Aging and Yoga Therapy

Class. 2:30-3:30 p.m., Senior Center.

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

Deepening the Faith Classes. 6-8 p.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church classrooms.

Tuesday, March 19

Tech Time. 10 a.m.- noon, Sisson Library. Basic questions related to computers, smartphones, tablets, etc. Bring your device charger. We provide assistance with accessing any of the library's online resources. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information.

Pagosa Springs Stitches. 10 a.m.-noon, Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St. Bring your current stitching project and a snack/drink if you wish, and enjoy the fellowship of other stitchers. All are welcome.

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

Hand and Foot Card Game. 1:15 p.m., Senior Center. No experience is necessary, so come willing to learn.

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

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

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.

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Archuleta County Courts



Have you experienced problems with courts and/or judges? Have you been denied attorney fees as the prevailing party? I have.

In August, 2023 I had a hearing with Judge Justin Fay to defend against frivolous TPO's (temporary protection orders) obtained by neighbors who used false accusations to do so (as contained in cases 2023C75/76). Reluctantly ruling in my favor, Fay also questioned my honesty, made unnecessary personal comments about me, and denied motion for legal fees – actions which call into question his competence and suitability.

More about the judge, court, and my case: archuletacountycourts.com.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY WORD SEARCH

T A K C T O L I V J L K L J A G G L O N
 O D A R E B K K S I U R E A N J I G E D U E
 E A B J B D E D M F O R T U N E U P K E O
 E U E P V J V A D M I D O O P H R R C O F E
 I O K A B G R G D F P R A H R F C E R O F E
 B J H T F B E G G A E L I C M I I C R E I
 I J P R I J V V T G C C A E D U G H M I
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 S S V C V R L T N F C L C G D G M U H C S
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 M S S M V N L E T P M C P M B R J L J M
 H K E C C A B N S T H P P U E M N B S S
 J C K K R R I J D J N O I T I D A R T I M
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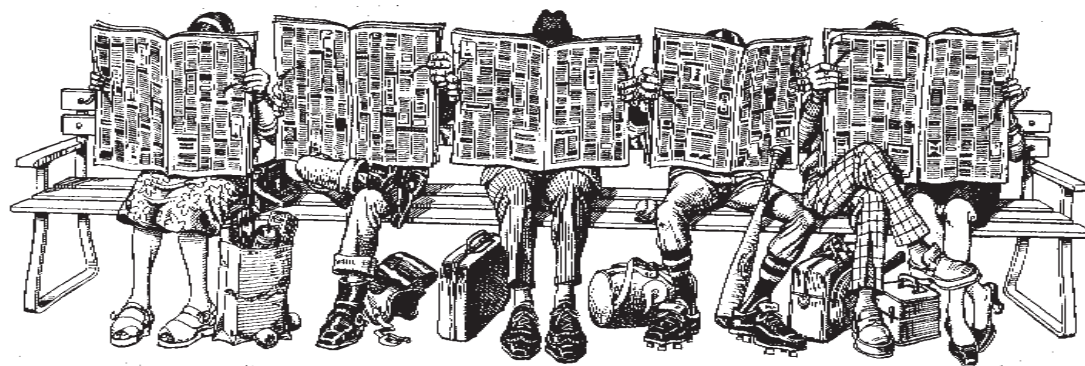
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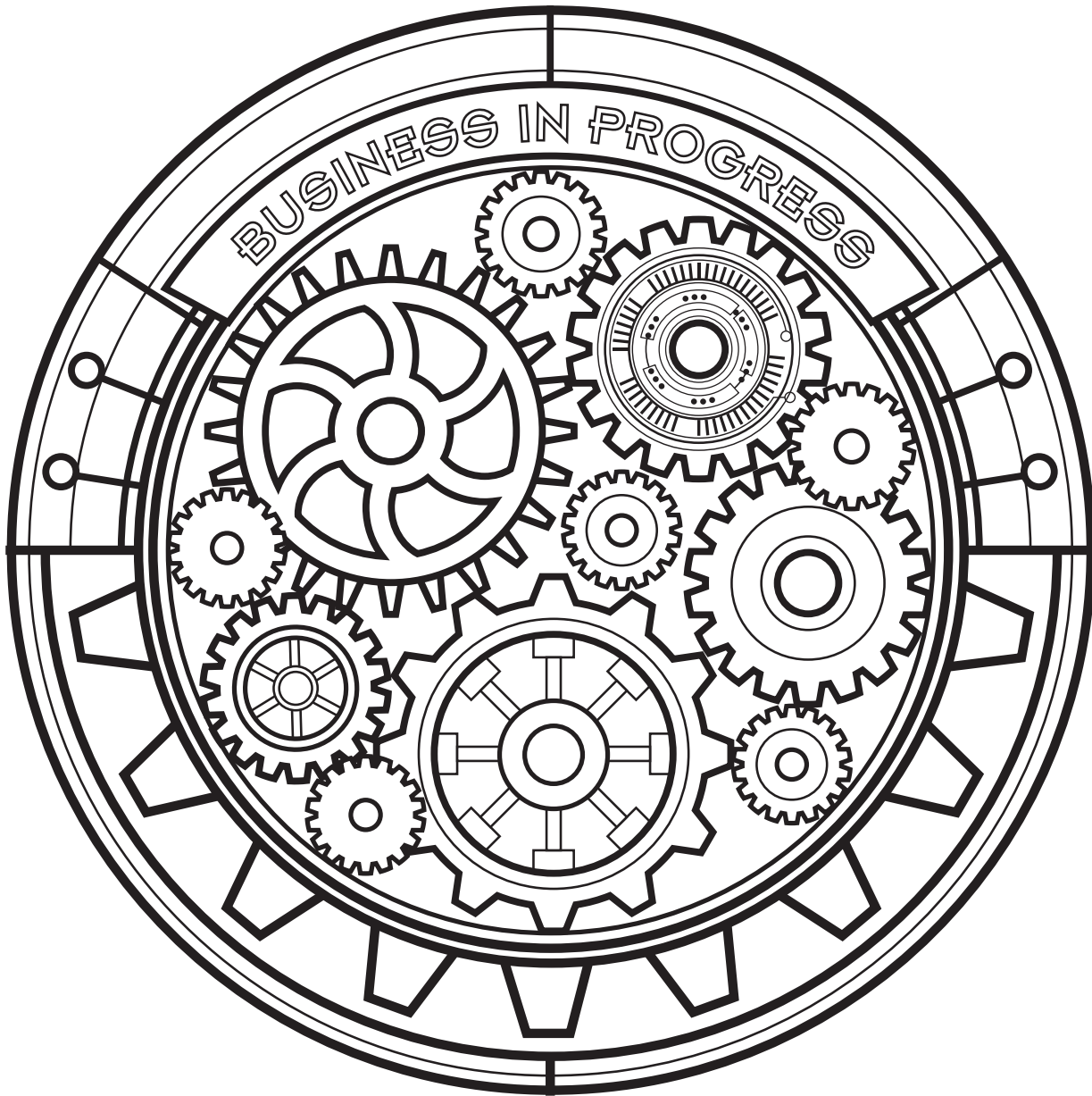
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Unbelievable in Seattle

