



PAGOSA SPRINGS, ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO 81147

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PAWSD board looks to tighten affordable housing fee waiver policy

Changes could endanger planned affordable housing project

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

At a March 7 work session, the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD) Board of Directors discussed tightening the district's affordable housing policy, as well as approaches to supporting the increased cost of affordable housing fee waivers.

As discussed at the PAWSD work session and a March 12 Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners work session, these changes have the potential to endanger or collapse an affordable housing project planned by the Pagosa Springs Community Development Corporation (PSCDC) in the Chris Mountain Village II and Trails subdivisions which involves the county and other community partners.

PAWSD board member Glenn Walsh opened the discussion by explaining that PAWSD has two key issues with the affordable housing fee waiver policy.

The current policy provides a 100 percent capital investment fee (CIF) waiver to housing built at 60 percent of the area median income (AMI) or below, a 50 percent waiver to projects between 60 and 80 percent AMI, and a 25 percent waiver to projects between 80 percent and 100 percent AMI.

Housing built at a specific AMI level is priced in such a way that it should be possible for a purchaser or renter at that AMI to pay for the housing using 30 percent of their income.

The first, Walsh stated, is how the district can fund its current fee waiver policy given the large increase in CIFs and rates recently approved by the board.

He added that, as part of creating

■ See Policy A8

CDOT awards \$250,000 to town, Main Street Program for downtown improvements

By Kathleen McFadden
Main Street Program

The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) has awarded \$250,000 in Revitalizing Main Streets funding to the Town of Pagosa Springs for a new sidewalk and parklet in front of Pagosa Springs Middle School.

The grant was spearheaded by the Pagosa Springs Main Street Program to leverage resources and vision with the town's Community Development Department.

CDOT is about to undergo a major reconstruction project to replace roadbed and utilities through the heart of the downtown corridor on U.S. 160.

The Main Street Program wanted to make an additional impact by find-

■ See Improvements A8



Rendering courtesy Build Pagosa

Build Pagosa receives \$1 million in congressionally directed spending

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

On Saturday, President Joe Biden signed into law a funding bill that includes, among other things, \$1 million in congressionally directed spending for Build Pagosa's regional workforce career and technical training center.

On March 8, Sen. John Hickenlooper's office announced the funding was heading to Biden's desk, which is part of \$88 million that was secured for Colorado communities in the bill.

"I think everyone on the board and everyone that has contributed to this is just absolutely thrilled that we get to move forward with this project," said Build Pagosa Director Will Ridle-

hoover.

Ridlehoover indicated he could probably speak for those at the high school and the community college level with regards to the grant and the excitement of receiving it.

"All of us have been working really hard, for years, really, to try to pull this funding together, so we're ecstatic," he said.

Ridlehoover explained the grant gives them the opportunity to move forward with part of the project, though he noted the board will now have to decide if it would like to hold off and keep fundraising or break ground on part of the project and do it in phases.

He noted the project also received \$600,000 from the Colorado Department of Local Affairs. "This is just the beginning," Ridlehoover said.

"We've got a huge amount of work in front of us to bring this from awarded grants to regional workforce center, and we're just excited to be rolling our sleeves up and getting into that work that we've been planning and dreaming about for so long.

More about the project is available at build-pagosa.org.

"From affordable housing to infrastructure projects, this is a bill with Colorado needs written all over it," Hickenlooper said via a press release. "These projects came from Coloradans, for Coloradans. And there's more to come."

The press release notes that funding bills will include more than \$129 million for 120 Colorado projects.

randi@pagosasun.com

County awards \$665,730 in federal monies to five local organizations

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

The Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) approved requests for American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding from five local organizations at its Feb. 20 meeting.

Several of the proposals were previously presented to the commissioners at the BoCC's Feb. 6 work session.

The first funding request the BoCC received was from Archuleta Housing Corporation, which requested \$300,000 for completing siding repairs at six buildings owned by Archuleta Housing that provide affordable housing for residents, including seniors, according to a request letter sent to the BoCC.

The letter also requests \$47,534 to cover a shortfall created when a previous ARPA project to replace water heaters, furnaces and insulation, and install backflow preventers at Archuleta Housing buildings went over the expected budget.

Another request came from Healthy Archuleta, which asked for \$143,000 to support the purchase of primarily local food for food pantries in the area and the operation of a food distribution center, which helps distribute food to seven food pantries in the area.

The letter submitted by Healthy Archuleta notes that the organization requested an ARPA fund award of \$286,000 spread over two years from the BoCC in 2021 to support food purchases and food distribution center operations.

However, the letter states, Healthy Archuleta has been able to stretch the initial \$143,000 payment over two and a half years and was only asking for the second payment in 2024.

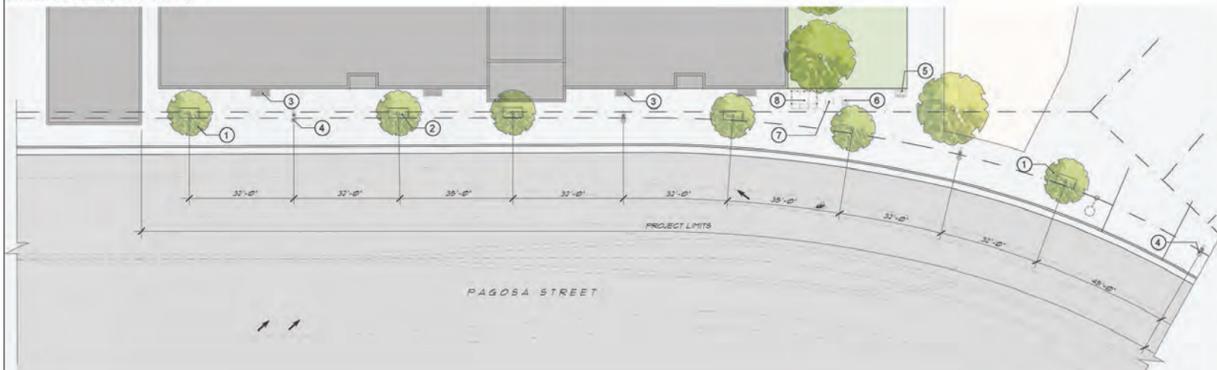
The letter also notes that there is an increased need for food pantry services in the area currently due to high inflation and that there is a lack of funding to support such operations.

The BoCC also received a request for \$86,500 from A Safe Place in Pagosa Inc. (ASPI), which does business as Aspen House and Aspen Services, to help fund the salaries of an executive

■ See Awards A8



STREETSCAPE MODEL VIGNETTE



Rendering courtesy Town of Pagosa Springs and Reynolds, Ash + Associates

A rendering shows the planned streetscape improvements adjacent to Pagosa Springs Middle School.

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Opinion

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3/8	43	26	NA	NA	T
3/9	43	23	-	-	-
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3/11	51	22	-	-	-

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OUR VIEW

Let the sun shine

With the official start of spring just around the corner, many are looking forward to more sunshine, warmer temperatures and, because we live in the midst of a fire-prone area and it's the end of a light winter, some spring rain and snow mixed in.

But the spring sunshine isn't the only light we here at The SUN are focused on.

We firmly believe in the public's right to know what's going on in our community and in shining a light on areas that others may not want lit up.

Annually in March, journalists and citizens throughout the country celebrate Sunshine Week — a week that celebrates the public's right to know and sunshine laws throughout the country that aim to maintain the public's access and right to know what is going on in government.

It began as Sunshine Sunday in Florida in 2002 and has since grown to be a week-long national effort that coincides with James Madison's birthday — March 16, 1751.

Madison, as sunshineweek.org explains, "was a driving force behind the Constitutional Convention of 1787 and presented the first version of the Bill of Rights to Congress. He also was the fourth president of the United States."

This year's Sunshine Week efforts are being coordinated by the Joseph L. Brechner Freedom of Information Project, Muckrock, the Society of Professional Journalists, the Radio Television Digital News Association and more.

And this year's Sunshine Week couldn't have hit at a better time.

Colorado's Sunshine Law was established in 1972 by Colorado's voters to state that the formation of public policy is public business and may not be conducted in secret. "In order to continue the public

confidence in the integrity of government officials and to promote trust of the people in the objectivity of their public servants..."

Yet those in power here in Colorado seem to be falling short of that intent, and the timing seems like a bad joke and an insult.

A bill allowing certain communications between lawmakers in the Colorado General Assembly to be exempt from Colorado's open meetings law advanced to the desk of Gov. Jared Polis Tuesday and was signed the same day. In the midst of Sunshine Week.

Colorado's open meetings law requires that any meeting of a body of the general assembly at which the adoption of any proposed policy, position, resolution, rule, regulation or formal action occurs, or at which a majority or quorum of a body of the general assembly is in attendance or expected to be in attendance, can only be held after full and timely notice to the public. In addition, it requires that minutes of the meeting be taken and promptly recorded.

The bill signed into law Tuesday, Senate Bill 24-157, changed the law so that noticing and minutes provisions are required only when the quorum is contemporaneous. It also establishes that written communications exchanged between members of the general assembly are not subject to the open meetings law.

That means more lawmaking can happen outside of the view of the public, with it harder for the public to get their hands on that communication to know what's going into making laws that affect folks across the state.

At least records of the communications are subject to disclosure to the extent required by the Colorado Open Records Act.

Despite the fact that Polis issued a signing statement with his reasoning behind signing the bill into law, we are sorely dis-

appointed in those who voted for lessening the transparency and can't help but wonder what might be next on the chopping block simply because it's inconvenient.

In this signing statement, Polis notes he signed the bill to provide clarity to the Colorado Legislature "as it seeks to resolve ambiguities around their own conduct under the Colorado Open Meetings Law."

He also notes that the separation of powers is a core tenet of our democracy.

"As a coequal branch of government, the Executive should rarely intrude on the inner workings of the Legislature, and the Executive Branch warrants the same deference from the Legislature on its internal operations," the statement reads.

It continues, "The final version of Senate Bill 24-157 represents the approved path forward under Colorado Open Meetings Law for the Legislature itself, not the Executive nor Judicial Branches. As the Governor of Colorado, I respect this path passed by both chambers of the Legislature, and recognize the separate and distinct authority of the Legislature to determine, within reason, their own procedures to maintain transparency while modernizing and adapting the Legislative Branch to an ever-evolving society."

We're not so sure on the whole bit of the reasoning about maintaining transparency. We'd rather truly maintain transparency, even though it's sometimes a bit more difficult or uncomfortable.

At a time when distrust seems to be at an all-time high, what we need is not more darkness.

What we need is more light to help us observe, understand and make informed decisions.

What we need is transparency, thoughtfulness and sunshine.

Randi Pierce

LEGACIES

By Shari Pierce

100 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
March 14, 1924

A total of 230 new movable and adjustable seats, recently purchased by the school board, arrived Saturday from Denver, and the first of the week a sufficient number were placed in the M.E. Church to accommodate the high and junior high school. No others will be placed at this time, but all will be utilized in the new school building to be erected. They are a decided improvement over the old style.

A majority of the people seem to have the idea in mind that plenty of playgrounds and natural hot water heating facilities are the two first considerations for the new school building.

This vicinity was visited by a heavy snow storm Tuesday night and Wednesday, but Wednesday night it cleared off and turned cold, the thermometer registering considerable below zero.

Born Saturday to Mr. and Mrs. John Latin, a girl. The mother has been seriously ill, being afflicted with appendicitis.

The City Garage this week received a carload of Chevrolet cars for local sale. There were five in all and three have been sold.

75 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
March 11, 1949

Ronald Major, President of the Wolf Creek Ski Club announces that the club is sponsoring a downhill race this Sunday, March 13, at the Wolf Creek Pass Ski course. The race will probably be held on the south side of the highway with the last couple hundred yards of the course in full view of the spectators. All entrants are to report to the race committee at the pass by not later than 12:00 noon as the race will start promptly at 2:00 p.m. All runners will be required to climb up the course which will be at least a mile long and some time is being allowed to reach the starting gate. Ranger Joe Kay, who is now in charge of the Wolf Creek Pass area on Sundays, took several club members up the course last Sunday and they all report the course as having excellent snow and as being in top condition for the race.

Amarante Martinez, one of the old-time settlers of Archuleta County, passed away in Pagosa Springs on Tuesday night of this week, March 8. Mr. Martinez was born at Cordillera, Colorado on January 13, 1875, being 74 years of age at the time of his death. He was one of the early day residents of this area, having come here in 1896. Most of his life was spent working as a sheepherder in this area.

50 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
March 14, 1974

A new chair lift will be installed at Wolf Creek Ski Area this summer, according to an announcement this week by Glen Edmonds, president of the Wolf Creek Ski Corporation. The lift is on order from the Borvig Lift Co. and will be delivered early this summer.

It will be almost 3000 feet in length, have an uphill capacity of 1000 persons per hour, and will have its base terminal near the present lodge. The new lift will also open up two main runs and a shorter connection to other runs.

At the present time Wolf Creek has three Poma lifts and one rope tow. One of the Poma lifts will be removed to make room for the installation of the new lift.

Dean Cox, manager at the area, said that the new lift will not only give much greater uphill capacity for skiers but that it will also provide some new skiing area. He pointed out that this is the first big step in the improvement and enlargement of the area that has been planned for some time.

25 years ago

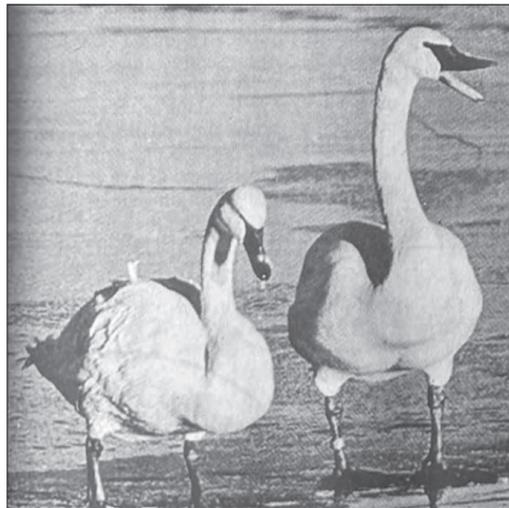
Taken from SUN files of
March 11, 1999

Wolf Creek Ski Area officials are racing the calendar, hoping to obtain final U.S. Forest Service approval of their latest environmental assessment application in time to make proposed improvements before winter weather closes the 1999 construction season.

"We'll start the work this summer as soon as we have final approval," said Davey Pitcher, Wolf Creek general manager. "We'll continue working into the fall, but when temperatures fall and snow starts falling, working conditions get more expensive and more laborious."

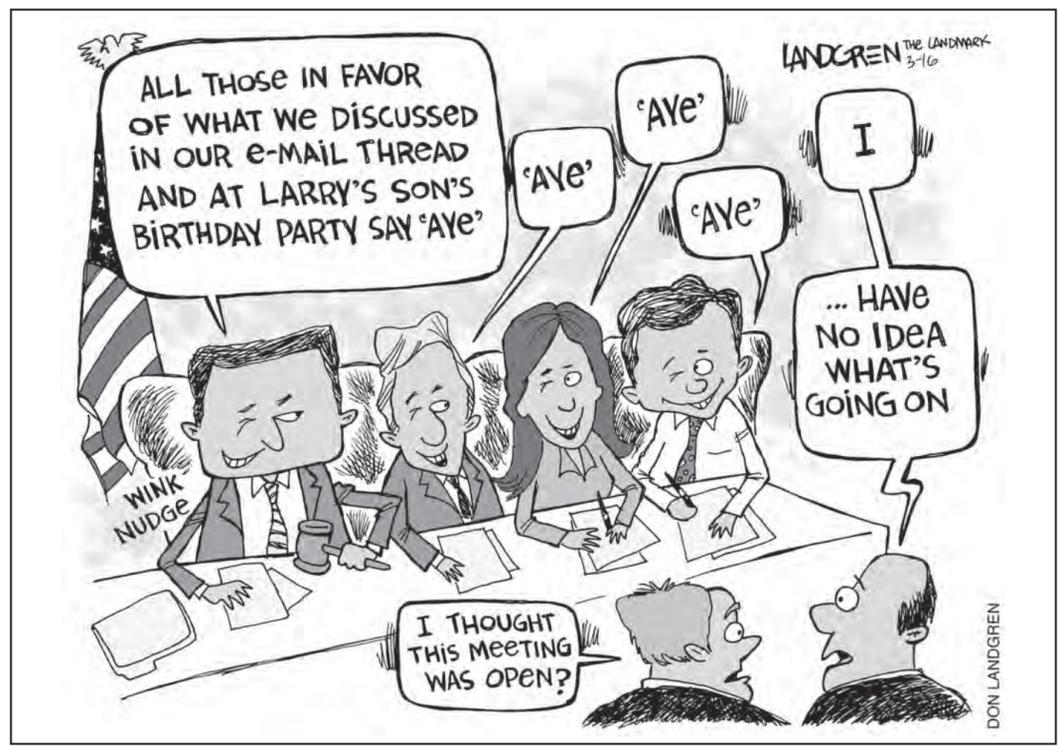
Wolf Creek has proposed adding a chair-lift, more ski trails, and additional access road, and expanded parking. Justification for the expansion is based on increased attendance. The increased attendance has forced employees and skiers to park along U.S. 160 during peak attendance. Ski area and Forest Service officials have viewed the proposed expansion as a valid solution to dangers created by the parking problem.

LOOKING BACK



From the Jan. 30, 2003, Pagosa SUN — A pair of trumpeter swans enjoy the sunshine near open water on Piñon Lake last week as springlike weather continues in Pagosa Country. The average high temperature during the last week was 48 degrees with the thermometer hitting 52 Monday.

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Letters



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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.

FOX cult

Dear Editor:
Recent letters to the editor are a perfect examples of the cult of false information and the alternative reality that FOX and other right wing media outlets have created. To think that the Trump Administration did so much for the US is just not true. Historians have placed him in the bottom four of all US Presidents for the last 4 years. Reasons for his low rating, among other things, include his lack of legislative achievements and his actions against a peaceful transition of power.

The writers also ranted about Biden's handling of classified documents. I guess FOX neglected to tell their viewers that the Special Prosecutor, a Republican, cleared Biden in that case. The writers also claimed that Trump had every right to take classified documents. False. A President can take personal items, but all government papers, especially classified documents belong to the government.

The cultish duo then ranted about Burisma and Hunter and the \$5 million alleged bribe and blah, blah. The right wing media and Republicans in the Senate and House have been twisting themselves in knots trying to find something for which to impeach Biden. Biden has been a public servant for over 55 years and has years of public service record, and Republicans have nothing. Has FOX reported that the FBI informant and source of the alleged dirt on Biden was revealed to be passing Russian misinformation

to Republican legislators? Have they told their viewers that this fake informant was arrested for lying to the FBI as he was trying to flee the country? People seem to have forgotten that during the Trump Administration, the Mueller Investigation resulted in the conviction of 7 people, including Paul Manafort, Trump's campaign director, who pled guilty to "conspiracy against the United States". That report also showed several instances of probable "obstruction of justice" by Trump, but a DOJ policy prevented him from being indicted.

Trump is a adjudicated rapist, found to have sexually assaulted a woman by a jury. He is a fraud, liar, cheat and probable tax evader. All proved in court. The Trump Organization had to refund \$25 million for defrauding people with their Trump University scam and is banned in New York from being involved in charitable organizations for stealing funds from their Kid's Cancer Charity. The same will be true when he is convicted of election interference in Georgia and falsely keeping classified material in his spare bathroom in the Florida Documents case. The government Prosecutor, in the Georgia case, Fani Willis' private life has nothing to do with the case against Trump. She is a smart, strong, black woman, Trump's nightmare. Let's face it, alternative facts and cult-like devotion doesn't do well in a court of law!

Lastly, I saw this posted on Social Media, "Christians have been warning for centuries about the arrival of the Antichrist and when it arrives, they vote for it". Go figure!

Dave Butcher

Cultivated meat

Dear Editor:
I was happy to read supportive comments made by Iceland's prime minister about cultivated meat. For those who aren't familiar with the term, cultivated meat is grown from livestock cells, without slaughter. It has the potential to dramatically reduce our greenhouse-gas emissions, pandemic risk and the suffering we inflict on animals.

"Cultivated meat is one of the solutions to the climate challenge," Katrín Jakobsdóttir said. "The Icelandic authorities are determined to pave the way for the adoption of new solutions in Iceland and we are eager to see the development of [a European Union] regulatory framework for cultivated meat."

Instead of attempting to ban this new protein, as some American politicians have, our leaders should help advance the technology behind it. For instance, cultivated meat is currently too expensive to mass produce. This can be rectified with increased public funding for cultivated-meat research, which legislators should support.

Jon Hochschartner
Granby, Conn.