By Richard Gammill
PREVIEW Columnist

A Matter of Faith

At the end of this column will be a disclaimer, but I assure my readers that my words are true.

Almost unbelievable, but true. My question to the reader is, why have things changed so dramatically from my growing-up years to now? My memories from the 1950s seem light years removed from the life experienced by children and teenagers today. Times have changed — drastically.

I spent the decade of the 1950s growing up in north Seattle. I attended Oak Leaf Elementary School, located on Aurora Avenue, the only road that went all the way into the city from the north.

Freeways came much later, so Aurora's six lanes carried a high volume of traffic. The crosswalk to the school campus was guarded by us elementary-age boys, identified by the white belts across our chest

and around our waist and our red flags. We all coveted the position of activating the signal light. I don't remember any adults ever being on guard with us; they trusted us to keep ourselves and our school-mates safe. It has been decades since I have seen children serving as crossing guards; now adults are hired for that job. Why are children not given that kind of responsibility today?

One morning a week all of us crossing guards talked about the "I Love Lucy" TV show that we had watched the evening before. My family did not have television yet, so I went next door to watch a

black-and-white picture on the three channels available to us. My friend's father was constantly fiddling with the TV fine-tuner and the antenna trying to eliminate as much "snow" as possible.

Once a year all the schools in the area sent their crossing guards to Playland Amusement Park (near my school) to enjoy a day of free rides and entertainment. One of the most popular spots was what I might call a "peep show in a box," with giggling boys crowded around a viewer to see black-and-white photos of scantily clothed models in seductive poses — but no nudity.

All through that decade, beginning when I was 10 years old, I sold newspapers at different locations around the Greenwood District — 5 cents each and I got half of that. One of my regular customers was Roy Davidson, whose jewelry store was just a few yards away from my main news stand.

■ See Faith on page 21



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Glen Canyon Dam has created a world of mud

By Dave Marston
PREVIEW Columnist

Opinion: Writers on the Range

When the San Juan River flows out of the San Juan Mountains in Southwestern Colorado, it contributes 15 percent of Lake Powell's water.

But there's a problem: The river carries a hefty 55 percent of the sediment entering the reservoir, and that mud is piling up.

The sediment-heavy river flows south into New Mexico before jogging into Utah, then it joins the Colorado River close to the Arizona border. The confluence is submerged under Lake Powell.

After decades of drought, the reservoir created by Glen Canyon Dam has dwindled to just a third full. Now, as the San Juan River flows toward Lake Powell, it rambles over a huge pancake of mud that's 49 miles long, a mile wide in some places, and as much as 120 feet deep in the final reaches of the San Juan River.

Unique hydrology has contributed to this plug. A relatively wide canyon and multiple waterfalls slow down the river, allowing sediment to drop out.

Though the San Juan is the muddiest tributary, all the Colorado's tributaries drop a good deal of mud 100 miles or more upstream of Glen Canyon Dam.

It's a Western phenomenon caused by damming swift rivers, said Jeff Geslin, a geologist at Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colo. The result is that reservoirs in the West have become "temporary sediment storage facilities."

If that mud could move through the Grand Canyon, like it did before the dam, biologists say that would help restore the canyon's ecosystem, which depends on sediment-laden flushes in spring to scour riverbanks. Then, as the river slows, beaches form and vegetation returns.

Gary Gianniny, professor of geosciences at Fort Lewis College, has been studying the San Juan River along with river researchers who call their team, the Returning Rapids Project.

The group's big worry is that without drastic action — draining Lake Powell to let the Colorado River run free — time may be running out for the languorous San Juan River.

Mike DeHoff, principal investigator of the Returning Rapids Project, said the sediment layer on the San Juan has created new channels and new waterfalls.

DeHoff added that no one knows whether the river's sediment plug would dissipate even if Glen Canyon Dam were breached.

Researchers boating the San Juan River where it approaches Lake Powell say they're forced to navigate an ever-moving pile of sediment that also involves portaging around rock waterfalls. When they finally arrive at Lake Powell, there's dangerous liquefied clay and sand to navigate.

"I've seen people sink to their

chests in the mud, saved only by their flotation devices and nearby boaters," said DeHoff of Moab, Utah.

"We'll need a drone to study that area," added Gianniny.

Researchers with the Returning Rapids Project talk a lot about what to call these giant slabs of calving sediment.

DeHoff suggested "mud bergs."

Semisolid mud walls along the river have already been dubbed "the Dominy Formation," named after the avid federal dam-builder Floyd Dominy.

Technically, Gianniny said, the giant mud plug is a "mass of uncompacted mud and sand that causes alluvial fanning." And falling slabs of sediment, those "mud bergs," act as semipermanent river features.

Bureau of Land Management River Ranger Chad Niehaus uses a packraft to regularly visit what researchers are calling the Lowest San Juan. He floats over 30-plus miles of the muddy river, finishing with a 4-mile backpack out to a four-wheel drive vehicle 48 miles from Page, Ariz., as the crow flies.

Niehaus marvels at the deserted region.

"Sediment is moving around, and you must be vigilant in a different way than you do on a 'normal' river," he said.

Drought, climate change, "whatever you call it, the Lowest San Juan has re-emerged," Niehaus said about wildlife in the once-submerged canyon.

"I've seen river otters, mountain lions, coyotes — even pelicans — but the most astounding aspect is how quickly nature is coming back."

In places, cottonwood trees are 20 feet high, he said.

"When I was a teenager there were places on maps that were considered forever gone," he said, pointing to sections on the map entitled "Glen Canyon National Recreation Area."

Now, he said, "some forever-gone places are revealed."

He mentioned Cathedral in the Desert, a wondrous site on the nearby Escalante River.

Enough water has receded to make it visible, though some of this sacred place for Indigenous people is buried under 30-plus feet of sediment.

Meanwhile, the muddy end of the San Juan River is wild again: "I rarely see a footprint."

Dave Marston is the publisher of the independent nonprofit, Writers on the Range, writersontherange.org, dedicated to spurring lively conversation about the West. He lives in Durango, Colo. Views expressed do not necessarily represent those of The SUN.



Photo courtesy Chad Niehaus

Calving sediment below Clay Hills, Utah, along the San Juan River.

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How to start crafting with epoxy resin

Special to The PREVIEW

Crafts that require the usage of epoxy resin have exploded in popularity in recent years thanks in part to the relative ease of using this material.

Epoxy resin is not a new material, but it has made a resurgence in recent years and might be worthy of investigation by creative individuals who have yet to use it.

What is epoxy resin?

Individuals who like science and chemistry are bound to enjoy working with resin. That's because resin is a two-part liquid that must be mixed together, resulting in a chemical reaction that produces heat. Over time, the finished product hardens into a solid, clear surface. Typically the liquids are mixed at a 1-to-1 ratio. Epoxy resin crafts are very strong, waterproof and some are food-safe, according to the Mod Podge Rocks blog.

Choosing the right resin

Resin comes in different viscosities. Thinner resins (low viscosity) have a longer cure time, so there will be a longer wait to unmold crafts. However, a low viscosity resin is best

for crafts that require intricate detail. Thicker resins (high viscosity) will cure faster and are better for casting into large, deep spheres. There also are special heat-resistant resins that will take even longer to cure, but are worth the time when making projects that will come in contact with hot items, such as coasters.

Although epoxy resin can be used for many projects, polyester or polyurethane resins also will create a glass-like finish, according to Gathered, a crafting resource. UV resin can be cured under a UV lamp and is ideal for smaller projects.

Yellowing and color

Some resins will yellow with time, especially when using them in clear form. It is important to select a resin that specifically says it is resistant to yellowing.

Resin dyes can be found in transparent or opaque pigments and give the resin color. It can be fun to experiment with mixing custom colors.

Perfecting resin will take time

There is a learning curve to working with resin, so beginners should not be too hard on themselves if

their initial projects do not turn out perfect. Typically a poor result comes down to user error and not an inferior project.

Tips to working with resin

It's important when working with resin to pick a crafting area that can get messy, as resin is a liquid and glitter or other materials may be mixed into the resin. Choose a spot that is safe and cover the work surface. In addition, choose a spot in a low-humidity environment and a workspace that has a warm, consistent temperature.

Good lighting also is essential. If overhead lighting is poor, invest in a bright task light that will be in the crafting area.

Some epoxy resins can smell, so people are urged to work in a well-ventilated area and to avoid directly breathing in any resin fumes.

Resin can be turned into cubed art, photo art, jewelry, frames, cutting boards, coasters and keychains. And this is just the beginning. As individuals perfect their techniques, there's no limit to the possibilities of working with resin.

Faith

■ continued from page 19

For several years starting when I was 12 years old Roy entrusted me to make deliveries for him. He put expensive watches, rings, diamonds and other jewelry into a leather satchel which I carried on the bus to the heart of downtown Seattle and took the items to several shops in high-rise buildings for repairs and servicing. I shake my head at the memory of a 12-year-old kid sitting on the bus with a few thousand dollars of valuables on his lap — no Briggs armored truck needed.

My parents were devout Christians and tolerated no bad language in our home. That was not a problem because none of us five kids ever used profanity wherever we were. There was no vulgarity or suggestive language in any TV show and bedroom scenes showed Lucy and Desi fully garbed in separate twin beds.

My family belonged to a church on 6th Avenue North and Valley near downtown. Members of our youth group came from all over the city, but we were tight-knit, especially when we became old enough to drive. Dag's drive-up (not drive-in) restaurant was one block from the church, across Aurora Avenue. Hamburgers were 19 cents, milk shakes were 21 cents and French fries were 11 cents. I could buy my Snickers bar at Safeway

for 4 cents.

Unbelievable?

Those days of innocence, with their widely accepted cultural norms and unified communities, are replaced by today's polarized society. Was it easier to live by Christian faith in that bygone era? Perhaps so. But life's changes are ruled over by an

unchanging God, and as the hymn says, "Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not. Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me."

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



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Showing gratitude and meeting neighbors

By Daris Howard
Special to The PREVIEW

Sherrie had just moved into a new neighborhood the last week of October that year. She and her husband were young and recently married, and she couldn't wait to get to know the people around her. She thought she would go for a walk each day and try to meet everyone.