Confirmation bias

Dear Editor:
I read with dismay the letter by Matt Dodge published March 7th in the Sun. I am sure that Mr. Dodge is very sincere in his belief that what he wrote about the "Border Crisis" is true. I find it very hard to believe that it could be true. It is inconceivable to me that the UN, the Biden administration, and certain NGO's (unspecified as to which) would be working with Mexican drug cartels to fast-track young, physically fit murderers, rapist, and other criminals to be able to enter the US. The first question I would ask is "to what end" would they do that? In my mind it is so absurd that in other times it would not be given the time of day for anyone's consideration. It is simply a right-wing conspiracy theory generated by Republicans to instill fear in the American public for political advantage as an issue to help Donald Trump get re-elected. It is right up

there with the absurd Q-Anon conspiracy about Hollywood elite and Democrats eating baby fetuses.

I investigated some of the "sources" for Mr. Dodge's claims. The first being "Real America's Voice". According to Wikipedia, it is a right-wing to far-right streaming, cable and satellite television channel founded in 2020 and owned by Robert J. Sigg. It supports right-wing conspiracies including COVID-19 misinformation, 2020 election conspiracies and Q-Anon. In 2004, Robert Sigg was charged with mortgage fraud and was convicted in 2006. He had previously been arrested for burglary and assault in Jefferson County, drug distribution in Weld County, domestic violence in Parker Colorado and assault and battery in Aurora. Ben Bergquam is a far-right Christian Nationalist. The Gateway Pundit is another purveyor of debunked conspiracies and its owner Jim Hoft was kicked off Twitter for posting misinformation as well as having issues with Facebook and other social media sites for the same. It sounds to me that Mr. Dodge's claims very much lack credibility.

My main purpose in writing this letter is to bring out the point that this country is being torn apart by misinformation, conspiracy theories, and downright lies being fed to gullible people as "truth". I feel it is the duty of every citizen to objectively analyze the information being given them by their "news sources" and not be victims of confirmation bias that so many of us are subject to.

Ernie Otoole

Deceptive stories

Dear Editor:
We have now seen Senator Katie Britt's hilariously overwrought GOP response to the President's SOTU. It was delivered from her own kitchen, which is probably where many MAGA Republicans think a woman's place should be.

The worst part of her diatribe was the heartbreaking sex trafficking story of a Latina immigrant. Creating a false impression is nothing more than a lie. The woman is Karla Romero. Britt said, "When I first took office, ... I traveled to the Del Rio sector of Texas, where I spoke to a woman who shared her story with me. She had been sex trafficked by the cartels starting at age 12. We wouldn't be OK with this happening in a third-

worldcountry. This is the United States of America, and it's past time we start acting like it.

President Biden's border crisis is a disgrace. It's despicable. And it's almost entirely preventable."

Here is the lie. Ms. Romero says she was pimped by a 22-year-old man and "enslaved ... in brothels, motels and homes in Guadalajara and other cities in Mexico." This happened between 2004 and 2008. The president at the time was George W. Bush.

So, Ms. Romero was not trafficked by a cartel. Her ordeal happened in Mexico. And it happened before Joe Biden even became Vice President. Ms. Romero's personal story has nothing to do with the President's border policies. Now an activist, Ms. Romero has confirmed that she did meet the Senator but did not have the personal discussion that Britt insinuated. "Someone using my story and distorting it for political purposes, is not fair at all," she said.

Of course, deceptive stories seem to be the norm for Republicans today. A case in point is Milt Dodge's letter in last week's Sun. He suggests that the President is "smuggling" young Hispanic males into the county through some secret program. He bases this on reports from a MAGA right-wing media outlet.

The program is far from secret. Called "Advance Travel Authorization (ATA)," it was publicly announced by CBP in 2022. Under ATA, immigrant families from select countries can request admittance from outside of the U.S. using a phone app. Eligible migrants receiving ATAs must have a citizen supporter in the United States and clear robust security vetting. Their supporters must agree to provide them with financial support for the duration of their presence in the U.S. They have no dedicated path to citizenship from the program. The migrants pay their fares to fly into the U.S., not taxpayers. And, of course, non-citizens can't vote, so the President isn't stacking the deck to help Democrats.

We do have a challenge at the southern border, as we have had for decades. As the President emphasized in the SOTU, we did have bipartisan legislation to help, until a vengeful egomaniac shot it down so he can continue to blame the President for every problem. Lies don't

■ See Letters A4

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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

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- 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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Obituaries

Linda Jean Hobbs

Linda Jean Hobbs lived an honorable life dedicated to empowering and equipping people to achieve big things.



Linda was born on Nov. 6, 1961, in Houston Texas, and died on March 10, 2024, in Pagosa Springs, Colo. Linda was the third daughter of James Raymond Hobbs Jr. and Christine Pierce Hobbs.

Eddie Abbott and Paisley Grace Mackey survive Linda. Linda is also survived by two sisters, Ramona Craddock, of Dallas, Texas, Susan Peet, of Bowling Green, Ohio, and two brothers-in-law, Mike Craddock and Robb Coffman. Linda has five nephews and one niece: Timothy Jerome Hobbs Craddock (Tiffany Au and Thomas Craddock), Mary Christine Craddock, Joseph Stewart Craddock (Poojah Vasudev) and Curtis Andrew Hobbs Peet, James David Hobbs Peet, and William Pierce Hobbs Peet (Tiffany Payne Peet). Linda maintained

a special family connection with numerous cousins, including the Willis, Red, Free and Taylor families and descendants. Linda is also survived by many people who became family by choice, in Houston; Bowling Green, Ohio; and Pagosa Springs, Colo.

Linda earned a Bachelor of Arts in finance from the University of Texas. Linda's early career involved working in banking and finance. Linda also had a successful real estate career in Houston, Texas.

While Linda maintained her primary residency in Houston, Texas, she spent significant time in Bowling Green, Ohio. "Aunt Linda" made a substantial impact in Ohio.

Linda spent her life creating families:

MacHobbott family: Linda and Eddie celebrated 20 years of a committed personal relationship on May 18, 2023. On Dec. 5, 2023, they were married. Paisley Grace Mackey had already joined the family in January 2016. In January 2017, the "MacHobbotts" relocated to Pagosa Springs. Paisley, Eddie and Linda built a life in Pagosa that fulfilled many life dreams and goals. In Pagosa Springs, the family quickly became involved in the Seeds for Learning School, Friends of the Pagosa Multipurpose

Pavilion, "music parties" on Reservoir Hill and many others social and civic activities.

Sorority family: While at the University of Texas, she joined the Gamma Phi Beta sorority and enjoyed lifelong relationships with her sorority sisters.

Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) family: Linda became a member of the Brazos Valley Chapter of the American Revolution in April 2010. She served as regent of this chapter from June 2014 to June 2016. Upon moving to Pagosa, Linda quickly sought out the Sarah Platt Decker DAR chapter in Durango and Pagosa. Linda was a highly active/involved member, and as a result, she was the recipient of many medals and awards. Through DAR, her love of American history and her commitment to honoring veterans became a deeply instilled value. Linda also fully embraced the educational mission of DAR.

Vets for Vets family: Upon moving to Pagosa Springs, Colo., and becoming involved with DAR, Linda became associated with Vets for Vets in Pagosa. This family became slightly unexpected and deeply treasured. Her love of listening to the stories of sacrifice and duty grew steadily.

Wreaths Across America family: One of Linda's most far-reaching accomplishments was creating the Wreaths Across America program in Pagosa and Durango. By merging her knowledge of DAR and Vets for Vets, she was able to invite individuals and corporate sponsors to honor the sacrifice of veterans and promise to educate future generations about our country. The legacy of Wreaths Across America will endure in Pagosa due mainly to Linda's vision and leadership in establishing the program.

Girl Scout family: Girl Scouts have been an enduring theme of Linda's life. From childhood through the cookie sale of 2024, Linda was a devoted Girl Scout. She lived by the motto of leaving a place better than you found it. Linda maintained personal relationships with Girl Scouts from her childhood and was eager to make new relationships with girls, leaders, and members of Paisley's troop #22112.

A graveside service will be held on Saturday, March 23, at 11 a.m. at Hilltop Cemetery.

The gravesite is near the intersection of Skyrocket/Tulip. A celebration of life will be held immediately afterward at the Tennyson Building Event Center, 197 Navajo Trail Drive.

PAWSD responds to water conservancy district, forms Running Iron Ranch subcommittee

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

At a March 7 special meeting, the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD) Board of Directors approved a response to a recent letter to PAWSD from the San Juan Water Conservancy District (SJWCD) and the formation of a Running Iron Ranch subcommittee.

The SJWCD letter was covered in the Feb. 29 issue of The SUN and objects to PAWSD's efforts to extend a gravel mining lease on Running Iron Ranch for Andy Weber, who currently operates a gravel mine on the site.

It also raised concerns about PAWSD's compliance with a three-way agreement between PAWSD, the SJWCD and the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) concerning the management of the Running Iron Ranch property, which is the proposed site for a future reservoir.

Following a nearly two-hour executive session, the PAWSD board unanimously voted to approve a response letter drafted by the district's attorney to the SJWCD.

The PAWSD letter opens by acknowledging the PAWSD board's receipt of the letter from the SJWCD and noting that PAWSD and the SJWCD own the Running Iron Ranch as "tenants in common" as well as that the parties are in a three-way agreement with CWCB.

It then rejects the SJWCD's letter's claims that the PAWSD board holding work sessions to discuss the sale

of the ranch would be a violation of the three-way agreement, noting that the agreement gives PAWSD the ability to sell the property in its "sole discretion."

The letter opines that this arrangement is "certainly fair" due to PAWSD carrying all the debt related to the purchase of the property.

It adds that the three-way agreement includes provisions requiring PAWSD to notify the SJWCD and the CWCB if the district decides to sell the ranch and that the district intends to comply with these noticing obligations.

The letter disputes the SJWCD's letter's assertion that extending the gravel mining lease on the property would conflict with the long-term objectives for the property, commenting that the gravel mining would not interfere with the site's future use as a reservoir.

The PAWSD letter notes that the SJWCD asserts that the lease extension would be "somehow contrary to the public interest" but does not explain how this would be true.

"To the contrary, it is estimated that a one-year extension of the gravel lease will generate up to \$160,000 in royalty revenue, which could be used to offset the costs to maintain Running Iron Ranch. In absence of such revenue, PAWSD and SJWCD, as tenants in common, will be required to pay the entirety of the costs necessary to maintain the property. Maintenance obligations include, but are not limited to, asbestos investiga-

tion and remediation, removal of the house, and generally maintaining the property in a safe and orderly fashion, including the elimination of attractive nuisances. PAWSD expects these obligations will cost many tens of thousands of dollars over the next few years for which PAWSD will need to invoice the SJWCD its proportionate share."

The letter states that the SJWCD board has hired consultants and made determinations about the size, potential costs and ultimate utilization of the project without "significant consultation with the PAWSD Board."

It adds that this "lack of cooperation and lack of joint decision-making has continued, despite the knowledge by the SJWCD Board that the PAWSD Board has questioned the Project's current direction and the estimates currently driving SJWCD Board decisions."

The letter states that, despite SJWCD's allegations that PAWSD breached the three-way agreement, the district has always intended to comply with its terms.

The letter then references the terms covering SJWCD's responsibilities outlined in the agreement, including, in consultation with PAWSD and CWCB, taking "steps and actions" to move the project forward, locating additional stakeholders for the project, taking the lead in water court proceedings related to the project and providing "day-to-day management and Project facilitation as needed."

The letter comments that the SJWCD's obligations to move the project forward in consultation with PAWSD and the CWCB are "of particular interest today."

It then requests a written update from the SJWCD on its activities as the project leader since the 2015 signing of the three-way agreement.

"The PAWSD Board appreciates SJWCD concerns regarding the future of the Running Iron Ranch property as an asset to the community," the letter concludes. "PAWSD also has concerns re the future of the property and the associated financial burden on its customers that pay \$256,131.00 annually towards the loan as well as other expenses to maintain this asset. Paragraph 4.5.2.2 of the 2015 Agreement provides, SJWCD 'shall promote and develop additional Project stakeholders.' This was the principal appeal to the PAWSD Board in 2015,

which had removed Dry Gulch from all long-term capital planning. Any progress made by SJWCD on this obligation may assist in substantially alleviating this burden on PAWSD's customers, and the Board specifically requests progress made to date on this obligation be included in the aforementioned written update. As you know, the 2015 Agreement was intended to provide both PAWSD and SJWCD with a 20-year window to restructure the leadership of the project. That window is almost half closed, and an update as the leader of the Project regarding SJWCD's obligations under the 2015 Agreement is anticipated."

Running Iron Ranch subcommittee

At the meeting, the board also considered the creation of a Running Iron Ranch subcommittee of the PAWSD board.

According to the agenda documentation, the subcommittee was suggested by PAWSD board member Bill Hudson and would consider short- and long-term planning on the site.

The documentation states that the subcommittee would consider issues "including ideas about the optimum size of a future reservoir and possible additional uses for the Ranch property, which ideas would later be considered by the full Board."

PAWSD board member Glenn Walsh spoke in favor of creating the subcommittee, commenting, "I feel like with San Juan right now, we're kind of texting... We're at that emotional level of texts where nobody really..."

"Knows what to do," PAWSD board chairman Jim Smith interjected.

"Yeah, you don't show yourself well, you don't receive other people well," Walsh continued. "So, I think forming a Running Iron Ranch subcommittee to attend meetings like... San Juan has been attending our meetings."

Walsh then moved to approve the creation of the subcommittee with himself and PAWSD board member Paul Hansen as members and Hudson as an alternate.

Hudson seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

According to the agenda documentation, the subcommittee will be authorized to represent PAWSD at future SJWCD meetings.

josh@pagosasun.com

Letters

Continued from A3

solve anything and are a miserable way to govern and poisonous to our democracy.

John Porco

Family values

Dear Editor:

Yes, I was so blessed to be able to "work" at home during those precious preschool years for my children. Like most families, it was life lived "pay Day to Pay Day." Our children were raised accepting my honest answer to their "desires" which always was the same: "darling, we simply cannot afford that right now, maybe later." Once all were school age, I launched my professional career. Our children were very respon-

sible, all were honor students and had many friends who were always welcome into our home. Sometimes my phone would ring at work: "Mom, can we bake some cookies?" "Well, darling, just check and be sure all the ingredients are there."

There is nothing wrong with telling your children that you cannot afford something. That is teaching them to be responsible, a character trait that will lead them to become responsible adults and live within their means without shame. There is nothing wrong with admitting we "cannot afford" something. So, teach them to be responsible and proud of themselves.

Do it with love, of course,

Patty Tillerson

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Business

County receives \$187,000 in airport grants

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

At the March 6 Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) meeting, the BoCC voted to accept two grant awards from the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) for the airport totaling \$187,000 in state funds.

Airport Manager Chris Torres explained that a geotechnical work grant will support core sampling of the airport runway to determine what future rehabilitation might be needed, while an automated weather observing system (AWOS) grant will

fund the replacement of the current weather monitoring system at the airport, which is outdated and difficult to find parts for.

According to the award letter documentation, the geotechnical grant includes \$75,000 in CDOT funding matched by \$8,334 in local funds, and the AWOS grant includes \$112,000 in CDOT funds matched by \$12,445 in local funds.

Torres indicated that the BoCC was being asked to accept the award letter for the grant and approve a resolution formally requesting assistance in the form of a grant from the Colorado Aeronautical Board and

the Division of Aeronautics, both of which fall under CDOT's authority.

The BoCC unanimously voted to accept the grant awards and approved the resolution with no additional comments.

Marijuana task force

Also at the meeting, the BoCC approved the creation of the Marijuana Ordinance Update Citizen Task Force and directed staff to solicit letters of interest from Archuleta County residents who wish to serve on the task force.

Prior to the vote, County Attorney Todd Weaver noted that the marijua-

na ordinance is outdated and needs to be revised.

Commissioner Ronnie Maez emphasized that the task force, among its other duties, should examine increasing the number of marijuana cultivation permits allowed in the county and look at keeping the manufacturing of marijuana related products confined to commercial or industrial areas.

The creation of the task force follows several recent discussions by the BoCC about the need to update the ordinance, which were covered in the Feb. 29 issue of The SUN.

josh@pagosasun.com

County unemployment rate rises in January

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

According to a Jan. 19 press release from the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment, Archuleta County's unemployment rate rose from 3.1 percent in December 2023 to 4 percent in January.

County unemployment previously fell from November 2023 to December 2023.

From December 2023 to January, Archuleta County's labor force shrank from 6,744 to 6,531.

For the month of January there were 6,270 individuals employed in Archuleta County, according to the press release. This figure is down from December 2023's report of 6,532 individuals employed in Archuleta County.

County-level unemployment rates are not seasonally adjusted.

According to the press release, the

county with the highest unemployment rate for January was Huerfano County with 7.7 percent unemployment, followed by Las Animas County at 6.3 percent and Fremont County at 6 percent.

Rio Grande County is next at 5.9 percent, with Montezuma County following at 5.7 percent.

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

The state's labor force fell by 2,500 from 3,239,700 in December 2023 to 3,237,200 in January.

The press release notes, "Colorado's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased one-tenth of a percentage point in January to 3.4 percent compared to the revised December rate of 3.3 percent. The number of unemployed individuals grew by 2,600 over the same time period to 110,200. The national unemployment rate was unchanged at 3.7 percent

from December to January."

Employers in Colorado added 8,000 nonfarm payroll jobs from December 2023 to January, bringing the total number of jobs in Colorado to 2,969,400.

Nonfarm payroll jobs measure the number of workers excluding farmers.

The private sector gained 5,600 nonfarm payroll jobs while the government sector gained 2,400 jobs.

The largest private-sector job gains in January include:

- Professional and business services at about 4,800.
- Manufacturing at about 1,700.

The trade, transportation and utilities private-industry sector lost 1,800 jobs in January.

"Since January 2023, nonfarm payroll jobs have increased 57,900, with the private sector growing by 33,500 and government adding 24,400 jobs," the press release notes.

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

- Educational and health services at about 15,300.
- Professional and business services at about 10,600.
- Leisure and hospitality at about 9,600.

Since January 2022 the largest private-sector job losses include:

- Trade, transportation and utilities at about 3,800.
- Information at about 2,000.
- Construction at about 1,000.
- Manufacturing at about 900.

According to the press release, "Over the year, the average work-week for all Colorado employees on private nonfarm payrolls declined from 33.5 to 32.4 hours, while average hourly earnings grew from \$35.90 to \$37.23, two dollars and sixty-eight cents more than the national average hourly earnings of \$34.55."

josh@pagosasun.com

Region 9 annual and county performance reports available

By Laura Lewis Marchino
Region 9 Economic Development District of Southwest Colorado

The Region 9 Economic Development District of Southwest Colorado released its 2023 Corporate Annual Report and performance reports for

Archuleta, Dolores, La Plata, Montezuma and San Juan counties.

These reports provide a summary of Region 9 activities, and also highlight programs and activities by county and region to demonstrate the work done in each geographic area, as well as the impact of federal, state and local dollars.

All reports are available on the Region 9 website at <https://region9edd.org/corporate-annual-reports> or <https://region9edd.org/performance-reports>.

Region 9 serves Southwest Colorado and offers business loans; administers the Southwest Enterprise

Zone Tax Credits; supports regional initiatives; and assists communities with economic development planning, data, grant navigation, and other technical assistance.

Please contact Region 9 at (970) 247-9621 for copies or information.

PSCDC gives update on workforce housing, other initiatives

By Derek Kutzer
Staff Writer

On March 5, the Pagosa Springs Town Council heard a presentation updating the council on some of the major initiatives of the Pagosa Springs Community Development Corporation (PSCDC), including its effort to build more workforce housing in the community.

Emily Lashbrooke, the executive director of the PSCDC, gave the presentation and listed the PSCDC's four main initiatives for 2024 as workforce housing, broadband expansion, workforce development and overseeing the Main Street Program.

The presentation delivered to the council stated that "the mission of the PSCDC is to enhance the quality of life for the citizens" in the area "by creating jobs, encouraging new capital investment, and creating a business-friendly community."

The presentation adds, "In addition, PSCDC works closely with existing businesses to maximize profitability and sustainability."

Lashbrooke then took the council through the PSCDC's year in review. "I'll just give you a couple snapshots, because some of this is going to bleed into this year," she said.

She described the PSCDC's economic impact on the community as "a little over \$2 million. We brought

in \$1.27 million worth of grants to all of Archuleta County, inclusive," and "some of those awards included Build Pagosa, with over \$700,000."

She explained that the PSCDC is particularly proud of getting the Arboles Food Bank \$27,000, as well as a new "computer to manage their inventory," adding that "they are feeding over 700 families a month and that is an outstanding amount of people that they are serving."