But having grown up in the South, she wasn't ready for what happened the following week; the snow started falling. Sherrie thought it was beautiful and could hardly wait to try her hand at a snowball, sledding or the many other things she had heard so much about. She donned her coat and headed outside.

There wasn't much snow yet, but she was able to make a snowball. That was when she realized how cold it was. It didn't take long for the frigid breeze to drive her inside. She was still determined to get out and walk, but in her first attempt, she quickly realized that she didn't want to get too far from home. A short walk was all she could endure before seeking warmth.

The cold drove the neighbors in as well, but not permanently. Most of them were older, and they didn't seem too inclined to want to play in it. But they weren't afraid to get out and work for hours in temperatures Sherrie couldn't stand for more than about 15 minutes.

She decided she still should get some exercise, even if she couldn't meet her neighbors. She decided she would go to the local YMCA and walk the small indoor track there. But it was freezing, and she thought she might wait until the snow and cold eased up. But it never did. The snow kept coming, and the temperatures kept dropping.

She couldn't believe anyone would live in a place like this. Her husband had grown up there, and he didn't seem bothered. He told her most people there were used to it. She felt trapped, like a caged animal, and she desperately needed to get out, even if to just go shopping. But the day she determined that cold and snow wouldn't hold her back, the wind picked up, and suddenly, there were drifts across her driveway taller

than her car. She felt like crying.

Then something else happened. Suddenly, one of her neighbors was clearing her driveway with a snowblower. She hadn't seen such a machine before, and she watched out the window with great fascination. She and her husband only had shovels, and the snow hadn't been that deep. But this machine was making quick work of the huge drifts.

But having grown up in the South, she wasn't ready for what happened the following week; the snow started falling.

When he finished, she felt a sense of relief that surprised her. She no longer felt trapped. Whether she stayed in or went somewhere, at least she could choose. And she did choose to go to the grocery store about 10 blocks away. After almost sliding through a stop sign, she decided that short distance was plenty.

When she got home, she felt much better, and her heart was filled with gratitude to the neighbor who had cleared her walk. She made some homemade bread, took a bottle of jam she bought at the store and bundled up as best she could. With the bread hot from the oven, she headed over to the neighbor's house.

An older gentleman answered the door. She handed him the bread, and he thanked her. As he invited her in, he asked if she minded if he ate it

hot right then. Sherrie assured him she didn't mind and smiled as he led her back to the kitchen to meet his wife. They invited her to join them, and they all enjoyed a pleasant visit as they ate some bread and jam. But then, at one point, the woman asked Sherrie why she brought over the bread.

"It was my way of saying thank you to your husband for clearing the snow from my yard," Sherrie replied.

The man shook his head. "It wasn't me."

Sherrie must have looked shocked because the man laughed. "All of us old guys bundled up for winter look the same."

But Sherrie learned something else that day. She didn't have to go somewhere to get out. A hot loaf of bread would get her out of the house and into a neighbor's warm home where she could meet others. Besides, with all the different snow blowers that cleared her driveway that winter, she never knew which neighbor it was each time it happened. So, she just thought she'd say thank you to everyone.

Views expressed do not necessarily represent those of The SUN.



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Custom Fireplaces**

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WINTER SPECIAL

FIRST MONTH FREE!

All sizes of storage units and container storage available

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PagosaSpringsStorage.com

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DRYER VENT CLEANING. Prompt courteous services including chimney sweep and repairs, roof screw tightening and replacement, roof breaks. Valley damage. Arlie's Chimney Sweep. (970)731-2543.

EXCAVATION Spring is almost here and SOLID ROCK BUILDERS LLC is booking for 2024 Excavation projects and new construction. We do foundations, septic system installation, retention ponds, irrigation ditches, and landscape grading, driveways, and more. We have been in business in the four corners area since 1994 and "building on a foundation of excellence for four generations". Call (970)759-3882.

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

Blueprints

Have your plans drawn now.
Don't wait!
Be ready to start your house,
barn, garage or deck on time.



Call Rick
946-1737

SERVICES



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Reserve and Book Online at
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CUSTOM HOMES



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GOING THROUGH TOUGH TIMES? There is help in times of trouble... Dis-Cover your potential within!! At Family Life Outfitters we are all about helping you, we are the Experts at "Equipping Families For Life's Adventures". Specializing in Family Leadership, Successful parenting, Overcoming addictions, Finance, Loss/Grief, Character development, and more. Give us a call for effective life coaching. Recover your quality of life through time tested biblical principles! Call (970)759-3882.

HANDYMAN SERVICE. Noah's Ark Enterprises. (970)901-5298.

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

LET US GIVE YOU A HELPING HAND with all your home improvement projects, both interior and exterior. We are Handy Helpers and we are here to help! (970)403-9159.

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

METAL ROOF REPAIR, TIGHTENING or replacing. Chimney cleaning, chimney repair. Replacement or new chimney installs. Call (970)731-4585 office, or (970)946-1275.

MINT ROOFING-ROOF SNOW REMOVAL & ICE DAM MITIGATION Contact Mint Roofing at (970)426-5255.

PAGOSA SPARKLES, LLC. Group of high standard cleaners, reliable, trustworthy and affordable. Window cleaning also available. Text/ call KIM. (970)946-6446.

PREMIUM PEAK CLEANING. Local. Reliable. Detailed. Call (970)902-3145.

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE/ HOME CARE checks, providing snow removal, landscaping, handyman services. Call Eric (970)946-2061.

SERVICES

REACH TOURISTS COMING TO PAGOSA SPRINGS with the Pagosa Springs Official Visitor Guide, summer edition. Promote your business to your customers in 30,000 copies of the guide. These will be distributed locally at The Springs Resort, Walmart, Wyndham, the visitor center and other area establishments, at welcome centers throughout Colorado and mailed to SUN subscribers. View the guide on pagosasun.com, explorepagosa.com and visitpagosasprings.com. Deadline for advertising is March 8, 2024. Distribution of the guide will begin in late April. Call The Pagosa Springs SUN today for rates and information at (970)264-2100 or email shari@pagosasun.com.

RIVERSTONE CARPET CLEANING. 25 cents/sq. ft. and \$3 per stair. No hidden charges. Owner/operator 20 years experience. Professional, trustworthy and punctual. 100% eco-friendly. Call Mike at (970)403-9222. Credit cards accepted with no fee. Hallways and closets always free.

ROOF REPAIRS, LEAKS, RESCREWS, INSPECTIONS. 35+ years experience. Call Jeff at Blair Roofing. (970)903-6556.

SENIOR COMPANION/CARE-ASSIST Services in Pagosa Springs. Services include a wide range of tasks. Call for questions and pricing at (970)325-3585.

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

TANKLESS/ON DEMAND WATER HEATERS. Largest inventory in the area, including replacement parts. Same day Installation and service in most cases. We are the only company that extends the parts & labor warranty from 1 year to 5 years. VAIL HOME SERVICES, (760)835-1041.

TREE REMOVAL. Licensed and insured up to \$2 million. Free estimates. No obligations. Call OR text (970)903-8068.

WE HAUL. WE WILL haul off anything but your marijuana or your mother-in-law. No job too big or too small. We also move buildings. We don't haul pigs. Dan Snow (719)849-8873.

HEALTH

HOT SPRINGS HEALERS. Sessions at hot springs! Also, cranial sacral, bodywork, massage. Serving Pagosa 27 years, Dr. Dean and Amanda, (970)844-0645, (970)903-5309.

HELP WANTED

ALPINE PORTABLE TOILETS is hiring a FT service technician to service portable restrooms. Must have drivers license. Call David (970)946-3692.

FOOD PREPARATION AND PACKAGING NEEDED for the Pagosa Springs Senior Center community cafe. Join our positive professional team in a commercial kitchen dedicated to serving the seniors in our community. Hours 7a.m. to 3p.m., full time or part time with weekends off. Ability to lift 50lbs and strong communication skills are a must. Competitive pay and daily meal provided. Stop by to pick up an application at 451 Hot Springs Blvd.

264-2100

Classifieds

264-2100

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

Classified Deadline: Tuesday 10 a.m.

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

The Pagosa Springs SUN seeks a GENERAL ASSIGNMENT REPORTER who can do it all.

If you can write strong news stories and compelling features, take solid photographs and are comfortable using digital tools, then you might be a good fit for our newsroom.

A passion for community journalism, inspired storytelling and public service is essential for a successful candidate. Self-motivation and excellent time-management skills are a must.

You must be proficient under pressure and consistent at meeting deadlines.

Common topics in a week would include meeting coverage, coverage and photos from significant community events, school sports and more.

The reporter will work 40 hours per week, including night and weekend hours. However, the position offers some day-to-day flexibility in work hours.

Email resume with cover letter to Chad Richardson, crichardson@orourkemediagroup.com.

Job Type: Full-time
Pay: \$36,000.00 - \$39,000.00 per year
Benefits:
401(k)
401(k) matching
Dental insurance
Flexible schedule
Health insurance
Paid time off
Ability to Relocate: Pagosa Springs, CO 81147: Relocate before starting work (Required)
Work Location: In person

ABOUT THE COMPANY

O'Rourke Media Group is a fast-growing company that owns and operates hyper-local, community newspapers, websites, niche publications and a full-service digital agency. We are family-owned and mission-driven to save newspapers and local media companies by investing in the people, resources and technology needed to thrive for many years to come. O'Rourke Media Group now operates in eight states and 28 markets with 41 publications and hyper-local websites.

The Pagosa Springs **SUN**
an O'Rourke Media Group company

HABITAT ARCHULETA is seeking construction staff. Competitive pay DOE. Emphasis on leadership and adaptability, this is a unique role that involves teaching and learning from job site volunteers. Call (970)264-6960. Email: director@habitatarchuleta.org.

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

RG BANK is looking for a DEPOSIT MANAGER for their Pagosa Springs Branch

RG BANK is growing and evolving to better meet the needs of our customers and the communities we serve. This is a great opportunity for the right candidate to help build a new, dynamic position while joining a community bank that puts customers first and is proud to support the communities we serve.

For the full description and an application, visit:
<https://rgbank.bank/careers/>



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Full time and Part-time available
Bring your fun attitude & apply in person in the River Center

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FRONT DESK Part-time, 2-3 days a week. Shifts may include mornings, days, nights, and weekends. If you have a friendly, positive attitude; strong customer service skills; are comfortable with computers; and have a strong work ethic we'd love to talk with you. Healing Waters Resort & Spa, 140 Hot Springs Blvd. Applications can be downloaded at www.pshotsprings.com or stop by to pick one up. Applications can be emailed to: sales@pshotsprings.com, Attention Front Desk Position. We look forward to hearing from you!

HILLSIDE INN is seeking a part time Front Desk/Night Auditor. This position needs a friendly, service-oriented front desk/night auditor. In this position, some of your tasks will be: take reservations, check guests in and out of rooms, answer all calls, complete the night audit. The position's hours are 3:30p.m. -12:30a.m., Saturdays, Sundays and Mondays. Please email Natalie at hillsideinnpagosa@gmail.com or stop by the hotel to pick up an application.

WANTED Drivers & Office Help

Salary based on experience.
Bi monthly and Quarterly bonuses.
Paid time off/401k match.
Plus tips.
Please apply within.