On the issue of workforce development, she touted the creation of an apprenticeship program offering certifications in various fields and the sponsorship of seven new commercial driver's license graduates, four certified nursing assistants and one registered nurse.

On broadband expansion, she explained that the PSCDC "secured and placed our uptown CNL building and started our downtown location that is right here in our Town Hall."

In addition, she noted, "we finalized the monumental four-way, middle-mile agreement" between Archuleta and La Plata counties, the Southern Ute Indian Tribe and La Plata Electric.

She added, "If you can get four entities to agree with attorneys in the room, it really was a monumental feat, and we feel very blessed to have reached that agreement," she said.

She also touted a \$13 million proj-

ect underway to extend high-speed fiber Internet to more than 2,000 homes in the region.

On the Main Street Program, she explained, "our Main Street was actually selected as an official [member] of the [Colorado] Main Street Program in January of last year" and was awarded a \$250,000 grant from the state program to help revitalize the downtown area.

The PSCDC also awarded six downtown businesses \$10,000 each for facade improvements along their main street frontage, the presentation stated.

Lashbrooke also addressed workforce housing.

The PSCDC is attempting to build a number of single-family homes that would go onto the homeownership market. These would be aimed to serve the 80 percent to 120 percent range of the area median income (AMI).

Lashbrooke explained that the PSCDC's long-term goal is to build 35 new homes in the next four years, but that its shorter-term goal is to have 10 of these completed by the end of 2024, with construction to start in early spring.

She added that this goal may sound "ambitious," but promised that "it will happen."

She added the PSCDC will have 10 ■ See Update A6

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Education

New graduation requirements approved for Pagosa Springs High School

By Robert Moore
Staff Writer

After lengthy discussion through multiple regular board meetings and a work session held last week, the Archuleta School District (ASD) Board of Education approved new graduation requirements for Pagosa Springs High School (PSHS) at a special session held Tuesday after the work session.

The new requirements were first proposed at the June 2023 regular board meeting and were revisited in the December 2023 and the February regular board meetings.

At the board's Feb. 13 meeting, PSHS Principal Sean O'Donnell presented the proposed graduation requirements for the board's review and approval.

O'Donnell began by reviewing the process that he and school staff had gone through to get to the proposed requirements.

He shared that a committee of teachers worked to define "the values, what are we trying to solve, what we felt needed to change," and the committee developed three proposals, one of which was the current graduation requirements and two new possible revised sets of requirements.

O'Donnell stated that the three proposals were presented to the school staff so that they had ample opportunity to provide feedback, and with that feedback "we adjusted and combined proposals and came to what ... I proposed to you in June of 2023 — and that's actually still the same current proposal that's on the table right now."

He also shared, as he did in the December 2023 meeting, that part of the process was looking at other districts and schools, such as larger districts like Cherry Creek, Poudre Valley, Boulder Valley and Durango as well as some smaller districts on the I-70 corridor.

"We felt like the proposed requirements aligned us with other high-performing districts and schools," O'Donnell said. "I thought it was

noteworthy that none of the graduation requirements that we looked at required more than the higher education admission recommendations."

Sharing what was preserved in the proposed requirements, O'Donnell indicated that students still have an opportunity to take rigorous college-bound courses in all content areas, all students have the ability to meet the higher education admission recommendations, all have continued advanced placement on current enrollment opportunities and other advanced learning opportunities, and all existing career and technical programming and opportunities for certifications are maintained.

Per O'Donnell, the justification for changing the graduation requirements is that it helps "ensure opportunities for kids to get academic mastery" by providing more space in their schedule to get additional support, or to take additional classes in English or math.

O'Donnell explained that the higher education admission requirements are now recommendations, and these include four years of English and four years of math, three years of natural physical sciences, three years of social sciences, one unit of U.S. and world history, one year in world foreign language and two additional years of additional academic electives in a core content area.

Students must also successfully complete an individual career and academic plan, also known as their ICAP. Students will follow a course of study or pathway based on their ICAP.

Asked if any PSHS seniors had been potentially rejected from higher education due to not adhering to these recommendations, O'Donnell replied that he had no knowledge of any student being denied.

Per O'Donnell, the justification for

changing the graduation requirements is that it helps "ensure opportunities for kids to get academic mastery" by providing more space in their schedule to get additional support, or to take additional classes in English or math.

He also stated that it should expand access to pathways and certificates for career and technical education, create additional time for work experience, and that it "promotes more student choice, more student voice."

Continuing, O'Donnell explained the total core content credits will remain the same at 13, but the proposal would increase one science credit and decrease one English credit.

The computer science requirement would also be removed, as he stated that this limits the school's ability to offer more advanced opportunities in computer science as the classes are full with the kids who have to take it as a requirement.

The new graduation requirements propose a total of 25 credits as compared to the current 28, and "this is where that advisory thing comes in," O'Donnell said.

The board and school officials then entered into a lengthy Q-and-A session on various aspects of the proposed requirements and how they would be implemented. Differences between the current and proposed requirements were discussed, as well as if the new requirements would make it easier for seniors to participate in an off block, which English classes addressed SAT scores directly, if the number of electives would change and more.

Board president Bob Lynch then presented to the board its options: to make a motion to approve the new requirements, to not approve or to table the motion with the request for O'Donnell and Superintendent Rick Holt to return with more details on the various aspects of the new requirements that were questioned.

A question was posed as to the deadline, if any, that existed to implement the proposed requirements,

with Holt replying May, but that "sooner would be better."

Concern was also voiced that board member Dana Guinn had not been able to participate yet, and that her input would be valuable.

Holt then interjected and recommended that a special work session be held, "and invite a couple more staff members from Sean's staff to come and participate and talk to you about how they got to where they are ... and then our English Department can speak with you openly ... we have a lot more back and forth, and we encourage a few more people to engage."

Lynch agreed that the work session was a "great idea" and, with the board in agreement, the item of the proposed graduation requirements was concluded until the work session could be conducted.

Lynch closed the discussion by thanking all who had participated, saying, "Thank you all for your passion and hard work. I'm glad we all take it all seriously."

Work session and special meeting

The board then held both a work session and a special meeting on Tuesday, March 5.

Members of the PSHS administration, English Department, Science Department, Career and Technical Education Department, and the Social Studies Department participated in the informal discussion on the proposed requirements, and engaged in answering additional questions for the board members.

Members of the English Department again voiced their disagreement with the proposed requirements, while some members of other departments expressed their support.

After the work session was concluded, the board convened the special meeting where it was moved that the proposed graduation requirements be approved, and the board members voted unanimously for the approval.

robert@pagosason.com

Destination Imagination team places second at regional competition

By Becky Thompson
Destination Imagination

The elementary Destination Imagination (DI) team from Pagosa Springs competed at the regional competition at Escalante Middle School in Durango on Saturday, March 9. They competed against teams from Cortez, Durango and Dolores.

They received second place at the tournament. Unfortunately, DI change its policy and only first-place teams are invited to attend the state tournament.

This year the team completed in the Improve challenge, where they had to use their skills to create a two-act skit,

complete with a costume created on the spot.

An intensifier was chosen at the beginning to tell them whether they had to maximize or minimize elements of the skit in the second act. Also chosen at the beginning was a stock character for the skit.

DI is a competition that challenges students in one of seven open-ended challenges requiring teams of young people to apply science, technology, engineering and math (STEM), in addition to improvisation, theater arts, writing, project management, communication, innovation, teamwork and community service.



Photo courtesy Becky Thompson

The elementary Destination Imagination team from Pagosa Springs poses at the regional tournament on Saturday. The team placed second in the improve challenge.

Update

Continued from front

homes occupied by homeowners by Dec. 31.

The PSCDC has secured ownership of 35 lots in the Chris Mountain subdivision from Archuleta County, where the 35 new single-family homes will be located.

Lashbrooke noted that the PSCDC has chosen the builder BWD Construction, through the request for proposal process, to build the new homes.

She called the initiative "a full-circle program," meaning that "we are working with banks to provide a home loan product, we are working with a local builder to build the homes, and we are actually taking people from entering into the process all the way through completion of becoming a homeowner."

She said that the program is made possible "by building relationships with our local banks" and other funders, adding, "We just got a line on a new funder today through the federal government, so we'll be looking into that."

She also explained that the PSCDC, with the blessing of the council, has applied for a More Housing Now grant administered by the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA).

She said, "We have made it through the final round on that," adding that the PSCDC's application was advanced for final approval, but that nothing is for sure "until the ink is dry."

The PSCDC, in conjunction with the Town of Pagosa Springs, is also working on a local capacity grant, Lashbrooke explained.

This grant would fund a full-time person to serve in the capacity as a "multi-jurisdictional housing coordinator," she said.

Lashbrooke explained she anticipates that this grant "would probably get awarded as well," saying, "The state is really paying attention to this project. They really feel like we have a good plan in front of us and they seem to be really behind us, so look forward to 10 houses being completed."

On March 8, it was announced that the grant had been awarded.

She explained that the PSCDC would use a lottery system to determine who would be considered for buying the homes and that the applicants would go through a prequalification process, opening up in the third week of March.

She said that qualified applicants would need to be within the 80 percent to 120 percent AMI range, and the process would determine if they would be "prequalified to buy a house," adding that the PSCDC would be circulating the applications "far and wide" throughout the community.

The applications would then be evaluated by participating banks, "and the banks will then turn into us the prequalified buyers by the end of June, beginning of July, and we will hold a public lottery for the future

homebuyers."

She explained that building homes in the 80 percent AMI range would depend on an additional \$2 million worth of grants, saying "it's just not possible" to build houses in that range without the additional grant funding.

She explained that the demand for affordable homeownership in the community was verified by a workforce housing needs survey that surveyed employees at five of the community's major employers — the town, the county, the medical center, the school district and The Springs Resort.

In the survey, 42 percent of respondents reported that their housing costs are not affordable, 31 percent of respondents reported that they currently rent their home and 49 percent said the lack of affordable housing in the community restricts their employment opportunities.

Lashbrooke also pointed to the survey to show a significant demand for homeownership within the workforce of the community.

She said that "109 people out of 261 said that they want to buy a house in the next three years."

She added, "So, in 2024 we have 43 [potential] buyers that would be willing to buy 10 houses that we are building. In 2025, we'd have 46, and 2026 we'd have 20 buyers. You can see by this slide that there's a huge need for affordable housing."

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Board of health discusses mental health, substance abuse, suicide issues

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

At a Feb. 15 meeting, the Archuleta County Public Health Department (ACPHD) Board of Health (BoH) heard presentations on mental health, substance abuse and suicide in the community from ACPHD Executive Director Ashley Wilson and Archuleta County Combined Dispatch Center (ACDC) Director Devin Moffat.

Moffat opened the discussion by presenting on suicide and mental health-related data from the ACCDC and Pagosa Springs Medical Center (PSMC).

He explained that, according to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), there are 21.4 suicide per 100,000 people statewide, with approximately 1,000 suicide deaths yearly in the state.

Moffat commented that this is “one of the highest rates in the country” and that 7 to 9 percent of these suicides are committed by juveniles.

He stated that data from the dispatch center on suicide is limited by the center having outdated technology and recordkeeping, but that, according to the data available, the ACCDC had 92 calls for service involving a suicidal subject in 2022 with three resulting in the subject being taken into custody by law enforcement and seven resulting in the subject being transported to the hospital by emergency medical services (EMS).

There were five confirmed suicides in the county in 2022, Moffat stated, adding that none of these involved persons under 18 years old.

According to Moffat, PSMC had 110 “suicidal or substance abuse instances” at the hospital in 2022.

BoH member Jon Bruss asked if any data is available on the number of attempted suicides in the community.

Moffat responded that this data is difficult to acquire and that the ACCDC focused on a broad variety of calls that could include a suicidal subject but could look further to find data on calls from “first-party suicidal subjects.”

In a communication to The SUN, Moffat clarified that calls involving a first-party suicidal subject are their own class of call and involve subjects with suicidal ideation, who are threatening suicide or who unsuccessfully attempted suicide.

Also in response to a question from Bruss, Moffat stated that calls concerning suicide typically result in an arrest when the subject is combative or deemed a danger to the public.

BoH member and Archuleta County Commissioner Warren Brown asked why the PSMC data groups intakes for suicide and substance abuse.

Moffat explained that he asked for this data on both issues and PSMC provided it to him in an aggregated format.

Wilson noted that this data concerns intakes, not number of patients involved, and that the same patient could be treated for suicide or substance abuse-related problems multiple times.

Moffat continued that, in 2023, the ACCDC had 46 calls for service concerning suicidal subjects, with one resulting in an arrest by law enforcement and seven resulting in the subject being transported to the hospital by EMS.

He added that there were six confirmed suicides in the county in 2023 with none under age 18 and that PSMC had 110 suicide or substance abuse related intakes in 2023, although he noted that he was unsure if this number was the same across both 2022 and 2023 or if the data was grouped to include both years in one number.

He commented that the data he received is “brief,” but that he expected the board could obtain further data from PSMC upon request.

Moffat then shared data on substance abuse calls in the community, stating that the ACCDC received 12 calls for service regarding an overdose in 2022 with one resulting in an arrest and seven resulting in the subject being transported to the hospital.

He stated that the dispatch center defines an overdose as any intentional or accidental overdose on any medication, narcotic or other substance.

He added that poisoning is also included in the data, so not all calls represent an intentional overdose.

Moffat stated that there were two deaths from overdoses in the county in 2022, with neither involving a subject under 18.

In response to a question from Bruss, Moffat stated that he did not know what substances were involved in the deaths, though he could potentially get this information.

Wilson commented that those types of details being disclosed in a public meeting can be problematic as they can reveal the identities of the people involved, which is why a high-level overview was being presented.

Moffat indicated that there were 15 calls for service involving overdoses in 2023, with one resulting in an arrest and seven in transport to the hospital.

He added that there was one confirmed overdose death in the county in 2023, with the deceased being over age 18.

Moffat then presented personal recommendations on what sort of actions can be taken to address suicide and overdose issues from an emergency services perspective.

The first recommendation Moffat made concerned the potential creation of a mobile crisis team, which he stated is typically composed of law enforcement officers and mental health professionals who work together and regularly visit members of the community struggling with mental health and substance abuse.

He indicated that, since September 2019, 13 states have Medicaid-funded mobile crisis teams and six states have non-Medicaid-funded teams.

He stated that the Denver-based Support Team Assisted Response (STAR) mobile crisis team diverted more than 1,300 calls from law enforcement in its first year of operations in 2020.

He added that the calls diverted to STAR resulted in no arrests and increased connections between individuals and needed services.

Moffat stated that a mobile crisis team was established during his time at another emergency services agency and was highly successful for both agencies and the public and expanded quickly.

BoH member Stacey Foss noted that Axis Health System has a mobile crisis team program in La Plata County.

BoH member and Archuleta County Commissioner Veronica Medina commented that developing the mental health infrastructure to have locations where individuals can be taken to receive treatment is also critical.

Moffat stated that he also intends to have his dispatchers receive crisis intervention team (CIT) training this year, which is training for law enforcement and emergency services staff to assist them in addressing incidents involving those experiencing a mental health crisis.

Foss thanked Moffat for his commitment to having dispatchers receive this training.

Moffat commented that this training can also help dispatchers identify mental health crises.

Foss and Medina then discussed that there is also mental health first aid training available that could assist members of the community in responding to and identifying mental health crises.

County Manager Derek Woodman commented that CIT training is “very in-depth” and helps prevent persons with mental health difficulties from being arrested unnecessarily by teaching officers appropriate responses to mental health issues.

Wilson then presented data on mental health from the Community Health Assessment (CHA) created by San Juan Basin Public Health in 2023.

She stated that the CHA found that, on average, Archuleta County respondents reported that their mental health was “not good” for 1.4 days in the last 30 days.

She indicated that this result is better than the results for La Plata County and not necessarily a concerning figure, though she commented that it was important that respondents were self-identifying that their mental health is periodically not good.

Wilson stated that mental health was one of the largest issues identified by CHA respondents in Archuleta County and that 53 percent of respondents rated suicide and suicide attempts as a major or moderate issue in the community.

She commented that this high level of concern compared to the smaller number of actual reports to law enforcement or the hospital about suicide may suggest that many suicide attempts in the county are unreported.

Wilson stated that the age-adjusted suicide rate for Archuleta County

is 43.12 per 100,000 people, compared to the state rate of 21.4 per 100,000 people.

She also shared data from the 2021 Healthy Kids Colorado survey of school-age children for Region 9, which covers Archuleta, Dolores, La Plata, Montezuma and San Juan counties, as well as the Southern Ute and Ute Mountain Ute Indian tribes.

According to Wilson, the survey indicated that 38 percent of students reported that they felt sad or hopeless nearly every day for at least two weeks in a row within the last year and that this feeling caused them to miss regular activities.

Eighteen percent seriously considered attempting suicide within the past 12 months and 7 percent attempted suicide one of more times in the past 12 months, Wilson stated.

She explained that this data was collected during the COVID-19 pandemic, which negatively impacted mental health, though she questioned if conditions have significantly improved since then.

Wilson added that because the Healthy Kids Colorado survey is self-reported, the numbers could be low due to children declining to report suicidal ideation or attempts over concerns about being identified.

Bruss commented that 18 percent of children having suicidal ideation is “pretty high.”

Wilson commented that the ACPHD will monitor for Healthy Kids Colorado survey data, but that reaching out to local mental health providers and schools may be critical to determining the need for intervention in the community.

She added that, according to statewide data from the CDPHE, LGBTQ+ students attempt suicide at much higher rates than other students, which she noted supports that public health interventions on suicide cannot be “one size fits all.”

Bruss commented that he would also want to investigate how suicide attempts overlap with substance use.

Wilson responded that there is limited data examining both issues together.

Brown asked how many respondents there were for the Healthy Kids Colorado survey in Region 9.

Wilson stated that she would have to look into the exact numbers and grades surveyed, although Wilson and Bruss both commented that participation rates are generally high.

Brown commented that the issue is “very serious,” but that he wanted to know what number of students might be impacted to determine the urgency of a response.

Wilson noted that large surveys like Healthy Kids Colorado can be generalized beyond the specific participants in the survey to other students and grade levels.

She commented that the high rates of sadness, hopelessness, suicidal ideation and attempted suicide are “a problem.”

Bruss stated that knowing what methods of suicide are most commonly attempted would be valuable.

Wilson responded that she believes the survey does not ask this question and added that the ACPHD could acquire copies of the questions on the survey and the local responses from Archuleta School District (ASD), although this information could not be publicized.

Medina commented that suicide issues among LGBTQ+ students could be partially driven by confusion about gender identity and conversations concerning it, which may be occurring with a lack of adult guidance or support.

Wilson commented that the Healthy Kids Colorado survey does not address these issues specifically, but that a lack of community support could be driving suicide issues.

Bruss commented that, while identity issues can be a problem, a key driver of suicide and suicidal ideation in adolescents is a lack of hope about their future and that local teens may feel a lack of hope about their future prospects.

Wilson explained that Archuleta County CHA respondents identified adult alcohol use and adult use of drugs other than prescriptions or marijuana as top public health concerns.

She added that respondents also cited youth alcohol, marijuana and drug use, and adult prescription drug use as significant issues.

In response to a question from Bruss, Wilson explained that all the CHA respondents were adults.

Bruss commented that this means that youth were not surveyed about their own perceptions of substance abuse concerns among their peers.

Wilson and Foss added that sur-

veys of youth on substance abuse tend to overreport substance use by peers and underreport substance use by the person completing the survey.

Wilson explained that the overdose death rate in 2022 in Archuleta County was higher than the state average in 2022, but the data was suppressed in 2020 and 2021 due to a low number of deaths leading to concerns about identifying information being exposed.

She stated that the county’s age-adjusted opioid death rate in 2022, for both prescriptions and heroin, was 32 per 100,000 people, higher than the state rate of 19.5 per 100,000 people.

Overdose deaths in Colorado doubled between 2010 and 2020, Wilson noted, and the state is working to expand access to the Opioid Antagonist Bulk Purchase Fund, which provides access and funding to supply substances like naloxone.

Wilson commented that the number of overdose deaths in the community is small, but there are concerns about whether those who experience near overdoses are seeking medical treatment or abstaining from treatment and remaining unreported.

She stated that direct intervention in these issues is unlikely for public health, but that the ACPHD is investigating upstream measures to try to prevent substance abuse through projects like a youth tobacco use prevention program.

Wilson then highlighted goals from the federal Healthy People 2030 project, which she stated will help guide federal public health goals and funding.

Among the general mental health goals Wilson mentioned were increasing the proportion of primary care visits where patients are screened for depression, increasing the amount of aerobic activity among children and reducing the proportion of families that spend more than 30 percent on housing.

Wilson noted that stable housing is linked to mental health and that a 2019 Colorado Health Institute Colorado Health Access indicated that 45 percent of those with unstable housing in Archuleta County indicated that they did not have good mental health.

She commented that the ACPHD cannot directly address housing on its own, but must remain aware of its impacts and work to connect other organizations with public health funding designated for housing.

Bruss suggested that getting youth engaged with community service projects can assist in promoting their connections to the community and improving their mental health,

■ See Health A8

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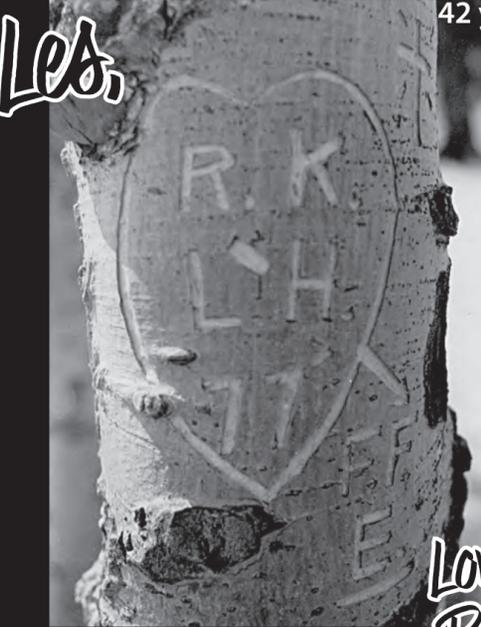
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Awards

■ **Continued from front**
director, Aspen Services director and PS FroYo manager for six months in addition to supporting the hiring of an administrative support/grant writer position and upgrades to allow for eCommerce options at PS FroYo and Aspen House Truffle Company.

The letter explains that ASPiP has grown in recent years with the hiring of an executive director, the expansion of PS FroYo and the truffle company, and the completion of architectural plans for the construction of Aspen House, which is intended to provide safe housing for adults with developmental disabilities.

However, it notes that the COVID-19 pandemic damaged the profits from the organization's businesses and its fundraising efforts, meaning that the organization needs additional support while it begins a capital campaign to raise funds to construct Aspen House and create a scholarship fund for its residents.

Another request submitted to the BoCC was from the Archuleta County Housing Authority (ACHA).

According to the request letter,

ACHA requested \$75,000, including funding for perimeter and playground fencing, screening around air conditioning units and an additional electric vehicle charging station at ACHA's Rose Mountain Townhomes.

The final request was from Southwest Housing Providers on behalf of Housing Solutions for the Southwest for \$68,400 in requirements assistance with emergency repairs of Socorro Senior Living Center.

The letter, submitted Feb. 14, notes that the organization discovered earlier that week that the hot water boiler and heating boiler at Socorro would have to be replaced.

The letter explains that Socorro, as a property compliant with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in requirements, has a reserve account for repairs, but that these repairs would significantly deplete the account and prevent work on other necessary repairs, such as roofing improvements.

At the BoCC meeting, County Manager Derek Woodman explained that the BoCC received \$2,724,969 in ARPA funds from the federal govern-

ment in 2021 that must be spent in two years and awarded \$2,059,239.33 of those funds in September 2021.

He stated that the county had a balance of \$665,730 in ARPA funds available to be awarded.

The board then heard public comments from Housing Solutions for the Southwest Executive Director Elizabeth Salkind and a Socorro resident supporting the request for funding for repairs at Socorro.

Salkind explained that she was adding \$5,000 to the request to account for initial work on the heating system prior to the \$68,400 bid for completing the repairs.

She added that the residents of Socorro have been without consistent heat and hot water for approximately three weeks, although the organization is working as fast as possible to have the repairs completed.

Woodman explained that he distributed a summary of the funding requests to the commissioners and received feedback on the requests from each commissioner.

He explained that all three commissioners independently expressed

support for awarding \$143,000 to Healthy Archuleta and \$10,000 to ACHA while differing in their views on the remaining requests.

Commissioner Veronica Medina then reviewed the requests with the BoCC, beginning with Housing Solutions for the Southwest.

She recommended that the original \$68,400 request be fully funded, to which Commissioner Warren Brown expressed agreement.

Commissioner Ronnie Maez noted the value of the residents of Socorro and their contributions to the community before proposing that \$5,000 be taken from the ACHA request to fully fund the updated Socorro request.

In response to a question from Brown, Maez explained that he is on both the ACHA and Housing Solutions for the Southwest boards, but that he feels the Socorro repairs are more urgent.

Medina stated that she would favor funding repairs for Socorro at \$73,400.

She added, based on the other commissioners' comments and reactions, that there appeared to be support for fully funding the Socorro repair request and reducing the ACHA award from \$10,000 to \$5,000.

Medina then addressed the request from ASPiP, noting that it requested \$86,500 but that, due to

the need for such housing in the community, she recommended awarding the organization the same amount the BoCC gave it last year, \$176,000.

Brown stated that he would agree with this approach.
Maez commented that ASPiP is a "good project," but voiced concerns about other projects that might not be funded, particularly the Archuleta Housing Corporation.

He added that the housing corporation has "been in major dire straights in terms of upkeep."

Medina stated that she sits on the housing corporation board and that the organization has been highly successful in obtaining grants, making her comfortable with reducing the organization's award to \$268,330 from \$347,534.

"Just because I do sit on that board and I see what they've been able to do," Medina said. "It's still a substantial amount of money. I just feel like ... we should help Aspen House a little bit more right now."

Maez stated that he had been willing to fully fund Archuleta Housing Corporation, but that he was willing to reduce the award after hearing Medina's comments.

Brown explained that Medina would "know better than I would" about the needs of the housing corporation and that he had initially wanted to award the corporation

\$300,000.

However, he commented that after Medina's comments he would have "no problem" agreeing to the decreased award to the housing corporation and the increased award for ASPiP.

"This is by no means a ding on Archuleta Housing Corp because they did a great job," Medina said. "It's just that gives us the availability to help some others in our community."

Following Woodman calculating that these awards would match the amount of funding available, the BoCC unanimously voted to award \$268,330 to Archuleta Housing Corporation, \$143,000 to Healthy Archuleta, \$176,000 to ASPiP, \$5,000 to ACHA and \$73,400 to Housing Solutions for the Southwest.

At the March 6 BoCC meeting, the board unanimously approved grant subrecipient agreements with the five organizations selected to receive awards.

Prior to the vote, Brown commented that the funds are "well spent" given the positive impact the organizations have on the community.

Maez highlighted that these funds will not be available in the future and that these organizations would need to plan other funding approaches in subsequent years.

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Policy

■ **Continued from front**

this policy, the district did a financial analysis based on 10 affordable housing waivers for water CIFs and seven waivers for wastewater CIFs being granted yearly and created its affordable housing surcharge based on these numbers.

However, Walsh noted that the water CIF has now increased from \$5,353 to \$8,958 and the wastewater CIF has risen from \$1,179 to \$15,697, making the current surcharge insufficient to fund the number of waivers the board planned for annually.

Walsh commented that his preferred approach to addressing this problem would be to increase both the affordable housing surcharge and the CIFs to help fund the more expensive waivers, with the increases balanced evenly between the two funding sources.

Walsh stated that the second issue is that the PAWSD board will likely hear many requests for "much more generous" fee reductions from projects that fall at 120 percent or 140 percent of AMI and needs to decide how to approach them.

He commented that he is the "squish" on this issue and he would be open to providing greater fee reductions for projects in the 80 percent to 90 percent AMI if it comes with deed restrictions or provisions that would require the waivers to be paid back to PAWSD if the housing stops

being affordable.

Walsh added that he is also a member of the board and that he is willing to follow the overall opinion of the board.

"If people come in with good projects that are in that 80 to 90, we could give them more generous if we see something like real long-term deed restrictions, or I could even see doing some things for a 100 percent developer if there was some guarantees for PAWSD employees," Walsh said. "But, my sense is that I'm an outlier. ... And I get the argument given where we are that we've got our policy. It was kind of groundbreaking. It was the first policy in the community to do anything like it, and we need to focus on funding it."

PAWSD board chairman Jim Smith commented that "people are already mad" due to the rate increases.

"We're a water district and a wastewater district," Smith said. "I think we need to go back to being water and sewer. We haven't got the employees to go out here and keep track of all this stuff."

District Engineer/Manager Justin Ramsey commented that assessing projects for the affordable housing fee waivers has "always taken substantial" amounts of time.

He added that most projects presented to PAWSD claim they are affordable and it takes a substantial amount of work to determine wheth-

er they are or not.

Walsh asked if strictly adhering to the current PAWSD policy would simplify the work involved, which Ramsey stated it would not as the policy has been "difficult" from the beginning.

Following a discussion of the challenges with projects claiming to be affordable where Walsh commented that he is primarily interested in supporting Habitat for Humanity and projects supported by Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC), Walsh voiced opposition to eliminating the waivers and commented, "If the policy decision is, 'We have our present policy, let's jiggle the numbers a little bit to try and pay for that.' Water side is easier, right? Then, I'm a good soldier. That's really the best my board can do and I'm with my board. If it's, 'We're gonna eliminate them entirely' and Habitat walks through the door, I'm gonna be a no vote. I'm gonna support Habitat. Their homes actually meet ... we can actually pay for those homes with a slight tweak to our existing."

PAWSD board member Bill Hudson commented that PAWSD "doesn't have any business taking our customers' money and helping someone who makes more than the average family build a home."

Hudson stated that, according to a survey done by Pagosa Housing ■ **See Policy A10**

Improvements

■ **Continued from front**

ing a way to replace the damaged, obstacle-laden sidewalk in front of the middle school. The new sidewalk and parklet are part of the Main Street Program's strategy to enhance aesthetic appeal while creating cohesion and multiuse connections between the fragmented west and east ends, and the historic downtown. Local architect Reynolds Ash + Associates provided design plans pro bono.

The town will replace a 315-lineal-foot stretch of crumbling public sidewalk and plant six new trees in deeper wells with sidewalk-flush drainage grates, add new benches, a Mountain Express Transit stop and bike facilities to transform the area into a dynamic multimodal parklet.

Four new streetlights will be added with poles for hanging baskets, irrigation and power for decorative

lights. The site will be a 15-foot wide, ADA-compliant multimodal sidewalk, with drainage directed toward the curb/gutter. A solar-powered cycle station will have a charging station, leashed repair tools and a stand mount for bike repair. Bear-proof trash and recycling cans will be installed. The 125-year-old onsite spruce tree will be protected by a new landscape bed.

This project is the first phase of a three-phase effort by the Main Street Program to work with the school district to improve the school facade and sidewalk area into an accessible and appealing welcome mat for residents, students, businesses and visitors.

The total costs are \$418,000. Funding comes from the \$250,000 CDOT grant, a \$7,500 grant from Colorado Main Street and \$160,500 from the town.

The project will begin in coordination with the CDOT reconstruction project as CDOT's contractor will not be on board until June. The Pagosa Springs Town Council and Main Street Program board voted unanimously to approve the application submission.

Project work should commence by May. Main Street Program board president Rick Holter, Town Community Development Director James Dickhoff and Pagosa Springs Community Development Corporation Grant Writer Beth Lamberson created the grant application.

Pagosa Springs became an official Colorado Main Street community in January 2023. This designation underscores the town's commitment to fostering economic vibrancy, preserving historic character and heritage, and cultivating community spirit.

Health

■ **Continued from A7**

and asked Wilson if any community service programs exist.

Wilson responded that there are several programs, such as 4-H, in the community that include a community-service component, although she was not aware of any solely focused on community service.

Bruss asked what the rates of suicide and suicidal ideation might be among youth engaged in those programs, which Wilson stated might be difficult to determine.

Foss added that community connection is broadly recognized as improving mental health.

Wilson explained that Healthy People 2030 aims to reduce suicide attempts among adolescents and LGBTQ+ youth, although these rates have not improved since this priority was designated two and a half years ago.

She stated that Healthy People 2030 also aims to increase the proportion of those with substance abuse disorder who receive treatment and to reduce the proportion of youth who use drugs and the number of overdose deaths.

Wilson commented that education surrounding substance use is a core activity for public health, but that treatment options are limited in the area.

Bruss commented that he objects to lumping all forms of substance use together as different substances can have significantly different impacts on mental health.

Foss commented that all substances typically have significant impacts on youth, and Wilson added that differentiating types of substances used can be difficult due to people often using multiple substances.

The group then discussed what local programs exist for mental health and substance abuse and what gaps exist in the community.

Wilson commented that she and Foss looked over a list of mental health providers in the community

supplied by the state, which indicated that there are 25 to 30 providers in the area, although Wilson pointed out that some of these providers were duplicated and many only work part-time or serve highly specific populations.

She added that the overall situation in the community is that there are not enough mental health providers and those who exist have waiting lists.

Foss commented that the sources for mental health services in the community are limited and that the Axis crisis response team distorts the number of service providers in the county due to being listed as working in Archuleta County for billing reasons despite not providing services in the area.

Wilson added that there are only seven to eight full-time mental health providers in the community and that many of the providers are aging, with new providers not entering the community.

Foss added that the number of providers who will work with teens or young children is even more limited than the overall number of providers.

Foss explained that substance abuse counseling and support resources in the community are highly limited, with there being only two organizations that can provide substance abuse support and very limited inpatient treatment options.

Wilson commented that the barriers for mental health access include a lack of mental health providers who can deal with more severe issues and waiting lists for what providers are available.

Foss added that there is a lack of appointments outside of school hours as well, meaning that parents may have to miss work and children have to miss school to go to appointments.

Medina asked if telehealth options could help with the availability of mental health professionals.

Foss commented that, although

those options do exist, there is a strong interest in the community for in-person interaction and that in-person appointments tend to promote human connections.

Wilson added that telehealth can also create significant technology barriers for older adults and young children.

She added that the lack of providers may not be an issue public health can address directly, but that the ACPHD should remain involved in the conversations surrounding the issue.

Bruss recommended that the ACPHD should consider larger-scale interventions that would impact health in the entire community, to which Wilson expressed agreement.

Wilson moved on to summarize the next steps concerning mental health in the process of drafting the five-year strategic plan for ACPHD, noting that, in the next six months, the organization and the BoH need to consider what role public health should play in the issue, what partnerships are needed, what capacity to address the issues exists in the community and what else the organization needs to know.

She added that ACPHD staff will continue investigating programs to improve mental health in the community, including options to better educate community members on means to respond to mental health crises.

Wilson commented that she would investigate the Healthy Kids Colorado data further to attempt to find more local data.

Medina noted that the county needs to determine what resources are needed as there are resources that can help small rural communities to access funding to support mental health.

Bruss and Medina concluded the discussion by commending the quality of the information that Wilson presented and assembled.

josh@pagosasun.com

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Outdoors

Prescribed fires planned for Columbine Ranger District

Smoke expected to be visible from Pagosa Springs

By **Kristen Allen**
San Juan National Forest

The San Juan National Forest's Columbine Ranger District is planning to conduct several prescribed burns between late March and early May.

Ignitions will take place over several consecutive days, and operations may take several weeks to complete.

These burn units are part of the larger Vallecito-Piedra and Fosset Gulch/Northern HD Mountains

Integrated Vegetation Management projects aimed at reducing hazardous ground fuels and long-term risk of catastrophic wildfire, as well as restoring ponderosa pine ecosystems and improving wildlife habitat.

Project areas identified for burn implementation are:

- Beaver Meadows: 1,100 acres approximately 10 miles northeast of Bayfield.
- Sauls Creek: 1,600 acres approximately 2 miles east of Bayfield.

The forests in Southwest Colorado are part of a fire-adapted ecosystem, which has historically experienced frequent, low-intensity fires on a large scale. Prescribed fire replicates that fire regime under controlled condi-

tions. Prescribed fires will only be ignited when all weather, fuels and smoke requirements are met. Burning operations will be conducted by district personnel and other fire resources from the Forest Service and partner agencies, using both ground and aerial ignition.

Daytime smoke is expected to travel to the north/northeast. Nighttime smoke is expected to travel downslope into Beaver Creek, Bear Creek and the Pine River. Smoke will be heavier in the mornings that follow burning operations, although should clear by midday.

Smoke will be visible from Durango, Ignacio, Bayfield, Pagosa Springs, and the U.S. 160 corridor near those towns.

Forest Service personnel will monitor smoke, and ignitions will be scheduled to minimize smoke impacts to communities. Prescribed fire smoke may affect your health. More information can be found online.

Maps of the prescribed burn units and additional San Juan National Forest prescribed fire program news can be found on InciWeb. For more information, please contact District Assistant Fire Management Officer Noah Daniels by email at noah.daniels@usda.gov.

For information on current conditions and recreation opportunities on the San Juan National Forest, call (970) 247-4874 or visit the forest website.

Forest pests, wildfire concerns persist despite milder conditions in 2023

By **Kristy Burnett**
Colorado State Forest Service

The annual forest health report, released recently by the Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS), details the current state of the health and condition of Colorado's forests.

Last year was cooler and wetter with fewer large fires in Colorado. However, Colorado still faces significant wildfire risk: The increase in precipitation left more wildfire fuels in forests and around our communities, and pests continue to affect Colorado's forests. Colorado is on the right path to face these challenges, and the CSFS works to ensure the state is wildfire and recovery ready.

"In this report, we highlight how outbreaks of forest pests are expanding their footprint and leaving more dead trees and wildfire fuels in their wake. One milder year is not

enough to reverse trends from the compounding effects of decades of insect outbreaks and a warmer, drier climate in Colorado," said Matt McCombs, state forester and director of the CSFS. "We know more people are moving into wildfire prone areas, and they will need outreach, education and resources to live wildfire ready."

The report also outlines that ongoing drought, overly dense stands and defoliation from western spruce budworm continue to spur activity among dead bark beetles in southwest Colorado.

2023 key forest takeaways

The 2023 Report on the Health of Colorado's Forests focuses on the prevalence of insects and diseases across the state, as well as the work foresters do under the Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) and the monitoring program that allows the CSFS

to better steward the health of our forests.

Insects and diseases: Western spruce budworm remains the most widespread forest pest in Colorado, according to aerial survey data from the CSFS and U.S. Forest Service Rocky Mountain Region. Data from the aerial survey also indicate that western balsam bark beetle remains the deadliest forest pest for the second year in a row, despite it impacting fewer acres of Colorado's forests in 2023.

Cross-boundary work: Forest health issues such as insects, diseases and wildfires do not recognize boundaries, and the GNA program enables landscape-scale forest management. GNA agreements have helped the CSFS and federal partners treat thousands of acres of forestland in the past decade. The CSFS brings together partners to manage forests

across federal, state, tribal and private lands to improve forest health and reduce wildfire risk to residents and communities.

Monitoring: The CSFS recently established a monitoring program to assess the effectiveness for forest management. This new program provides a scientifically grounded feedback loop to ensure the agency meets its goals and adapts its strategies in real time.

Each year, the forest health report provides information to the Colorado General Assembly and residents of Colorado about the health and condition of forests across the state. Information for the report comes from an annual aerial forest health survey by the CSFS and U.S. Forest Service Rocky Mountain Region, as well as field inspections, CSFS contacts with forest landowners and special surveys.

Chimney Rock Interpretive Association seeking volunteers

By **Kathleen Thompson**
Chimney Rock Interpretive Association

Volunteering for me is a way of giving back to your community. Joining the Chimney Rock Interpretive Association (CRIA) volunteer team is an opportunity to learn more about American history and its cultures.

Chimney Rock National Monument is beautiful, but the integrity and heritage of the site must be maintained with the help of the forestry department and CRIA volunteers.

The forest rangers are professional, knowledgeable, kind and helpful not only to our visitors, but to the volunteers as well. Chimney Rock is

a place that you will enjoy coming to volunteer. It's also a way of meeting some nice people from all around the world. I look forward to this year's season and what it brings. Come and join the fun and be a part of the Chimney Rock family.

To learn about the various volunteer opportunities at Chimney Rock National Monument, CRIA will host a volunteer recruitment event at the Ruby Sisson Library on March 27 from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Another recruitment will be held at the Ross Aragon Community Center on April 11 from 5 to 6 p.m. A number of CRIA 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, CRIA 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 the monument from 9 a.m. to noon.

If you cannot attend one of our volunteer recruitments, you can find more detailed information about the various volunteer positions 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 Chimney Rock National Monument 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.

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

Roads, trails remain impassible on San Juan National Forest

San Juan National Forest

Outdoors enthusiasts hoping to hang up their skis and load their bikes might have to wait a little longer.

The San Juan National Forest's roads and trails remain largely buried under snow. Wet, muddy areas where snow has begun to melt are easily damaged by hikers, bikers, horses and vehicles. This damage can be both expensive to repair and destructive to natural areas. Please stay off wet and muddy roads and trails.