WJP/PRO
3505 W. Hwy. 160
in the lobby of the Pagosa Lodge

CONTRACTOR SALES

Ponderosa Lumber is seeking a customer service oriented individual to assist contractors with purchasing building materials. Knowledge of building materials is necessary.

Responsibilities include:

- Providing excellent customer service
- Completing required paperwork
- Providing product information
- Data Entry

Please apply in person at

Ponderosa Lumber
2435 Eagle Drive or call (970) 731-4111

GROWING SPACES is hiring enthusiastic and motivated individuals with a passion for organic gardening, healthy living and helping customers succeed in growing their dream gardens. We are looking for a GARDENER to help with greenhouses and landscaping. This is a part-time, year round position. \$18+ DOE. We are also looking for a PARTS AND MAINTENANCE COORDINATOR who can help customers with parts and maintenance orders. The position requires the ability to identify and diagnose parts of a Growing Dome and replacements needed. This position will also create estimates, schedule, and coordinate maintenance jobs. Computer experience with CRM, Shopify and QuickBooks programs preferred. Full-time position includes paid health benefits, 401(k) match and paid time off. \$20+ DOE. EOE. Go to www.growingspaces.com/employment to print an application, or send resume to employment@growingspaces.com.

OWNERS, THERE IS A LONG TERM RENTAL SHORTAGE IN PAGOSA SPRINGS. We have a waiting list for approved tenants. Need all types of rentals. Call us today for lowest commission and highest customer service. All you have to do is wait for your rent check to come in. We do the rest! Rocky Mountain Realty & Rentals (970)507-1192.

264-2100

Classifieds

264-2100

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

Classified Deadline: Tuesday 10 a.m.

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

FOR SALE

a job. with purpose.

Archuleta County is now hiring for multiple positions. Benefits could start in first month of hire. Let's build a better community together. Apply today.



archuletacounty.org
-or call-
970.264.8379

HOUSEKEEPING. Full-time position. MUST be able to work Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays along with holiday shifts. We are looking to add one more team member to our current housekeeping staff. If you have a friendly attitude, an eye for detail, and a strong work ethic, we'd love to hear from you! Healing Waters Resort & Spa, 140 Hot Springs Blvd. Email: sales@pshotsprings.com, Attention Housekeeping, or stop by to fill out an application. Puesto de limpieza a tiempo completo. Debe poder trabajar los Viernes, Sábados, y Domingos. Junto con los turnos de vacaciones. Estamos buscando un miembro mas del equipo a nuestro personal de limpieza actual. Si tienes una actitud amigable, un ojo para los detalles y una fuerte ética de trabajo. Nos encantaría saber de ti en Healing Waters Resort and Spa, 140 Hot Springs Blvd, Email: sales@pshotsprings.com. Atención al Servicio De Limpieza. O pástate por aquí para rellenar una aplicación.

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

IN NEED OF Finance Director, Maintenance, Kitchen Manager, Cook, Retreat Manager, Store Manager and other roles. Room and board included plus hourly pay. Apply at taramandala.org/connect/employment-opportunities/.

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

JONES MECHANICAL. EXPERIENCE PREFERRED but will train right person. Excellent opportunity to learn the HVAC trade. (970)731-3046.

LOOKING FOR AN ENERGETIC AND CAPABLE couple to caretake and manage a ranch home in Pagosa Springs, Co. Position includes 1 bedroom/ 1 bath with large open loft apartment, utilities and access to a company vehicle. General duties include but are not limited to, daily housekeeping, occasional grocery shopping, meal prepping/preparing, airport runs as needed, general household maintenance and grounds upkeep. Please email letter of interest or resume to jenny@keyahgrande.com.

MOUNTAIN SPIRITS IS SEEKING customer service associates. Must be available nights and weekends. We offer \$16 p/h to start, accrued vacation/personal time, performance-based bonuses twice a year, and employee discounts. Please apply in person.

NORTH PAGOSA MARATHON is hiring a full-time cashier nights and weekends. Competitive wages. Please apply in person at 30 N. Pagosa Blvd.

OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN SCHOOL is looking to hire an Aftercare Teacher for our school. Hours are M-Th from 3-5:30 p.m. and Fri from 1:15-5:30 p.m. Please contact Leah Hellerich if you are interested in the position at (816)585-2892.

PAGOSA LIQUOR IS HIRING a full-time cashier. Please come and apply in person at 30 N. Pagosa Blvd.

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

PART TIME non profit financial administrator needed for Archuleta Seniors Inc. Must have Quickbooks and Excel expertise. Stop by the Pagosa Senior Center 451 Hot Springs Blvd. to pick up a job description and application.

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

PINE VALLEY RENTAL is seeking clerk/front desk help to assist customers in checking in/out contracts, answering the phone, taking equipment reservations, and much more! Must have computer skills, adequate phone skills, good customer service, and work well with others. Full time 8a.m.-5p.m. Apply in person at 305 Bastille Dr. or email resume to ppine000@centurytel.net

PINE VALLEY RENTAL SEEKING Shop/Yard person to service equipment, assist customers in loading/unloading goods, maintain gas/ diesel engines. Welding and electrical skills a plus. MUST BE RELIABLE. Available to work full time Monday-Friday, 8a.m.-5p.m. Pick up application in person at 305 Bastille Drive or email resume to ppine000@centurytel.net. Cone join our rental crew!

PONDEROSA LUMBER IS SEEKING a person for a yard associate/ driver position. Lumber experience and/or CDL license is a plus, but not necessary. Duties may include delivering loads to job sites, as well as helping customers in the yard, loading/ unloading trucks and providing inventory support. We offer competitive wages based on experience and a benefit package that includes Holiday Pay, Paid Time Off, 401(k) and Medical/Dental insurance for full-time employees. Please apply in person at 2435 Eagle Drive in Pagosa Springs.

POSTAL SUB NEEDED. Call Sandra (970)403-4614.