Trails

Some low-elevation trails have begun to thaw out, which can tempt hikers, bikers and horseback riders. Hiking and riding on muddy paths damage our valuable forest assets, such as streams, vegetation, and fish and wildlife. Hikers and bikers often walk or ride along the edges of paths and trails on live vegetation to avoid muddy paths. This damages plants, widens and braids the trails, and leads to erosion and sedimentation in waterways. Conversely, folks traveling through muddy conditions create ruts that channel water and persist on the trail. Still want to recreate? We recommend visiting gravel roads or paved pathways that have melted out and are accessible without causing resource damage.

Roads

The Dolores and Pagosa ranger district recreation staff will begin as-

sessing roads in April and opening as conditions allow, except for roads and trails currently closed to protect elk and deer, which will open May 1.

The Columbine Ranger District will begin opening most low elevation roads May 1, except for Hermosa Park Road 578, which will reopen later.

The San Juan National Forest will continue to monitor road conditions; upper-elevation and backcountry roads will be opened June 1 or as conditions permit.

Visit our Road Conditions webpage for more specific information. Spring conditions are variable, and visitors should be prepared to encounter system roads that are impassible due to snow drifts, waterlogged roadbeds, down trees, or other debris.

Roads are closed seasonally to wheeled motorized vehicles to protect critical wildlife habitat and/or to prevent damage to road surfaces. Closures offer wildlife herds forage, shelter and protection from disturbance over the winter and into early spring, when animals are most vulnerable.

Additionally, wheels create ruts in wet roads, making travel rough and possibly increasing water run-off velocity that 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. The road or trail is not ready for travel if you leave a tire print or a boot print in the mud. Delay your trip on the road or trail until the mud dries. Even though a road may appear dry at its beginning does not mean it's ready to be traveled on further up in elevation or distance.

All travel on the forest is regulated

by the Motor Vehicle Use Maps that can be found online. When visiting the national forest, please follow Leave No Trace principals and to get the most out of your experience, visit the Know Before You Go website.

For specific road information, visit our road conditions webpage or contact your local district office:

- Columbine Ranger District, (970) 884-2512.
- Dolores Ranger District, (970) 882-7296.
- Pagosa Ranger District, (970) 264-2268.

For information on the San Juan National Forest, call (970) 247-4874 or visit the forest website.

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The Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners is seeking volunteers to serve on a task force to review current state and federal marijuana laws in order to recommend changes to the current county marijuana ordinance.



Letters of interest can be sent to County Paralegal Mary Helminski at mhelminski@archuletacounty.org or mailed to the County Administration Building, PO Box 1507, Pagosa Springs, CO 8114. Deadline for submitting letters of interest is April 5, 2024.

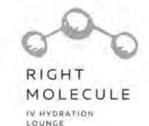
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EXTENSION VIEWPOINTS

What to plant come spring depends on your taste — and your grocery bill

By Robin Young
SUN Columnist

If you plant food you and your family enjoy, you'll be dreaming of next year's garden all winter.

"What should I plant?" is a question new vegetable gardeners tend to ask me over winter, when planning their first gardens. In the past, I've always advised them to plant what they like. It may sound silly, but you'd be surprised at how many people pressure themselves into growing the garden they believe is expected of them rather than the one they really want. "What do I do with a kolrabi?"

If you plant tomatoes when no one in the house eats tomatoes, you're wasting food, time, effort and money — and programming yourself to hate gardening. But if you plant food you and your family enjoy, you'll be dreaming of next year's garden all winter.

Over the past few years, however, I've updated my advice to add: "Plant crops that are expensive to buy at the supermarket."

When a 1-ounce package of fresh herbs sets you back \$3 at the grocery store, it's the only practical thing to do. Berries, garlic, colorful peppers and anything labeled "organic," all of

which can dent your grocery budget, can be grown in your backyard — or in containers on your patio or balcony.

Saving money and seeds

You can be as fancy as you like, but all you really need to grow most veggies at home are seeds, soil, fertilizer, sunlight and water. When you consider that my grape tomato plants typically produce about 2,000 fruits apiece over the course of a growing season, the savings become mind-boggling.

Seeds from heirloom vegetables — those that have not been hybridized or otherwise manipulated — can be saved from year to year and counted on to produce crops similar to their mother. Save them at the end of the season, then store them in a paper envelope in a dry, cool place for planting next spring. Not all seed is created equal. Please see the seed-saving resources through the Extension office.

Another consideration when deciding what to plant should be the vegetable's availability. If you crave Malabar spinach, bitter melon, tomatillos, cucamelons or Romanesco, but can't find it at the store, seize the opportunity to grow your own.

Many edibles can be processed and sealed in airtight jars for long-term storage. But if you haven't got

time for that, you can freeze them like I do. My freezer plays host to flat-leaf herbs like basil and parsley, chive-olive-oil ice cubes, diced cu-cuzza squash and blanched greens in zipper-top plastic bags. Jars of grilled peppers and tomatoes in oil share the space, and last year's garlic calls the countertop home.

A little bit more each year

When you catch the gardening bug, you might be tempted to rip up the entire backyard and plant every square inch of it. Don't do that. Chances are good you'll become overwhelmed, slack off on your watering and weeding duties, and let the whole thing go to pot.

Instead, start small. Limit yourself to two 4-foot-by-4-foot (or one 4-foot-by-8-foot) raised beds, or, at most, a single 10-foot-by-10-foot garden the first year. And plan to spend about 30 minutes two or three times a week tending to it.

Then, as long as you can manage it, go ahead and add another bed or row next year. This gradual approach will be kind to your wallet, too.

Landowner Stewardship Series

Save the dates for Tuesday eve-

nings in April at 6 p.m. for the Landowner Stewardship Series.

Do you own property in Archuleta County? Would you like to know more about your land and its resources?

The CSU Extension office and the San Juan Conservation District are hosting an in-depth Landowner Stewardship Series on best practices on your land:

- April 2: weeds.
- April 9: water.
- April 16: wildlife.
- April 23: fire mitigation and evacuation.
- April 30: range and soil health.

Go to the Extension Facebook page for information and registration. This is a free event, but registration is strongly suggested.

CPR and first aid classes

CPR and first aid certification classes are offered every other month at the CSU Extension office, generally on the second Monday and Wednesday from 6 to 10 p.m. The cost for the classes is \$80 for combined CPR/first aid and \$55 for CPR, first aid or recertification. Call the Extension office at (970) 246-5931 to register.

Check out the online option on our website, <https://archuleta.extension.colostate.edu/>.

Rio Grande National Forest to feature aquatic and riparian systems

By Gregg Goodland
Rio Grande National Forest

The Rio Grande National Forest will be presenting this month's Forest Specialist Series on Wednesday, March 27, at 5 p.m.

Rosalee Reese, Forest fisheries bi-

ologist, will be explaining aquatic and riparian systems on the Rio Grande National Forest and what is being done to monitor and restore these resources.

From beavers to Low Tech Process Based Restoration, you can learn about the different methods employed to restore the aquatic systems on the

national forest.

This online event is part of the Rio Grande National Forest's Forest Specialist Series, a once-monthly online presentation in partnership with the San Juan Mountains Association to share information with our community.

Visit the Rio Grande National Forest website, <https://www.fs.usda.gov/riogrande> or Facebook page for event information.

We hope you'll join us online, Wednesday, March 27, at 5 p.m. to learn more about aquatic and riparian systems.

Policy

Continued from A8

Partners, the highest struggles with obtaining housing in the community are at 80 percent AMI and below.

He recommended that policy be restricted to provide waivers for only projects below 80 percent AMI.

PAWSD board member Gene Tautges asked if the determination of if a project meets a specific AMI level could be put out to a subcontractor who would be paid by the applicant.

He added that this would reduce the impact of the waivers on PAWSD staff.

Hudson stated that he supported this idea.

Walsh commented that people below 80 percent AMI constitute many of the service and restaurant workers in the community and that he is "sympathetic" to the argument, although he noted the differences between those at 100 percent AMI who have a fully paid-off home and those who do not.

The board then discussed Tautges' proposal and the difficulties of determining what AMI level projects meet, with Walsh noting that Habitat and LIHTC projects include extensive state and federal compliance requirements and that he wants to support them, although he expressed doubt about what impact the 25 percent fee reductions for projects at 90 percent AMI would have on those developments given the increased fees.

Walsh added that his preference would be to keep the current policy and rework the surcharge and CIFs to accommodate the increased prices.

Ramsey noted that PAWSD currently has approximately 70 units requesting fee waivers and commented, "It's a huge amount. It's going to take a lot of time. They're all gonna argue passionately."

Walsh commented that the idea of the waivers is that some years would have substantially more waivers than others and that the costs would balance out over time.

PAWSD Business Manager Aaron Burns commented that PAWSD cannot go into debt with the waivers, but that it currently has a surplus from prior years of fee waiver collections.

Walsh commented that, in the context of housing projects for 80 percent AMI or below, these projects will not be built without fee waivers and thus PAWSD will not generate additional rate revenue.

Hudson seconded Walsh's comments, noting that a proposed 50-unit LIHTC project may not be built if it does not receive waivers.

"OK, but we're gonna add 50 units onto this that's gonna add a huge amount of burden to the sewer and wastewater system and we're going to get nothing for it?" Ramsey responded.

Walsh responded that PAWSD will receive the monthly rates from these

homes, which Ramsey commented will not cover the expenses.

PAWSD board member Paul Hansen proposed that the board scrap the current waiver policy and move to creating different CIF rates based on home size, with smaller homes receiving a lower CIF fee and larger ones receiving a larger fee.

Ramsey stated that doing this would require a new rate study.

Walsh commented that keeping the current policy with potential restriction based on Hudson's suggestions and increasing CIFs and the surcharge to accommodate this would be acceptable, but that he would not support scrapping the policy.

The board then discussed the changes to CIFs and the surcharge that would have to be made to fund the increased costs for waivers, with the conversation focusing on the appropriate number of waivers to expect each year, the amount of staff time required to process the applications and means to reduce the number of applications, including putting a square foot limitation on qualifying projects.

The board also discussed restricting the policy to cover only 80 percent AMI projects and below for 2024 and forming a subcommittee or other group to look at changes to the overall policy for 2025 and beyond.

Ramsey then returned discussion to the issue of third-party verification

of AMI levels for housing projects and asked what organizations in the community could do this.

Hudson suggested that Archuleta Housing Corporation or the Archuleta County Housing Authority could likely provide these services since they have extensive experience with qualifications for housing.

Walsh added that these organizations would charge for this service, but the cost to the customer would be offset by the potential savings in fee waivers.

"That would alleviate a lot of my concern," Ramsey commented, referencing the possibility of having AMI assessments done by an outside organization.

Burns noted that having outside verifications could also help screen out projects that do not meet the waiver criteria.

Walsh then proposed that the

See Policy A11

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Policy

■ Continued from A10

board could form a subcommittee to investigate third-party verification options, which he commented would reduce staff time spent on the project.

Hudson commented that this process would need to be finalized “pretty quick” since the board would hear presentations from projects requesting waivers at its March 14 meeting.

Tautges proposed that the board could put a moratorium in place on affordable housing waivers until a procedure is finalized.

Walsh commented that efforts of many projects that might present to build housing at 120 percent AMI or 140 percent AMI are “misplaced.”

Ramsey then returned the calculation of the changes in CIFs and surcharges that would be required to support the affordable housing waivers.

Following a discussion, the board agreed to design the new fees around having 12 water CIF waivers a year and eight wastewater CIF waivers.

The board then briefly discussed the PSCDC housing project, with board members stating that the project would not qualify for fee waivers due to none of the units in the project reaching the 80 percent AMI level.

Tautges raised the issue of if the board wanted the waiver amounts at each AMI level to remain the same, and board members generally affirmed that they wanted to retain the waivers outlined in the current policy.

Following further calculations, Walsh noted that the affordable housing surcharge would increase to approximately 40 cents for water and potentially about \$1.10 for wastewater if half of the costs are funded by increasing CIFs.

Tautges commented that the rate payers likely recognize the importance of affordable housing and having a workforce and would not complain about the increase.

Walsh commented that the initial plan for the affordable housing surcharge was to put the entirety of the surcharge on CIFs, but that another board member at the time had recommended that all costs should not be put on new development and the surcharge was shifted onto ratepayers.

Ramsey stated that the wastewater CIF would increase by \$825 if 50 percent of the affordable housing waivers costs were placed in CIFs, which Walsh noted is an approximately 7 percent increase.

Ramsey added that the CIF for water would increase by \$403 if the district placed 50 percent of the waiver costs on CIFs.

Tautges stated that he would be open to seeing “a couple of options” at the next board meeting on changes to the policy and raised the issue of imposing a moratorium on affordable housing waivers until the policy changes are finalized.

Walsh asked what the board’s feelings are on the proposed changes, noting that they represent a “compromise position” that is “far from my ideal, but this is what I’ll stand with.”

Ramsey commented that the board could vote on these changes at the next meeting.

“And there is a hard-charging, dynamic, creative lady who’s going to come through that door with a project she loves and we’re going to say, ‘This is the line we’ve had to draw,’” Walsh said, referring to PSCDC Executive Director Emily Lashbrooke. “That’s it.”

PAWSD Programs Manager Renee Lewis explained that Lashbrooke requested being first on the agenda and asked for confirmation that she would be able to be first due to having another meeting later that evening.

Lewis explained that she had just received Lashbrooke’s presentation during the meeting and asked the board what response she should give to Lashbrooke’s request.

Ramsey noted that the board would have to make a decision on revising the policy prior to hearing Lashbrooke’s presentation since a change to the policy might make her request a “moot point.”

“So, this decision is not going to be anything that’s going to be much of an impact to her,” Walsh said. “The number of 80 to 90 homes even if all the grants she’s seeking she gets, which you never do, it’s gonna be 110, 120, 130, 140 and the appeal is gonna be, ‘Well, you know, young doctors and nurses ... critical people are at that level’ and ... it’s not an illegitimate argument, but we’ve done the due diligence, we’ve looked at the numbers, we’ve taken the same 50-50 approach that we took to everything. We eliminated a band that is ... a 25 percent discount, but that’s not as crippling to a project, and we’ve kept it for the ones that will make ... the people that are most vulnerable go.”

Ramsey commented that the board is “drawing a line in the sand” and that the board needs to vote on approving revised policy and approving the

changed CIFs and surcharges at its next meeting.

Lewis noted that changing the CIFs and surcharges would require notice 30 days before a vote.

Hansen recommended that the board implement a moratorium on affordable housing waivers to allow for further consideration of the issue.

Ramsey noted that implementing a moratorium could be helpful since changing the policy before holding a public hearing on the surcharge and CIF changes associated with it would make the hearing “seem like a sham.” Lewis suggested that the board consider placing a vote on altering the policy or implementing a moratorium prior to hearing any presentations from those looking for waivers.

Following further discussion, the board expressed general agreement that implementing a moratorium on affordable housing waivers for a month until the board can hold a public hearing on the surcharge and CIF changes would be more fair.

Tautges asked if the board would be interested in placing the entirety of the increased costs for waivers in the affordable housing surcharge.

Walsh commented that, if the costs were placed entirely in surcharges, he would want that hearing to occur at the same meeting as those who are requesting waivers present so that they could see the difficulties the board faces and hear the complaints about increased fees and surcharges.

Hudson raised the issue that the PSCDC project is on a tight timeline with a plan to build 10 houses in 2024.

He commented that the PAWSD board implementing a moratorium and delaying any potential waivers for the PSCDC project is “not going to sit real well with their board.”

“I think it would be better for her if we actually change the policy first and say, ‘We’re not gonna ... give waivers for anything over 80 percent,’” Hudson added. “She can walk back to her board now and say, ‘OK, we gotta redraw our plans because we know now that PAWSD is not gonna give us the waivers.’ If we do a moratorium, she has to wait another month.”

Ramsey explained to the board that it would have to approve the policy at its March 14 meeting to prepare for the imposition of surcharge and fee increases, but that the moratorium would need to be put into place until a public hearing could occur to approve the policy to prevent the impression that the board is only conducting the hearing as a formality and has already made a decision.

The board expressed general agreement with this approach.

Lewis then asked what the board wanted presented at its next meeting.

Hudson stated that the board would like a resolution to alter the policy to eliminate waivers for projects between 80 percent and 100 percent AMI.

Tautges added that he would like an option to have the increased affordable housing waiver costs borne entirely by surcharges also presented.

Hudson added that the board would also vote on a possible moratorium.

Ramsey stated that, if the board approves the changes to the policy, it should then vote to impose a moratorium until after a public hearing on the CIF and surcharge increases.

Following further discussion, the board agreed to have two agenda items to consider changes to the policy and a moratorium.

Walsh stated that he did not believe any projects are “in the hopper” and awaiting financing at the price points where waivers would be granted.

Lewis commented that it would be “courteous at best” to notify the PSCDC that these votes would occur before discussion of their project on the agenda.

Ramsey added that the board should also notify Habitat, who was also planned to be on the agenda.

Hudson noted that several builders who are expected to request waivers at the meeting should also be notified.

Walsh commented that The SUN should be notified, to which Hudson commented, “They’re going to have tar and feathers outside the door.”

Walsh responded that there are alternative ways to get into the PAWSD building.

At the March 12 Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) work session, Commissioner Warren Brown raised concerns about PAWSD’s potential rejection of the PSCDC request for fee waivers.

He noted that he and other county staff were part of a presentation to the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) requesting a \$1.9 million More Housing Now grant for building infrastructure in Trails and Chris Mountain II which was unanimously recommended for approval by the decision makers present.

He stated that this is part of the PSCDC housing project, but that the county would be the recipient of the grant.

He commented that the PSCDC was to present first on the agenda to the PAWSD board, but had been moved behind a vote on a moratorium on affordable or workforce housing fee reductions.

“My concern in this matter is that, I know that the budget is very tight with CDC and they have managed to pull together a rousing number of community supporters, not only the county but the town, [Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Association (PLPOA)], some local banks to do financing, our broadband provider, [La Plata Electric Association] ... and even the contractor that was selected — BWD — all to pitch in to make this project work because all of us know and understand the need for workforce housing,” Brown said. “If the fees are not reduced or eliminated in this project, my understanding and speaking with [Lashbrooke] is this project will not pencil and this will not happen.”

“And I’m just making a plea for the board of PAWSD to consider the ... result of any action at this time because these figures were already put in place at the old tap fee rates. The impact that we’re going to have as a community and the lack of progress that we are going to experience in this workforce housing project. So, I’m just making a plea that we can all come together.”

He added that putting in the roads and utilities that would be funded by the grant would open up 105 lots in the area, which could generate \$2.6 million for PAWSD at its current CIFs.

“That they’re not having right now,” Commissioner Ronnie Maez said.

Brown added that these properties are also not on the tax rolls or collecting membership dues for PLPOA or utility fees.

“This is a project that I think benefits our county across the board,” Brown said. “I just wanted to put out a sincere request to the PAWSD board to give some very thorough consideration in making this decision, and if they want to implement the moratorium after this project then everybody can go into funding with the knowledge of this is what that new price is going to be and maybe there’s going to be fewer houses that were attempted to be made so they can hit these 80 AMI points in order to get additional funding. My understanding is another \$2 million is at stake with the application to be submitted this Friday.”

Maez commented that he spoke with one of the PAWSD board directors the night before and that the PSCDC project could be excluded from the moratorium.

“That could be a big plus, and I definitely encouraged them to do the best they can for the community because some of these homes might provide a home for some of their employees that they so desperately need to find housing as well,” Maez said. “It’s important to our community.”

The BoCC then discussed noticing the meeting for the commissioners to attend, with Maez directing staff to notice the meeting and provide the commissioners with Zoom attendance information.

Brown commented that “PAWSD is a good community partner. ... This is not a time that we can afford as a community to fail.”

Maez commented that he understands PAWSD’s financial position, but that the district needs to understand the “community needs” and that the project would be beneficial to many community members who need housing.

He added that he understands the high costs of providing water and sewer services and meeting the state-mandated regulatory improvements.

“And we could all appreciate the fact that they’re doing their best and their responsibility in being fiduciary over their institution, but also this can be a huge impact to this community and we cannot afford to lose that money,” Maez said.

Commissioner Veronica Medina commented that there is a large amount of grant money available for infrastructure currently and pointed out that Lashbrooke had mentioned her willingness to help PAWSD secure grants.

“I think the help and the assistance there, I know if there’s anything the county could do to assist them in writing grants or writing letters of support, whatever we needed to do in that aspect, I think we would do that because it’s not only about the affordable housing project that the CDC has, but it will also impact Habitat for Humanity, it will also impact other developers that are looking to build affordable housing,” Medina said.

She added that the county has been interested in promoting affordable housing and has partnered with the PSCDC to do this.

“And now this is a huge door that could really close our community to any more affordable housing projects,” Medina concluded. “So, it is paramount that PAWSD reconsider and reach out if they have any questions.... I would be willing to open my door to speak to them and see what we could do to work together to make sure that these projects move forward.”

These issues will be discussed further at the PAWSD meeting on Thursday, March 14, at 5 p.m. at the PAWSD administrative building at 100 Lyn Ave. The meeting will also be broadcast on Zoom with login information available on the PAWSD website.

The agenda for the meeting indicates that the PAWSD board will, in order: hear public comments, vote on changes to the affordable housing waiver policy, vote on a moratorium on waivers, and hear waiver requests from the PSCDC, Habitat for Humanity and several developers.

josh@pagosahun.com

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Public Notices

COMBINED NOTICE - PUBLICATION CRS §38-3-103 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 Deeds 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 CWA/LT, Inc., Alternative Loan Trust 2006-33CB, Mortgage Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2006-33CB
Date of Deed of Trust October 14, 2005
County of Recording 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 §38-3-101(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 FORECLOSED 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.
THEREFORE, 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), Grantor(s) heirs and assigns herein, 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.

2/29/2024
3/28/2024
Name of Publication Pagosa Springs Sun
Date of Publication 3/28/2024
Name of the Property IS CONTINGENT 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 fax 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 Fee # 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: Alexandra Caesley Brown
For a Change of Name to:
Alexandra Caesley 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 Caesley Brown be changed to Alexandra Caesley Finkelston-Brown.
By Suellen Loher, Clerk of Court/Deputy Clerk
Published March 7, 14, 21, 2024 in *The Pagosa Springs Sun*. (230443)

District Court
Archuleta County, Colorado
Court Address:
109 Harman Park Dr., PO Box 148
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
In the Matter of the Petition of:
Parent/Petitioner: Peggy L. Montano fka Peggy Trana
For a Change of Name to:
Joshua Victor Montano
Case Number: 24CV2
Division: Courtroom 1
AMENDED PUBLIC NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME

Public Notice is given on January 31, 2024 that a Petition for a Change of Name of a Minor Child has been filed with the Archuleta Court.
The Petition requests that the name of Joshua Victor Trana be changed to Joshua Victor Montano.
By Nancy McBroome, Deputy Clerk
Published March 14, 21, & 28 2024 in *The Pagosa Springs Sun*. (230803)

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, PMB 477
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
Phone Number: (512) 529-8289
E-mail: charlotte@yochemlaw.com
Atty. Reg. #54998
Case Number: 24PR30009
Division 1 Courtroom

NOTICE TO CREDITORS BY PUBLICATION PURSUANT TO §15-12-101, C.R.S.
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Estate of Kathi Lou Creech, AKA Kathi Creech, AKA Kathi S. Creech, Dec 28, 2003
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, 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.
ORTEN CAVANAGH HOLMES & HUNT, LLC
By: /s/Hal R. Kyles

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 and March 7 & 14, 2024 in *The Pagosa Springs Sun*. (228581)

DISTRICT COURT, WATER DIVISION 7, COLORADO WATER RESUME
(This publication can be viewed in its entirety on the state court website at: www.courts.state.co.us).

TO: ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN WATER APPLICATIONS IN SAID WATER DIVISION NO. 7
Pursuant to C.R.S. 37-92-302, you are notified that applications filed in the Office of the Water Clerk during the month of February 2024, for Archuleta County.

2024CW3068 ARCHULETA COUNTY WATER DISTRICT NO. 78: 1) Applicants: Alan and Barbara Stockman, 13211 West Highway 160, Pagosa Springs CO 81147 (970)731-5657; **2) Attorneys:** Adam T. Reeves and Lindsey A. Ratcliff, Maynes, Bradford, Shippy & Sheffield, LLP, 835 East 2nd Ave., Ste. 123, Durango, CO 81301; **3) Application to Make Absolute and for a**

Finding of Reasonable Diligence; **4) Water Rights:** Originally decreed Case No. 04CW64; **a) Alan's Lake Ditch:** Approp. Date: June 30, 2003; **Location:** SE/4SW/4 of Sec. 5, T34N, R3W, N.M.P.M., 3,670 feet from the E section line and 150 feet from the S section line; **Uses:** Evaporation, fishery, stock water and recreation; **flow through Alan's Lake/Well;** **Source:** Devil Creek; **Amount:** up to 2.0 cfs, conditional, or enough to keep the Alan's Lake/Well full; **b) Alan's Lake/Well:** Approp. Date: June 30, 2003; **Location:** SE/4NE/4 Sec. 7, T34N, R3W, NMPM, 3,280 feet from S and 100 feet from E section lines; **Surface area:** 1.8 acres (at time of Original Decree), up to 6.0 acres, after additional gravel mining; **Uses:** During gravel mining: commercial, including gravel mining; **After gravel mining:** evaporation, fishery, stock water and recreation; **Source:** During gravel mining: groundwater; **After gravel mining:** groundwater and pass through Alan's Lake Ditch at a filing rate of up to 2.0 cfs; **Amount:** 0.11 cfs, conditional; **Well permit:** 81419-F; **Evaporation rates and the replacement of out-of-priority diversions from Alan's Lake/Well are described in Paragraph 6 of the Original Decree;** **c) Elk Park Lake:** Originally decreed in Case No. 03CW03, augmentation use added Case No. 04CW64; **Approp. Date:** Oct. 1984 (stockwater, wildlife, fishery); **Aug. 27, 2004 (augmentation); Location:** SE/4NE/4, Sec. 7, T34N, R3W, NMPM, 1,800 feet from the N section line and 1,000 feet from the E section line; **Surface area:** 0.81 acres; **Uses:** stockwater, wildlife, fishery, and augmentation; **Amount:** 4.0 AF conditional; **Source:** Runoff and Iron Springs Seep Area, tributary to Devil Creek tributary to the Piedra River; **Remarks:** The Iron Springs Seep Area contribution to Elk Park Lake shall be bypassed around the Lake when Elk Park Lake is out of priority; **d) Lower Elk Spring Pond:** Originally decreed in Case No. 03CW03; **Approp. Date:** Jan. 23, 2003 (Stockwater and wildlife); **Aug. 27, 2004 (augmentation and exchange); Location:** N/W4NW/4 Sec. 8, T34N, R3W, NMPM, 900 feet from N and 300 feet from W section lines; **Surface area of high water line:** 0.08 acres (65 feet in diameter); **Uses:** stockwater, wildlife, augmentation and exchange; **Conditional; Amount:** 0.3 AF; **Source:** Runoff and overflow from Elk Spring Pond/Well; **Remarks:** Elk Spring Pond is constructed with a dam and has a gated, low-level outlet pipe; **5) Matters due toward completion or for completion of appropriation and application of water to beneficial use:** a) Applicant has concluded gravel mining at the site and has substantially completed the associated reclamation requirements. Applicant has regularly maintained the structures identified herein and operated them in accordance with the instructions of the water commissioner. Applicants are the only owner of the land upon which any new diversion or storage structure, or modification to any existing diversion or storage structure is or will be constructed or upon which water is or will be stored, including any modification to the existing storage pool. (6 pages)

THE WATER RIGHTS CLAIMED BY THE FOREGOING APPLICATION(S) MAY AFFECT IN PRIORITY ANY WATER RIGHTS CLAIMED OR HERETOFORE ADJUDICATED WITHIN THIS DIVISION AND OWNERS OF AFFECTED RIGHTS MUST APPEAR TO OBJECT AND PROTEST WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY STATUTE, OR BE FOREVER BARRED. YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT YOU HAVE until the last day of April 2024, to file with the Water Clerk, a verified Statement of Opposition, setting forth facts as to why a certain application should not be granted or why it should be granted only in part or on certain conditions. A copy of such Statement of Opposition must also be served upon the applicant or the applicant's attorney and an affidavit or certificate of such service shall be filed with the Water Clerk, as prescribed by Rule 5, CRCP. (Filing fee: \$192.00; Forms are available through the Office of the Water Clerk or on the Judicial web site at www.courts.state.co.us; Jason Poyer, Water Court Specialist, 1060 E. 2nd Ave., Room 106, Durango, CO 81301; (970) 247-2304) /s/ Jason Poyer Water Court Specialist

Published: before March 31, 2024
Published March 14, 2024 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (231071)

Published: before March 31, 2024
Published March 14, 2024 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (231071)

FOR BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HEARING ON APRIL 2, 2024
Darren Ellsmore has applied for ELLSMORE MINOR SUBDIVISION FINAL PLAT REVIEW, creating Lot 1 and Lot 2 in Sec. 2 Twn: 35 Rng: 2W, at 2324 County Road 400, Pagosa Springs, CO (PLN24-021). The property is zoned Agriculture Ranching (AR). Comments regarding this case may be submitted to Archuleta County Development Services-Planning Department, P.O. Box 1507, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147-1507, telephone: (970) 264-8341 or to Planning@archuletacounty.org prior to the public hearing by the Archuleta County Planning Commission on April 2, 2024, at 1:30 p.m. in the County Commissioners Meeting Room, 398 Lewis Street, Pagosa Springs and via Zoom Link.

Must be published the following dates in the Pagosa Springs SUN:
March 14
March 21
Published March 14 & 21, 2024 in *The Pagosa Springs Sun*. (230889).

FOR PLANNING COMMISSION HEARING ON March 28, 2024
JESSE RADER has applied for a SINGLE-FAMILY DETACHED CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT on the Parcel in the Lot-25 CIP 3 of SEC 9, TWN 35, RNG 2W, at 138 Industrial Circle, Pagosa Springs, CO (PLN24-022). The property is zoned Industrial (I). Comments regarding this case may be submitted to Archuleta County Development Services-Planning Department, P.O. Box 1507, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147-1507, telephone: (970) 264-8341 or to Planning@archuletacounty.org prior to the public hearing by the Archuleta County Planning Commission on March 28, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. in the County Commissioners Meeting Room, 398 Lewis Street, Pagosa Springs and via Zoom Link.

Must be published the following dates in the Pagosa Springs SUN:
March 14
March 21
Published March 14 & 21, 2024 in *The Pagosa Springs Sun*. (230863).

FOR PLANNING COMMISSION HEARING ON March 28, 2024
TIFFANY KVITEK has applied for a SINGLE-FAMILY ATTACHED CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT on the Parcel in the Lot-23 CIP 3 of SEC 9, TWN 35, RNG 2W, at 174 Industrial Circle, Pagosa Springs, CO (PLN24-023). The property is zoned Industrial (I). Comments regarding this case may be submitted to Archuleta County Development Services-Planning Department, P.O. Box 1507, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147-1507, telephone: (970) 264-8341 or to Planning@archuletacounty.org prior to the public hearing by the Archuleta County Planning Commission on March 28, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. in the County Commissioners Meeting Room, 398 Lewis Street, Pagosa Springs and via Zoom Link.

Must be published the following dates in the Pagosa Springs SUN:
March 14
March 21
Published March 14 & 21, 2024 in *The Pagosa Springs Sun*. (230874).

INVITATION TO BID

Separate sealed BIDS for the **North Pagosa Boulevard 2024 Resurfacing Project** will be received by

Published: before March 31, 2024
Published March 14, 2024 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (231071)

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Archuleta County, Colorado at the office of Davis Engineering Service, Inc. located at 188 South 8th Street, P.O. Box 1208, Pagosa Springs, Colorado 81147, until 2:00 P.M. local time on **March 28, 2024**, and then at said office publicly opened and read aloud.

The project consists of resurfacing existing asphalt roadways being approximately 820 feet of North Pagosa Boulevard from U.S. Highway 160 to the north just south of the intersection with Bastille Drive, and approximately 320 feet of Navajo Trail beginning at the intersection with North Pagosa Boulevard and then to the southwest past the driveways to the car wash. The project purpose is to replace the existing deteriorated asphalt surface, while essentially maintaining the existing horizontal and vertical alignments by removing and replacing material to accommodate a single 3 inch asphalt mat. Two borings in the project area revealed 2.5 and 3 inch existing asphalt thicknesses.

Project work includes, but is not limited to asphalt removal, subgrade preparation, asphalt paving, shouldering, pavement marking, traffic control, and other items typically associated with road construction. Copies of the CONTRACT DOCUMENTS and PLANS may be obtained on or after **February 29, 2024**, at the office of Davis Engineering Service, Inc. located at the address mentioned above, upon payment of \$50.00 for each set. No refund will be made for returned copies. A **mandatory pre-bid conference** and inspection trip for prospective Bidders will be held at the office of Davis Engineering Service, Inc. (phone number (970) 264-5055), located at the address mentioned above, at 2:00 P.M. local time on **March 19, 2024**.

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Sports

SOCCER

Lady Pirates open season with 10-0 win

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Lady Pirate soccer team kicked off its season with a 10-0 victory over the Del Norte Tigers in Del Norte on March 7.

Coach Trevor Gian commented that he was not sure what to expect going into the game, but, "we started out really pretty strong and we were able to get a lot of the younger players, newer players, a lot of playing time. We traveled with 24 and I think 22 suited up. So, basically, two full teams worth of kids got plenty of time to play."

He added that the game was "really nice," although the weather toward the end of the game was cold and windy.

The Lady Pirates scored eight

goals in the first half and two in the second half, which lasted 20 minutes before the mercy rule ended the game at 60 minutes.

Gian commented that the Lady Pirates' starting players performed especially well in the game, scoring within the first five minutes and playing "fantastic from the get go."

"First 10 minutes, they were on top of it, pressuring the ball, all around the goal, getting shots. Del Norte was fairly raw ... from their standpoint, so ... a couple of our better players were able to find space pretty easy, pretty quickly. With our starters, they got around 15, 20 minutes in and then we really started subbing in our younger players to get them some more playing time as the score ... started going pretty quick."

"The whole team really, really was impressive. Their effort, their attitude,

built a little bit of comradery there just in one game. Really, really positive experience on our end."

Gian added that the team was successful in finding opportunities for shots on Del Norte's goal and on defense, though the team is still developing its ability to stay in formation and coordinate.

"It was a great game to kind of just be able to move people around, get people in the game, see them on a full-size field," he said. "We've been at South Park practicing on the small goals. Just to get them in there, get them a little comfortable, let them get a chance just to go play a little soccer."

Gian stated that the Tigers had two to three shots on goal over the game, with one requiring a "quality save" from Lady Pirate goalkeeper Kiera Davis and the others being warded off by the Pirate defense.

The Lady Pirates' next game will be against Lake County at Golden Peaks Stadium in Pagosa Springs at 4 p.m. on March 19.

Gian commented that he has few set expectations for the game as his knowledge of the team is limited by him being new to the high school coaching position, but that he aims to focus on continuing to improve the Lady Pirates' play, particularly in terms of maintaining shape, "utilizing our first touch" and controlling the ball.

"I'm just kind of excited to have a home game," Gian said. "Let people see these girls play, and we'll just kind of go out there with the expectation that we'll just kind of continue to work on what we're doing. And, as we continue to do that, hopefully we can progress and set a foundation that will help us be successful throughout the season."
josh@pagosasun.com

BASEBALL

Pirates win two of three to open season

By Robert Moore
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Pirate baseball team hit the diamond for the first time this season as the team played three games in the Aztec tournament last week in Aztec, N.M.

The team dropped its opening game to Aztec, but bounced back to defeat both Bosque and Page in the next two games.

On Thursday, March 7, the Pirates took on the Aztec Tigers, but fell 11-1.

Coach Ben Garcia stated that it was good to actually be on the field, as "we haven't had a whole lot of opportunities to obviously get outside and see who's in the right position, those kinds of things."

The Tigers and Pirates were scoreless in the first inning, but each team picked up a run in the second.

From there, however, the Tigers took control of the game, scoring four runs in the third, one in the fourth, and five runs in the fifth inning to secure the victory.

Jaden Tuggle-Reed logged the only hit in the game for the Pirates, but Garcia indicated that the team had numerous opportunities to score through the first few innings due to hit batters and walks.

"We hit the ball. We had runners in scoring position consistently throughout the first three or four innings," Garcia said. "So, that game could have gone either way, but we hadn't been out and hadn't had opportunities to swing."
Riley Laugel took the mound for the

Pirates, pitching four innings and allowing 11 runs total, of which only four were earned. Laugel gave up four hits and logged four strikeouts as well. Kaeden Iguchi faced two batters in the fifth inning and retired both.

The team had six errors in the game.

The Pirates garnered three walks and two stolen bases in the game, but struck out eight times.

The next day, the Pirates took on the Bosque Bobcats and bounced back with a 9-2 victory.

Both teams were scoreless through the first five innings, but the Pirates racked up nine runs in the sixth inning to notch the win.

Five batters garnered hits in the game, led by Zach Pouyer, who went 4-4, and Hunter Pouyer, who went 3-4. Tuggle-Reed, Laugel and Cooper Ralston also contributed to the hit total.

Chris Martinez was held hitless, but scored three of the Pirate's runs. In addition, the Pirates stole eight bases in eight attempts. The team committed one error and struck out 11 times in the game.

Ralston started the game and pitched four innings, giving up two runs, one earned, and four walks. Martinez pitched one scoreless inning in the fifth, giving up one hit and one walk, but notching two strikeouts.

"I was very, very pleased with the progress, and that's what we talked about," Garcia said. "We've just got to get better every game and try to improve. Now we've been on the field, so we need to get out there and take

the next step. And we played well. We really did."

The following day, the Pirates took on the Page Sand Devils and came away with a 7-2 victory.

The Pirates scored two runs in the first inning and led 2-1 heading into the fourth inning. The team put up four runs in that inning to take a 6-1 lead and added an insurance run in the fifth. Page scored a single run in the bottom of the seventh inning, and the Pirates walked away with the 7-2 win.

According to the coach, Hunter Pouyer led the team both offensively with three doubles, and defensively behind the plate.

"I was so pleased with the progress, again, of getting better," Garcia said. "The third game, we just played really well. We really did ... we came out and hit the ball and made every situation again. We ran and did all the things that we wanted to offensively. We really did. We had a good game."

Hunter Pouyer delivered three RBIs for the game to go with his three doubles, and the Pirates tallied five hits for the game and three walks while striking out nine times.

The Pirates stole 12 bases in 12 attempts, and the team committed three errors defensively.

Charles Washburn started the game and pitched four innings for the Pirates, giving up one earned run and two walks. Martinez pitched the final three innings, giving up three hits, one run and one walk.

Garcia indicated he was pleased with the Pirates' pitching throughout

the three games, saying, "We did some great jobs pitching again, I think all three days. The pitching did well. It was by no means letting us down. We walked some people and we hit some batters and stuff, but ... I was very pleased with how they came through and they shut the inning down despite having runners on."

This week, the team will hit the road again to compete in the Delta tournament, with three more games on the slate.

On Friday, March 15, the 2-1 Pirates will take on the Cedaredge Bruins at 1:30 p.m. at Cedaredge. The Bruins are 0-0 heading into the tournament.

The following day, on Saturday, March 16, the team will face the North Fork Miners at 11 a.m. at North Fork. The Miners' record is 0-0 going into the tournament.

Also on Saturday, Pagosa will take on the Olathe Pirates at 1:30 p.m. in Olathe. The Olathe Pirates are 0-0 going into the tournament.

Garcia indicated the team will be traveling early Friday morning to the Delta tournament and also busing to each game on Saturday.

"It's going to be a tough that first day. And then the second day, we're kind of bouncing around. We go to North Fork and then we turn around and go to Olathe. But I think, again, I look forward to putting us in that tough situation to see how we respond. Because I think that builds character ... we're looking forward to getting on the field."
robert@pagosasun.com

TRACK

Pirates set to begin season in Bayfield

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School (PSHS) Pirate track and field teams will jump into the 2024 season on Friday, March 15, in Bayfield, with coach Connie O'Donnell indicating she believes the teams will be more competitive this year.

This season's squad, O'Donnell wrote in an email to The SUN, includes 73 student athletes, with 32 returning athletes, including seven returning state-qualifiers.

The team also has 25 freshmen and 16 new sophomores, juniors and seniors, according to the coach.

The program also has two new coaches joining this year, with O'Donnell explaining Curtis Nehring will coach shot and discus this year, and Nik Paniagua will help in several areas, among them hurdles, jumps and sprints.

"Our returning coaches are Tim Taylor coaching distance and Sabra Miller coaching both horizontal and vertical jumps," O'Donnell wrote.

In addition to the new athletes and coaches, O'Donnell notes something else novel that has occurred this year — the team was able to practice on the track on the first day of practice.

"We were able to get on the track this year on the 1st day of practice for only the 2nd time since I've been coaching at PSHS," she wrote. "It might not be good for our fire risk or water

situation, but I guess it's good for track. Last year, we didn't get on the track until about the 2nd week of April. We have been able to use blocks, go over hurdles, do relay exchanges and jump into actual pits before our first meet. That is something that should help us to accomplish our goals as far as performance much earlier than usual."