REACH TOURISTS COMING TO PAGOSA SPRINGS with the Pagosa Springs Official Visitor Guide, summer edition. Promote your business to your customers in 30,000 copies of the guide. These will be distributed locally at The Springs Resort, Walmart, Wyndham, the visitor center and other area establishments, at welcome centers throughout Colorado and mailed to SUN subscribers. View the guide on pagosasun.com, explorepagosa.com and visitpagosasprings.com. Deadline for advertising is March 8, 2024. Distribution of the guide will begin in late April. Call The Pagosa Springs SUN today for rates and information at (970)264-2100 or email shari@pagosasun.com.

SELPH'S PROPANE, a Ferrellgas Company, is searching for customer-focused Full-Time Propane Truck Drivers to join our team! Come help us deliver propane to our neighbors in the Pagosa Springs community! Benefits include Medical, Dental, and Vision, 401K, Paid Time Off, and an Employee Stock Ownership Plan. Pay starting at \$27 per hour depending on experience. Minimum Class B CDL is required. Please go to Ferrellgas.com/jobs or stop by the office at 4640 W. U.S. Hwy 160, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147.

SMALL MOTEL AND RV PARK hiring part-time maintenance person. 20 hours per week. Pool and spa knowledge helpful but not required. Pay depending on experience. Call (970)731-5345 for more information.

SUMMIT SKI & SPORTS is hiring for Spring Break and into the Summer Tourism season. Full time and part time retail positions available. Customer service experience preferred but not required. Bring a fun attitude and apply in person at Summit in the River Center.

SUNETHA PROPERTY MANAGEMENT in search of part time maintenance technician. If interested, please contact Sunetha at (970)731-4344/ Sasha@sunetha.com.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

REACH TOURISTS COMING TO PAGOSA SPRINGS with the Pagosa Springs Official Visitor Guide, summer edition. Promote your business to your customers in 30,000 copies of the guide. These will be distributed locally at The Springs Resort, Walmart, Wyndham, the visitor center and other area establishments, at welcome centers throughout Colorado and mailed to SUN subscribers. View the guide on pagosasun.com, explorepagosa.com and visitpagosasprings.com. Deadline for advertising is March 8, 2024. Distribution of the guide will begin in late April. Call The Pagosa Springs SUN today for rates and information at (970)264-2100 or email shari@pagosasun.com.

FOR SALE

27-FOOT POWER BELT CONVEYOR. Rapistan brand, 3/4 HP, 110 volt. 15 inch-wide newer belt. Made in Michigan. Two 8-foot roller tray extensions. Used for fire wood and hay bales. Can load onto trailer. Asking \$600 OBO. (970)507-0240.

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

FIREWOOD FOR SALE. Early spring special. \$200 per cord. Call (970)317-3120.

FIREWOOD FOR SALE. Low early Spring prices. (719)937-8707.

FIREWOOD SALE. The end of the season dump truck special is back! Get a HUGE load split and delivered for \$475! This will be the cheapest price of the year. Start getting stocked back up now! Only while supplies last. FIRE&ICE (970)582-0006.

LG TOP LOAD Smart Washer & Electric Dryer-White. Purchased new 5 years ago, single owner, light use. Condition- Excellent. Moving, cannot take. New owner responsible for transport from storeroom. Price \$700 for set. Selling as set only. Text (505)695-9643.

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

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

REACH TOURISTS COMING TO PAGOSA SPRINGS with the Pagosa Springs Official Visitor Guide, summer edition. Promote your business to your customers in 30,000 copies of the guide. These will be distributed locally at The Springs Resort, Walmart, Wyndham, the visitor center and other area establishments, at welcome centers throughout Colorado and mailed to SUN subscribers. View the guide on pagosasun.com, explorepagosa.com and visitpagosasprings.com. Deadline for advertising is March 8, 2024. Distribution of the guide will begin in late April. Call The Pagosa Springs SUN today for rates and information at (970)264-2100 or email shari@pagosasun.com.

REINSMAN TRAIL SADDLES. Hand tooled, produced in Texas, matching pair, both 16 inch seats. Lightly used, tapaderos, breast straps, rear billets, cinches. Dark brown and black. Stands and covers. Paid over \$2,400. Asking \$500 each OBO. (970)507-0240.

RV FOR SALE. Are you planning some trips this summer? If so, you need to buy our 2017 25ft, B Touring Cruiser that has only 12,236 miles on it. Also, it has a 350 Ford engine and a Gulf Stream body, one long slide-out, a queen bed and is in great condition. Call (970)731-2566 and come see this very nice RV.

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

TWO 50-GALLON STEEL DRUMS with lids. Used, great condition, \$45 each. Can be seen on Thursday or Friday at Pagosa Springs SUN, 457 Lewis Street.

GARAGE SALES

BE SURE TO CHECK for more yard sales in the Too Late To Classify section.

PETS

ADOPT FROM THE Humane Society. Stop by or call (970)731-4771. You'll be amazed at what we have to offer. www.humanesociety.biz.

ADORABLE STAFFORDSHIRE TERRIER PUPPIES for sale. Downtown location. Please text (970)759-2639 for more information.

CKC YORKIES 8 weeks. Boy \$800. Girl \$1200. Tails docked and shots. (970)317-5859.

DOGGY DAY CARE 81147.COM. Open 365 days of the year! Full day and half day doggy day care and overnight boarding. Conveniently located just 1 mile from downtown Pagosa. Call (970)264-9111.

FOR POOCH SAKES GROOMING. Appointments available with Kelly (303)819-2015. Mobile appointments with Barb (970)903-1290.

LOVING DOG CARE BY LESLIE N. Find me on Rover.com using zip code 81147. Boarding, day care, drop ins, house sitting. References and reviews online at Rover.com.