O'Donnell also notes she believes the teams will be more competitive this year.

"I really think that we will be able to place in every event at most meets," she wrote. "It would be great if those placements were in the top three. With that said, I think that we will be more competitive this year with our team scores."

She comments that the team's leadership will also be a strength.

"I think that one of our strengths will be leadership. With 73 people, it's going to take mentoring from athlete to athlete and I think that we have the quality kids to be able to build each other up."

The coach also notes the Pirate athletes "made huge gains last year and most were able to carry those gains over to their other sports. I think most of those kids are just hungry to compete and to race. They are sold on the sport and I love it. It's not uncommon to come out for track because you want to train for another sport and then get addicted to that head to head competition."

Schedule

The following schedule was ac-

curate as of press time, but is subject to change. All meets are scheduled to begin at 9 a.m. unless otherwise noted.

Following this week's action in Bayfield, the Pirate teams will have a break from official action until March 30, when they will again head to Bayfield, this time for the Pine River Invite.

On April 6, the teams will head to the Abel Velasquez Invite in Ignacio.

The following week, on April 12, the teams will compete at the Bob Archibeque Invite in Cortez.

On April 17, the teams will again return to Bayfield, this time for the Bayfield Invite #2.

On April 20, the teams will be in action in Durango for the Ron Keller Invite.

The teams will travel to Mancos for the Mancos Blue Jay Invitational on April 26, with action set to begin at 1 p.m.

The following day, the teams will head to Alamosa for the High Altitude Challenge, which will also serve as the Intermountain League meet.

The Pirates will host the Terry Alley Invitational at Golden Peaks Stadium on May 4.

The teams will close out the regular season on May 10 and 11 at the Tiger Invitational hosted by Grand Junction High School. Action on May 10 is slated to begin at 3 p.m., with action commencing at 9 a.m. the following day.
randi@pagosasun.com

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preview

ARTS & LIFE

St. Patrick's Day Festival

11 a.m. to 1 p.m. • Saturday, March 16 • St. Patrick's Episcopal Church



Photo courtesy Andy Green

March 14, 2024



Photo courtesy Andy Green

The St. Patrick's Day Festival at St. Patrick Episcopal Church, set for Saturday, will again feature the "world's shortest parade" and more.

Live Performers



- Friday**
The Springs Resort lodge atrium: Bob Hemenger, 5 p.m.
- Saturday**
The Springs Resort lodge atrium: Maxwell Miller, 5 p.m.
- Tuesday**
The Springs Resort lodge atrium: Jason Rose, 5 p.m.
- Wednesday**
Alley House Grille lounge: Bob Hemenger, 5:30 p.m.
The Den: Karaoke, 8 p.m.

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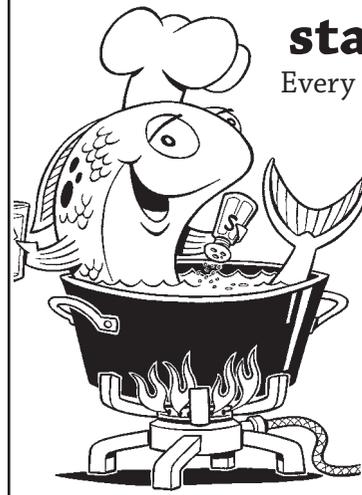
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St. Patrick's Day Festival to feature parade and more

By Anthony Aldwell
St. Patrick's Episcopal Church

Join the St. Patrick's Day Festival this Saturday, March 16, at St. Patrick's Episcopal Church from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. for not only the "world's shortest parade," but also family fun, free chili dogs and a chance for children to ride on the float with Saint Patrick.

While it may be billed as the world's shortest parade as it traverses St. Patrick's parking lot, it's actually not the world's smallest parade, as it comprises several Pagosa Springs' organizations. Leading the parade will be the Aspen House Color Guard, followed by our Magnificent and Marvelous Majorettes, our merry band of bagpipers, and Irish dancers from the Pagosa Springs Dance Academy. The centerpiece of the parade will be St. Patrick's float, accompanied by any children who wish to celebrate the day by riding on this shamrock-decorated float. Next to proceed will be Pagosa Springs Medical Center's EMS Team, the Pagosa Fire Protection District's Engine 3 and one of Elite Recycling and Disposal's massive trucks. A special parade attraction this year will be the arrival of the iconic Oscar Mayer Wienermobile.

Want to walk in the parade? Bring your leashed dogs, as the parade will conclude with owners and their canine friends bouncing and barking to the melodious bagpipes.

The festival will also include chili dogs and chips for all attendees, 24 local vendor booths, children's activities, including twirling and Irish dancing instruction, and, of course, Irish coffee and beer for sale. Any profits will be returned to community-focused ministries, including the St. Patrick's Food Pantry, to which parade visitors are encouraged to donate canned vegetables and fruit, boxed macaroni and cheese, and peanut butter. Used books will be on sale in St. Patrick's library, as well as fabric from our quilting group.

This event will take place in St. Patrick's Episcopal Church parking lot at 225 South Pagosa Blvd. Our neighbors, John Paul II Catholic Church and the Pagosa Springs Medical Center, have graciously opened their adjacent parking lots to parade attendees. Handicapped parking will be available in St. Patrick's main lot.

Snow or shine, this parade will step off at 11:15 Saturday morning and the chili dogs will be ready for all immediately thereafter. So, cloak yourself in your brightest green outfits to join the celebration — and don't be late: The world's shortest parade is a fun, but fleeting Pagosa moment.

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San Juan Stargazers to meet March 14

By Joan Mieritz
San Juan Stargazers

The San Juan Stargazers' monthly meeting on Thursday, March 7, was postponed to Thursday, March 14, due to a scheduling conflict.

Since the meeting room was available on March 14, changing the date was the easiest solution.

We meet at the Community United Methodist Church at 434 Lewis St. You can use the parking lot and enter at the side door right off the parking area. We leave the front doors locked.

We have new members at almost every meeting, and if you tried to come last week, we sincerely apologize. We hope the messages on the doors helped. Please try again since this has never happened in our 11 years as a club.

There will be a social hour starting at 6 p.m. with coffee/tea and treats. We have copies of the Sky & Telescope issue called "Showtime: North America's Grand Eclipse" with much good information.

We have two different topics for the educational part of the meeting, the first one being the important eclipse this year on April 8. It will cross North America, passing over Mexico, the U.S. and Canada. In the U.S., it will be visible from Texas to Maine. The next total solar eclipse

that will be visible over North America will not happen until 2045.

The eclipse will be visible in Pagosa as an approximate 64 percent partial eclipse starting at 11:21 a.m., with maximum partial eclipse at 12:30 p.m. and ending around 1:30 p.m. It should still be worth watching and will require special glasses for your safety. Eclipse glasses will be free, due to a special grant, starting April 1 at the Ruby Sisson Library.

Club members who are remaining in Pagosa will gather for the eclipse with community members who want to join them in Centennial Park at the Geothermal Greenhouse Partnership amphitheater on the Riverwalk. Look for our members to answer your questions and we will have eclipse glasses, while they last. Please feel welcome to join in this rare event of the moon passing between the sun and the earth.

Of course, you can view it anywhere by yourself using special solar glasses, but we will be at the park to share this unusual astronomical event with our community. There will not be a regular meeting in April.

If anyone, from the community or any club members, has questions about the eclipse, be at our meeting at 7 p.m. and we will take time to find your answers.

The second topic for the night will be "Mars, Exploring from Space

& the Ground" from a Great Courses lesson. We will have a summary to read and discuss written by Ann Marie Kemp and then have a video presentation by our favorite lady astronomer, Dr. Sabine Stanley. It should be fascinating. She always does a great job.

Last month we all were in shock over the unbelievable information we learned about Mercury that we hadn't heard before.

We are starting to gear up for a summer of great astronomy activity. We will have "members-only star parties," eight to 10 night sky programs at Chimney Rock and some public events, plus regular meetings.

If you want to learn how to use your telescope or one of our club telescopes, it is time to get started at the beginning of the season.

If you would like to join the San Juan Stargazers, you will also receive Reflector Magazine — the publication of the National Astronomical League of which you automatically become a member. To join both groups and get an excellent astronomy magazine, annual membership is only \$25 per family. You can join the club at any of our events or you can join using PayPal on our website, sanjuanstargazers.org. Check out our continuously changing website with new information and fabulous photos.

Save the date: 2024 Archuleta Food Summit set for May 11

Healthy Archuleta

As the weather warms, planning is underway for the 2024 Archuleta Food Summit.

This fun-filled day will focus on learning about our local food system and create opportunities to network and share with our neighbors.

The Archuleta Food Summit will be held at Pagosa Springs High School on May 11 from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

More than 100 individuals attended the last food summit, the overwhelming majority of whom wanted to make it an annual event, indicating a strong interest in the local food system.

cal food system.

Join us at the Archuleta Food Summit to learn more about our local food system. Learn about what is grown/produced locally: who is doing it, how they are doing it and where to find it. Find out what to do with the food you produce, learn the latest about composting processes and services, and, very importantly, get involved in our community food movement.

Event planners are also responding to the strong interest expressed in having networking opportunities. In addition to expert speakers, participants will have a chance to meet with other community

members to share and learn from each other and to have lunch while doing so.

Registration will open soon, and more information will be shared with the community.

We look forward to seeing you all at the food summit on May 11.

To learn more, please email us at fsfearchuleta@gmail.com or visit our website at <https://www.foodcoalition4archuleta.org>.

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Photo courtesy Pagosa Springs High School

Students and staff are hard at work preparing to present "Mean Girls the Musical" over five performances in March.

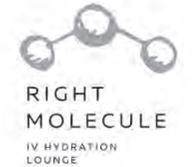
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High school to present 'Mean Girls' March 20-23

By Dale Scrivener
Pagosa Springs High School

Pagosa Springs High School is about to open its spring musical production of "Mean Girls" the musical.

This show is rated PG-13 for mild language and some sensitive content revolving around bullying.

Tickets can be purchased in advance for \$15 online at <https://our.show/meangirlspshs> or in person at the door for \$20.

The show will run March 20-23, with performances at 7 p.m. each day, as well as an afternoon showing at 2 p.m. on March 23. The show will take place in the Pagosa Springs High School auditorium.

The cast is extremely excited to share this show with the community. So many important and relatable top-

ics are covered in this contemporary musical to help show us what high school is like these days. Between the social pressure to be beautiful, cyber-bullying, the party atmosphere and the want to fit in, we are able to see how our high schoolers in today's world feel when they go through school.

The show runs at about two hours and 15 minutes in length, and we are featuring three different casts for the show.

"Mean Girls" is an upbeat show with so much fun packed in. Please come out and support your local high school theater department in this year's production of "Mean Girls" the musical.

The show is presented through special arrangement with Musical Theatre International.

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Tickets on sale for April environmental film festival

By Sally High
Geothermal Greenhouse Partnership

The Geothermal Greenhouse Partnership's (GGP's) Environmental Film Festival invites you to the Tennyson Building Event Center on April 19 and 20.

The annual film fest benefits the GGP and will begin Pagosa's Earth Day Celebration again this year.

The GGP operates a not-for-profit education and demonstration site in Pagosa's downtown Centennial Park on the San Juan Riverwalk. The GGP promotes environmental awareness, grows fresh produce for the community year-round and demonstrates renewable energy.

The GGP's Environmental Film Festival, a Colorado Environmental Film Festival (CEFF) Caravan, features nine films chosen by the GGP and CEFF for Pagosa Springs viewers. 2024's films include award-winning first-run films with spectacular cinematography and stimulating themes. Local environmental advocates help introduce individual films and lead audience discussions at the film fest.

A Premiere Gala from 5 to 10 p.m. on April 19 will offer GGP supporters and sponsors an upscale stand-up dinner. Seating at the Tennyson Building Event Center is limited to 120 guests.

Wristbands for Friday night's Premiere Gala are \$60 and allow guests to view all films on Saturday as well. Because of limited seating, Friday night guests who intend to return on Saturday can indicate their film preferences with the entry table

hosts, because otherwise empty seats on Saturday may be filled.

Friends of the GGP can view all nine films on April 20. General admission wristbands are only \$10 for Saturday. Seating at the Tennyson Building Event Center is limited to 120 people at a time.

The first film begins at 9 a.m. and the last film begins at 7 p.m. A complete list of films and a precise schedule of times will be published in the coming weeks. Guests will enjoy a cash bar both days.

The nine films slated for the GGP's film festival are currently touring various 2024 environmental film festivals and include two CEFF award-winners. "Flyways: The Untold Journey of Migratory Shorebirds" is CEFF's Best of Fest for 2024. "Covenant of the Salmon People" was awarded Best Feature Film at the Golden, Colo., festival in late February.

Wristbands can be purchased at <https://www.pagosagreen.org/environmentalfilmfestival>. The Premiere Gala, the upscale, catered Friday evening event, is \$60. General admission Saturday tickets are \$10. Remember, seating is limited and all proceeds benefit the GGP.

One more happy springtime announcement: We are watching for the GGP's daffodil and iris beds to bloom early this spring. The bulbs were donated in 2023 by generous GGP supporters.

The GGP is "growing food and community with local energy" and hopes to see you soon on the Riverwalk.



Photo courtesy Colorado Environmental Film Festival and Paul Robert Wolf Wilson

Tribal youth kayaked the Klamath River to celebrate the removal of four dams from their traditional tribal waters. "Paddle Tribal Waters" documents their journey and guests can view the short film at the Geothermal Greenhouse Partnership's upcoming film festival. For more information, visit www.pagosagreen.org/environmentalfilmfest.

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Photo courtesy Colorado Environmental Film Festival and Bruce McAllister

A linear induction motor test vehicle (LIMTV) is tested at Pueblo's high-speed ground test center in 1973. The LIMTV was designed to go 250 mph using noiseless electromagnetic power. The film "Documerica," features collected stories of historic photographs of 1970's environmental issues. Guests of the Geothermal Greenhouse Partnership's Environmental Film Festival can view "Documerica" and eight other new films on April 20. Tickets are available at www.pagosagreen.org/environmentalfilmfestival, and seating is limited.



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Benefits of the Healthy School Meals Program in our community

Healthy Archuleta Youth Community Learning and Leadership Council

When the school year began in the fall, students of Archuleta School District (ASD) started benefiting from free breakfast and lunch at school.

This was thanks to Proposition FF (Healthy School Meals For All), which was passed in the 2022 election cycle by Colorado voters. Healthy School Meals for All allows any school district in the state who would like to participate to let students receive free food as well as other perks like providing local produce for the cafeteria and stipends for cafeteria workers. These benefits will, however, be rolled out in different phases throughout the upcoming school years.

However, families and students are still seeing some significant benefits from the implementation of free school meals this year.

A big barrier for students and families was the stigma surrounding free school meals in prior years before the Healthy School Meals for All program. Many students didn't feel comfortable receiving free school meals because of what their peers would think of them if they did. This

school year, that stigma might have gone down a little bit.

ASD Food Service Director Todd Stevens said there has been approximately a 40 percent increase in students who are receiving school meals this year alone. This shows how many students are finding value in the Healthy School Meals for All program at our schools.

Another big benefit to the Healthy School Meals for All program at our schools is the money that families are saving. According to sources, the average family is saving around \$1,250 now that they don't have to write a check for their child's lunch account. This is money that can be very useful for families in our community. It can be put toward expenses such as housing, transportation and utilities.

Families also don't have to worry about whether they can qualify for free/reduced lunch after filling out the forms. Their kids can go and get it for free every day. However, it is still highly recommended that families fill out those free/reduced lunch applications for extra school funding.

Right now, the funding for these programs is in jeopardy, and lawmakers are looking at ways to help

fix this funding gap in the Healthy School Meals for All program. So, having families fill out the free/reduced lunch applications is important.

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 ASD website at <https://www.mypagosaschools.com/> and click on the popup "Free and Reduced Lunch Application" in the upper right-hand corner.

The food served at our school every day is also delicious and enjoyable for students, and the Healthy Archuleta Youth Community Learning and Leadership Council has shared that there really is no denying that the quality of those meals has greatly improved. These meals help ensure that students are eating nutritious foods that will benefit their health.

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

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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 wise, courageous, pragmatic, realistic, curious, responsible people who want to investigate and explore issues related to the practical side of death.

Since this is something that happens to everyone whether we want to acknowledge it or not, it is an important topic to face. It should be helpful to consider the information available before we or someone close to us must deal with it in a time of shock, grief, vulnerability and confusion.

Our first meeting will focus on increasing our level of comfort in investigating the topic. Then, the priority will be to explore what questions and issues are of concern to the group. We will also discuss what resources we can use to find answers to be presented at future meetings.

One issue of interest is the fact that there is no place in Archuleta County for green burials or local cremation. Our neighbor in the San Luis Valley, Crestone, offers a private cremation site where a family can privately cremate their loved one's body with support and direction from the community. Also in Crestone is a green burial site. If that town, smaller than

Pagosa, could accomplish having those options, we might be able to create something similar here.

We could discuss meeting with a funeral staff member before they are absolutely needed. Why wait until you or a loved one are at your weakest 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.

There is an option, totally without cost to the family, for two different medical schools to pick up a body at the hospital, transport it, use it for medical science and then, several months later, return cremated remains to the family. This saves a lot of money and may contribute greatly to medical science.

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 other cultures are handling these issues.

■ See Explore on next page



Dr. Rhonda Webb
Chief Executive Officer
Pagosa Springs Medical Center

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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@pagosahun.com.

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.

Sunday, March 24

Eucharist and Palm Procession. 8 a.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd.
Eucharist and Palm Procession with Choral Music. 10 a.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd.

Tuesday, March 26

Lenten Penance Service. 5 p.m., John Paul II Catholic Church.

Wednesday, March 27

Rosary/Stations of the Cross. 4 p.m., Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church.

Thursday, March 28

Potluck Soup Supper. 5 p.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd.

Maudy Thursday Liturgy with the Stripping of the Altar. 6 p.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd.

Maudy Thursday Service. 6 p.m., Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St.

Mass. 7 p.m., John Paul II Catholic Church.

Keeping Vigil with Christ. Overnight, St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd.

Friday, March 29

Good Friday Liturgy. Noon, St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd.

Good Friday Self-Guided Prayer Stations. Noon-2 p.m., Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St.

Good Friday Pilgrimage. 2 p.m., Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church.

The Divine Mercy Chaplet Recited. 4 p.m., John Paul II Catholic Church Prayer Garden.

Stations of the Cross. 4:40 p.m., John Paul II Catholic Church Prayer Garden.

Good Friday Liturgy. 5:30 p.m., John Paul II Catholic Church.

Good Friday Service. 5:30 p.m., Grace in Pagosa, 1044 Park Ave.

Saturday, March 30

Blessing of the Easter Baskets. Noon, John Paul II Catholic Church.
Easter Vigil. 8 p.m., John Paul II Catholic Church.

Sunday, March 31

Sunrise Service. 6:45 a.m., Grace in Pagosa, 1044 Park Ave.

Eucharist with Instrumental Music. 8 a.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd.

Easter Celebration Service. 8 a.m., Grace in Pagosa, 1044 Park Ave. A kids' Easter egg hunt will follow.

Easter Sunday Service. 8:15 a.m., Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St.

Mass. 9 a.m., John Paul II Catholic Church.

Easter Egg Hunt and Coffee Hour. 9:15 a.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd.

Easter Celebration Service. 9:30 a.m., Grace in Pagosa, 1044 Park Ave. A kids' Easter egg hunt will follow.

Festival Eucharist with Choral Music. 10 a.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd.

Easter Service. 10 a.m., Restoration Fellowship, 264 Village Drive.

Easter Sunday Service. 11 a.m., Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St.

Easter Celebration Service. 11 a.m., Grace in Pagosa, 1044 Park Ave. A kids' Easter egg hunt will follow.

Mass. 11:15 a.m., Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church.

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New Thought Center to meet Sunday

By Shayla McClure

New Thought Center for Inspirational Living

The Sunday service on March 17 at 11 a.m. will "The Real Meaning of the Wearing of the Green" with Julie Loar. A St. Patrick's Irish potluck after the service.

Upcoming events

SpiritHeart Band practice is Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. We welcome musicians and singers to join the SpiritHeart band. Please text/call Shelly at (937) 657-5972 for band information.

March 17, 11 a.m.: Sunday service with Loar. Irish potluck after.

Explore

continued from previous page

I have no idea how this meeting is going to turn out, but there is strength in numbers, so we can work together to tackle this difficult subject, help our entire family feel closer and better prepared and perhaps help us to value the time we have left. If you can see the benefits, I hope you will join us.

March 23, 6 p.m.: Quintangled game night with Loar. Love donation. Costumes optional.