PagosaSUN.com

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Classifieds

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

Classified Deadline: Tuesday 10 a.m.

HOMES FOR SALE

HOMES FOR SALE

HOMES FOR SALE

HOMES FOR SALE

HOMES FOR SALE

"We owned a condominium in the Pagosa Springs area which was a rental property. For many years the firm provided property management services for us and we always found them to be very professional and responsive. If you are in need of a competent, professional property management firm or realtor, we would strongly recommend them. ~ Michael Gamba

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NATIONWIDE ADVERTISING
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WANTED

RETIRED COUPLE looking for a housekeeper. Not looking for a cleaning service. Two cats. (970)946-3038.

CARS FOR SALE

GUARANTEED CREDIT APPROVAL! 4X4 Auto Sales, 21698 Hwy. 160 West, Durango. (970)385-7940.

VEHICLE FOR SALE. 1969 classic F250 Custom Camper Special with custom engine rebuild. 58k original miles for \$6200 OBO. Call for details. (310)245-0555.

COMMERCIAL FOR RENT

4 OFFICE SPACES. Freshly remodeled, \$400-\$525. Well suited for spa services, 140-270 sq. ft. Beautiful spacious restrooms. (970)946-3232.

PAGOSA VALLEY PROPERTIES: Offering "Aspen Plaza ProSuites" These are Professional Office Suites available for Long Term or Short Term rental from 100 SF to 205 SF, priced from \$264-\$669/ month. We also offer Hourly, Daily, or other Membership options for even more flexibility. Also, Large Conference/Event Room Available. Call (970)889-2022 for more information.

PAGOSA VALLEY PROPERTIES: Offering Lewis St. Office Suites available from 238 SF to 755 SF, and priced from \$400 - \$700/ mo. Excellent for a studio or professional office space. Call (970)889-2022 for more information.

HOMES FOR RENT

3 BEDROOM, 2.25 BATH, 2-car garage, 3,348 sq. ft. beautiful home on remote 35 acres. \$4,500/ month. TP-2 Team Pagosa (970)731-8599, pagosaspringsrealty.com.

HOMES FOR RENT

BEAUTIFUL 4 BEDROOM, 3.5 BATH 2 car garage on 3 lovely and private acres. This is a must see property. Available now. \$3,900/month. TP-3 Call Team Pagosa (970)731-8599, pagosaspringsrealty.com.

BEAUTIFULLY FURNISHED 2 bedroom plus loft 1.5 bath condo. A must see unit just a short walk to Hatcher Lake. 1 small dog allowed. Water, sewer trash and snow removal included in rent. TP-10. \$1800/month.

BRAND NEW UNFURNISHED 2 bedroom 1 bath. 1 car garage condo with great views. Conveniently located uptown. A must see unit. No pets. TP-14. \$2000/month. Team Pagosa (970)731-8599 or visit teampagosa.com Available around 4/1/24.

EFFICIENCY APARTMENT connected to home off North Pagosa. \$885 all bills paid plus deposit. 1 renter only. Available April 6; quiet, non-smoker with strong references. Send complete information to mnenenergy88@gmail.com.

FURNISHED AND UPDATED 3 bedroom 2.5 bath. 1 car garage condo on golf course. Has air conditioning for the hot summer months. One small pet allowed with \$25/month pet rent. TP-13. \$2300/month. Team Pagosa (970)731-8599 or visit teampagosa.com. Available around 3/15/24.

GREAT LOCATION. 5 minute walk to Pagosa Lake. 2 bedroom, 4-plex coming available. Most utilities paid. Washer/ dryer, dishwasher, stove and fridge. Natural gas, hot water heat, covered deck, seasonal stream. \$1,469, 2 bedroom, 1 bath. 3 bedroom, 1 bath, \$1,569. \$1,000 deposit. No pets. Non-smokers preferred. For details call/ text John, (720)960-4910.

HOMES FOR RENT

HOUSE FOR LEASE. 3 bedroom 2 bath house on hilltop on 8 acres. 1700 sq. ft. Large laundry room, sunroom. 2 car garage, end of cul de sac. No traffic. Great views. RV/toy parking. Available April. \$2500/mo. Approximately 1 mile from Hospital. Burt (619)992-9100.

LONG TERM RENTALS AVAILABLE. Call Team Pagosa (970)731-8599, 46 Eaton Drive, Suite #1, pagosaspringsrealty.com.

OVER THE GARAGE APARTMENT. Furnished. 1 bedroom. Living, Dining and Kitchen. Bonus room. Large deck overlooks mountains, sunsets and lakes. Furnished outside deck. Includes WIFI, electric, gas, water, sewer, trash pickup, cable TV, washer and dryer. Walk to City Market and bus. No pets. No smoking. Annual lease. Last month rent plus \$500 deposit. \$1500 month. (970)398-0023.

SUPER NICE UNFURNISHED 3 bedroom 2 bath. 2 car oversized garage townhome. All appliances including a gas fireplace. Great views. Water, sewer, trash and snow removal included in rent. TP-11. \$2500/month. No pets. Team Pagosa (970)731-8599 or teampagosa.com. AVAILABLE NOW.

UNIQUE REMODELED partially furnished studio units. Pets considered with approval, pet deposit, and monthly pet rent. Utilities are extra but include Starlink Internet. Call Team Pagosa (970)731-8599 for availability and sizes or visit teampagosa.com. TP-12. \$850-1295/month.

VACATION RENTALS

OWNERS, WE ARE BOOKED UP AND NEED MORE VACATION RENTAL PROPERTIES! Call us today for lowest commission and highest customer service. All you have to do is wait for your rent check to come in. We do the rest! Rocky Mountain Realty & Rentals (970)507-1192.

HOMES FOR SALE

Christie Calderwood
SRS, ABR, ePRO
Serving Sellers & Buyers
970-946-6856
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