March 28, 6 p.m.: Illuminations Free Lectures series on Thursday evenings. Various subjects and speakers on health and expansion of the body, mind and spirit will be offered to the public. Donations will be accepted.

April 28, 11 a.m.: Sunday service with Paul Kreischer.

May 12, 11 a.m.: Wolfwood Refuge tour and picnic in Ignacio.

May 18 retreat weekend: Mayhill, N.M., spiritual retreat with Janie and George Garms.

June 15: Blessing of the Animals Celebration.

About us

The New Thought Center is a 501(c)(3) and promotes philosophies similar to Centers for Spiritual Living and Agape Centers. We honor all lifestyles, cultures and religious paths to the divine. The vision of the New Thought Center is to empower possibility through revelation of spiritual truth, and to enhance our members' life experience through self-empowerment,

inner peace and being part of an all-inclusive community. Our mission is to create a world that works for everyone through awareness of a higher power. We are the Good Vibe Tribe that practices Science of Mind principles of positive thinking.

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

New Thought events are held at 3505 W. U.S. 160, on the second floor of the Pagosa Lodge (elevator available). Request prayer treatment or obtain information by joining us; emailing pagosacommunitynewthought@gmail.com; mailing P.O. Box 1052, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147; or calling (970) 510-0309.

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Our Savior Lutheran School to presents 'The Jungle Book'

By Alison Beach
Our Savior Lutheran School

The students of Our Savior Lutheran School's Drama Club are proud to present a play adaptation of Rudyard Kipling's "The Jungle Book" in the school's gymnasium on Friday, March 15, at 6 p.m. and Saturday, March 16, at 10:30 a.m.

When a human child named Mowgli is taken and raised by a family of wolves, he must learn the ways of the jungle. Fortunately, he has the wise panther Bagheera and friendly Baloo the bear by his side.

But soon Mowgli finds himself in trouble with Shere Kahn, the tiger, and the trickster monkey tribe. It's up to Mowgli's jungle friends to rescue him, and Mowgli must decide if he should return to the nearby man-village or live in the wild with the ones he loves.

This performance of "The Jungle Book" will run approximately 60 minutes with no intermission. The performance is free to the public.

We will have a donation basket and concessions available for purchase during the play. All donations will help fund Our Savior Lutheran School's arts programming.



Photo courtesy Our Savior Lutheran School

The students of Our Savior Lutheran School's Drama Club will present a play adaptation of Rudyard Kipling's "The Jungle Book" in the school's gymnasium on Friday, March 15, at 6 p.m. and Saturday, March 16, at 10:30 a.m.

Please come support our students and all the hard work they have put into the production of this play.

Spiritual Experiences Group to discuss healing, health and harmony

By Laurah Brock Young
Spiritual Experiences Group of Pagosa Springs

Many people are looking for some form of healing, whether it is physical, emotional, mental or spiritual.

Health, healing and harmony are a special combination that can be used to provide spiritual healing. By working with all three, one can see how Divine Spirit works to help us heal and what our role is in helping ourselves through the process. We can achieve spiritual growth and understanding.

Divine Spirit often heals through the field of medicine and guides you to the doctor who is right for your condition. Yet the ways of healing by Divine Spirit are truly endless.

Join the Spiritual Experiences Group of Pagosa Springs on Sunday,

March 17, at 1 p.m. for a lively discussion about "Healing, Health, and Harmony - A Combination that Offers Spiritual Growth." Learn some of the many ways that you can be aware and participate in your journey of healing, health and harmony.

We will meet at the Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Association Club-house, located at 230 Port Ave.

This free event is sponsored by Eckankar.

It is an individual, creative practice to experience our unique relationship with the Divine.

To join The Spiritual Experiences Group of Pagosa Springs, visit <https://www.meetup.com/pagosa-springs-spiritual-experiences-group/>.

To learn more about Eckankar, visit <https://www.eckankar.org> or <https://eckankar-colorado.org/>.

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The Pagosa Springs **SUN**

Shadow Stations of the Cross to be presented Friday

By Shanna Robb
Pagosa Catholic Community

The Pagosa Catholic Community welcomes all to attend the second annual Shadow Stations of the Cross on Friday, March 15.

Led by high school and middle school kids from both Catholic churches, the stations provide a unique way of experiencing Jesus' final day on earth.

The shadow stations are part of a 40-day Lenten devotional preparing for Christ's resurrection on Easter Sunday. Fourteen events, referred to as stations, will be portrayed by frozen silhouettes behind a backlit curtain. Presented in the dark, attendees will visually experience the trial, crucifixion and burial of Christ.

Shadow Stations of the Cross will be for one night only on Friday, March 15, at 7 p.m. Stations are at Pope John Paul II Catholic Church, located at 353 S. Pagosa Blvd. Arrive early to secure a seat.

More information about the stations, upcoming Good Friday pilgrimage and Easter Sunday schedule are available at ihmjp2.org.



Photo courtesy Pagosa Catholic Community

The Pagosa Catholic Community will present the second annual Shadow Stations of the Cross at 7 p.m. on March 15 at Pope John Paul II Catholic Church.

UUs to hear, discuss TED Talk at Sunday service

By Joan Y. Ward
Pagosa Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

Please join the Pagosa Unitarian Universalist Fellowship on Sunday, March 17, 10:30 a.m., in-person or on Zoom, to hear and discuss a TED Talk by Rainn Wilson, author of "Soul Boom: Why We Need A Spiritual Revolution."

From TED.com: "Do you feel overwhelmed by the complex issues facing our world, not to mention your own personal problems? Spirituality is the key to staying grounded and hopeful -- even for skeptics, says actor and author Rainn Wilson. He explains why it's time for all of us to experience a spiritual shake-up and outlines two paths to tap into your innate wisdom, kindness and strength. The work begins within yourself."

From soulboom.com: "The trauma that our struggling species has experienced in recent years—because of both the pandemic and societal tensions that threaten to overwhelm us—is not going away anytime soon.

Existing political and economic systems are not enough to bring the change that the world needs. In this book, Rainn Wilson explores the possibility and hope for a spiritual revolution, a 'Soul Boom,' to find a healing transformation on both a personal and global level."

Wilson is an actor ("The Office"), comedian and film producer, a climate advocate and a member of the advisory board of Arctic Basecamp.

Besides his many other comedic and dramatic roles on stage and screen, he is the co-founder of the media company SoulPancake and host of the Peacock docuseries "Rainn Wilson and the Geography of Bliss." He is the author of "Soul Boom: Why We Need a Spiritual Revolution," "The Bassoon King: My Life in Art, Faith, and Idiocy" and the co-author of "SoulPancake: Chew on Life's Big Questions," a New York Times bestseller.

The Zoom meeting can be accessed at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8991941305>; meeting ID: 899

194 1305; (346) 248-7799.

COVID Protocol: Masking continues to be optional and social distancing is encouraged.

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

Find us in Unit B-15 of the Greenbriar Plaza, 301 N. Pagosa Blvd., on the north side facing the mountains. Services are on the first and third Sundays of the month at 10:30 a.m.

For more information about the fellowship, our services and the other activities, please see the website www.pagosauu.org or email info@pagosauu.org.

Pagosa Catholic Community to hold Blessing of the Easter Baskets

By Shanna Robb
Pagosa Catholic Community

For centuries, the Eastern European ritual known as "Blessing of the Easter Baskets" has been cherished around the world by Catholics and Orthodox Christians.

Rich in symbolism, the beloved Holy Saturday tradition blesses the food that will be eaten on Easter

Sunday.

The custom arose from the strict Lenten fasting of the past. With all fasting ending with Christ's resurrection, the tradition of blessing food to be eaten on Easter day was created.

Baskets are adorned with colorful ribbons, flowers, greenery and special linens. Once filled, a white linen

■ See Blessing on next page

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Archuleta County Courts



Have you experienced problems with courts and/or judges? Have you been denied attorney fees as the prevailing party? I have.

In August, 2023 I had a hearing with Judge Justin Fay to defend against frivolous TPO's (temporary protection orders) obtained by neighbors who used false accusations to do so (as contained in cases 2023C75/76). Reluctantly ruling in my favor, Fay also questioned my honesty, made unnecessary personal comments about me, and denied motion for legal fees – actions which call into question his competence and suitability.

More about the judge, court, and my case: archuletacountycourts.com.

Martha and Mary: sisters like us

By Stan Counsell
PREVIEW Columnist

In Luke 10:38-42, two sisters are briefly mentioned, Martha and Mary. Just who were they? Their names pretty much ring a bell with most of us. Our first thought of them is usually connected with their brother (Lazarus) and his death, burial and resurrection by Jesus. Compared to many women of the Bible, these sisters are not well-mentioned, yet they seem to stick in our memory like glue.

These sisters were just like you and me, having their strengths and weaknesses, but their love and devotion to Jesus was unquestioned. They were continually transformed, bringing glory to their Savior through thick and thin. Wow, that should be you and me.

Let's join hands and walk with Jesus and his disciples on those hot, humid and dusty roads toward Bethany. The village was typical middle class with its residents living a normal day-to-day existence.

In that village stood the house of Martha. Mary lived there too, but no one is sure of their arrangement. Luke's gospel doesn't give us any further details — just that it was Martha's house. Early Jewish culture would support such an arrangement. In those days most women married as teens. Being single adults, for whatever reason, it would be considered normal for them to live under the same roof for mutual support and protection.

As we continue to walk with Jesus, our strength is waning, our clothes are quite drenched in perspiration from the intense heat and oppressive humidity, the dust clinging to our skin and clothing. And, of course, let's not forget those annoying sand pebbles that get in our open sandals. But, this was the normal life of the people in that region. We don't have any modern-day hiking shoes, air-conditioned transportation, yummy trail mix, a bottle of ice water, deodorant (yikes), shade umbrellas or sunglasses. Aren't we glad Martha opened her home to Jesus so that all of us could get out of that miserable pounding sun?

While most people had common,

A Matter of Faith

small and humble homes, Martha must have had a larger one for she had the ability to house her guests in sheltered shade, offer food, drink, much-needed rest and care for their feet. We would certainly enjoy that after such a walk, huh?

Jewish culture strongly required hospitality for all visitors, including travelers. To fail in doing so would tarnish the reputations of Martha and Mary, their identity as women of religion would be shamed; they would even be shunned by the entire village for months.

From childhood, the eldest daughter was devoutly trained in the hospitality of all guests and sojourners at their door. It was constant and quite demanding that a young daughter would be given this training and required responsibility. If some assistance was needed, the younger sister was required to pitch in with some of the demands. The disciplined training would develop quick thinking, precisioned action and a take-charge mindset, giving orders if needed. Such a daughter couldn't be in five places at the same time. Some theologians say the eldest daughter was the undisputed decision-making "boss" of the house. That was Martha's responsibility. Such fun, huh?

So, Martha immediately sprang into action with cooking, seating, cleaning, caring for worn and dirty feet, and entertaining. Of course Mary would be expected to chip in with such a demand, but she didn't. To her, this wasn't her top priority, caring for Jesus and all the others, but that didn't sit well with Martha. Jesus, his disciples, with us included, required all-out hospitality by yesterday.

Mary, however, saw the greatest need was that of listening to Jesus, to fully know the Son of God, listening to his every word. She must have sensed that Jesus didn't personify the chains of weighty religion. You

see, their religious culture harnessed women with certain limits in life. It was rare for any woman to be educated; most couldn't even read or write. Few were allowed to work outside the home, and they even had to sit in the back for worship at the synagogue.

So, with us observing close by, we

■ See Faith on next page

Easter Sunday Service

March 31st 8:15 am & 11:00 am

Maundy Thursday Service,

March 28th 6 pm

Good Friday Self-Guided Prayer Stations,

March 29th 12 pm – 2 pm

Community United Methodist Church

434 Lewis St. Downtown Pagosa Springs



FOODS FOR BRAIN HEALTH (Part 2)

The brain is an extremely complex and fragile organ. It requires a lot of energy from healthy foods and sufficient water. Only 2% of dehydration can impact your attention, memory and other cognitive skills. The brain needs energy and water to process 70,000 thoughts each day using 100 billion neurons that connect at more than 500 trillion points through synapses that travel 300 miles/hour. Last week we discussed the amazing benefits of Whole-Grain Cereals for the brain. Today we will discuss blueberries and leafy greens.



BLUEBERRIES

Berries are bursting with antioxidants and phytonutrients, which have been shown to boost cognition and memory. Blueberries are also high in polyphenols and flavonoids—the natural plant pigments that give berries their vibrant color. Research shows these flavonoids contain high amounts of antioxidants, which help reduce forgetfulness and mild confusion, a common part of aging. Buy organic whenever possible.

LEAFY GREENS

Green leafy vegetables, such as spinach and kale, not only help support the immune system and keep an aging brain sharp but also are a source of iron and a rich source of folate. Folate is a natural form of vitamin B9 that's important for healthy red blood cell formation. Research has found that increasing folate can have beneficial effects on your cognitive function.

Join us next week for our 2 other brain foods and more brain trivia.

“Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 2:5

Fun Bible Facts: “Jesus Christ” appears in the first and last verse of the New Testament.

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.

Blessing

■ continued from previous page
cloth that represents the shroud of Christ is laid over the basket contents.

Traditional baskets include symbolic foods such as:

- Bread (“Bread of Life”).
- Lamb, ham or meats (“Lamb of God” and God’s mercy).
- Salt (“Salt of the earth”).
- Decorated hardboiled eggs (Christ’s resurrection).
- Horseradish root (bitter sacrifice of Christ).
- Wine (Christ’s blood).

- Butter (well-being).
- White candle (“Light of the World”).

• Sweets (good things to come).
The Pagosa Catholic Community invites all who wish to participate in Blessing of the Easter Baskets to a short Holy Saturday ceremony at noon on March 30. Ceremony will be at Pope John Paul II Catholic Church located at 353 S. Pagosa Blvd.

For more information, including the Easter Sunday Mass schedule, visit ihmjp2.org.



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Take time to care for others

By Betty J. Slade
PREVIEW Columnist



My daughter came home with sermon notes from Sunday church. She read them to me. I stopped her at the first point. "Wow. This is what I've been saying. Christians are the moral conscience of this country."

I felt like I was being a fuddy-duddy and old-fashioned, but we are responsible to others for our actions. A trip to Arizona put things in perspective for me. I watched people interact with service people — the rudeness they showed to those who waited on them. Leaving their trash on the table after breakfast. I asked my kids, "How can they do that?"

My son-in-law said, "They don't care."

"They should care."

"But they don't."

In Arizona, we spent time with our grandson who turned 29. When the conversation came around as to who to pick for a wife, my son-in-law gave him excellent advice: "Watch how they treat service people. That tells a lot. Notice when she takes her grocery cart outside. See if she takes time to put it back in the cart rack. That's how she'll take care of your home."

"Wow. I would've ended up an old maid for sure. I'm just now learning about taking time to care."

I gave my advice to him also. "There is a football player who people think is a great humanitarian because he is very generous to certain charities. They think highly of him."

"In an interview with him and his wife, she sits with two babies in her lap. With each question, she answers with the F word. She is teaching their

children it's OK to curse. I think it makes the husband look bad, lesser than who he is."

"I know, I know, Grandma."

I continued. "It was different in my day. Sixty-four years ago, I was 18, your granddad was 22. We were in love. It was his manners and the way he treated me that won me over."

"He'd take off his hat and hold the door for me when we entered a building. He'd walk on the outside of the sidewalk to protect me from the traffic. I've never heard a curse word from his mouth. The right woman will love you for it."

Whether it's 1960 or 2024, there is still a moral conscience to live up to. The family talked about how different it is today. And maybe that's why I thought I was just getting old and fussy. The word "fuddy-duddy" means a person with no sense of humor and is disapproving and a bit pompous.

I don't feel like that person. Maybe I am and I don't see it. Life is funny to me, and I don't feel judgmental. It's a choice to live a right or wrong way with core values.

I made a point to talk to people in the elevator. I talked to a young man at the Costco Ear Center.

He seemed to be in a deep rut. In the conversation, he came alive and

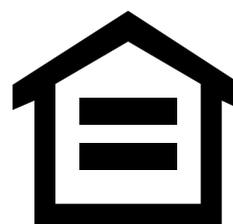
when I said goodbye, we were on a first-name basis. I took time to care about him.

During our trip, we had several strong conversations. It was a teaching time for a young man who has his whole life in front of him and an old lady who can hardly walk. The world has changed, but our moral code shouldn't change. What the world needs today is people who care.

Have I noticed any of this stuff before? No. I was too much in a hurry.

■ See Lane on next page

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

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

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

ANSWER:

Faith

■ continued from previous page
see Mary do the unthinkable, refuse any longer the bondage of limits being forced upon her and Jewish women. She sheepishly, and with fear, started to move toward Jesus with every eye focused on her.

This must have been directed by the Holy Spirit, and Mary rightfully responded. How many times does the Holy Spirit tug at our hearts and we don't respond in kind because it might seem a challenge that we are uneasy with? I'm guilty as charged, too.

Mary made it to the very front with the disciples seated about her. Listening could alleviate her of many doubts, past hurts and give her a feeling of full acceptance from God. She disturbed all by taking her seat at the very front. Jaws of self-righteous indignation must have dropped to the floor, all expecting Jesus to send her back to her "place." But, he welcomed her and brought forth that which all needed to hear and understand; their every question would be answered. Imagine one question being, "Why is she up here and not behind us?"

What is interesting is that the Greek word "sat" meant "to sit beside one." She not only went to the very front, she positioned herself at his side. That must have stunned all in the house.

Mary wasn't trying to make a statement; she just wanted to fully listen her coming Savior. Don't we all want that in our heart of hearts? It's quite interesting, that word "listen" when broken down was eye-opening, "to acutely hear, to fully understand what is said, to stretch one's ear forward." So, she sat beside Jesus and cupped her ear forward to hear every word spoken by Jesus. What an example for us to follow.

Well, printing space has nearly run out, so I will continue at a later time with another segment on these two sisters. Until then, may we all hear our Lord with stretched forth ears and glean all that he has for us. God bless all of you.

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.

Preview Calendar

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

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 or recorded. Featuring international bestselling author Christopher Paolini. For details and to register, go to <https://libraryc.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.

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 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.

Our Savior Lutheran School Presents 'The Jungle Book.' 6 p.m., Our Savior Lutheran School. The students of Our Savior Lutheran School's Drama Club are proud to present a play adaptation of Rudyard Kipling's "The Jungle Book" at the school's gymnasium.

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.

Our Savior Lutheran School Presents 'The Jungle Book.' 10:30 a.m., Our Savior Lutheran School. The students of Our Savior Lutheran School's Drama Club are proud to present a play adaptation of Rudyard Kipling's "The Jungle Book" at the school's gymnasium.

St. Patrick's Day Festival. 11-1 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

■ See Calendar on next page



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Lane

■ continued from previous page

Today, I can't hurry even if I want to. The Lord has a way of slowing me down. It's a good thing. I don't think my family thinks it's a good thing when they have to wait for me to catch up, but I'm better today than I've ever been before.

Final brushstroke: If we should

live so long, we finally come around to what is important in life.

In this crazy world we live in, we still have an obligation to others. We can learn how to take time to care.

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

Views expressed do not necessarily represent those of The SUN.



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Bird of the Week



Photo courtesy Charles Martinez

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

The swan has returned to Pinon Lake, arriving back in late February before the ice had melted but confident that it soon would. Weighing over 25 pounds, trumpeter swans are the heaviest flying birds in the world and can live from 20 to 30 years in the wild.

We are accustomed to seeing this beautiful bird swimming on one of our local lakes during most of the year, but visitors often do a double-take on spotting this out-of-place, lone bird here. Most trumpeters breed in wetlands in remote areas of Alaska, Canada and the northwestern United States and winter on ice-free coastal and inland waters. Our area is out of their normal range.

In the late 1990s, the then-owners of the Pagosa Lodge purchased a pair of trumpeter swans in the belief that they would control the growing population of Canada geese. The original pair were pinioned and unable to fly and for years bred and raised cygnets on Pinon Lake. Nine years ago two were hit by a car while crossing U.S. 160, leaving behind the one we see today. Sheldon or Shellie, no-one knows for sure the sex of our swan.

Trumpeter swans are mainly vegetarian, eating a wide range of aquatic plants by skimming vegetation from the surface, dipping their long necks under water, or tipping upside down like a dabbler. In shallow water, they pump their large, webbed feet to free roots from the mud. In winter they can switch to a more terrestrial diet, eating plants, berries and grain crops.

The feathers of trumpeters are white, but their heads can have rusty stains. They are difficult to distinguish from the smaller tundra swan and differences in bills, head shapes and calls must all be considered to tell the two apart. The trumpeter's call has been compared to the sound of a French horn.

Trumpeter swans are birds of habit, returning to the same nesting and wintering areas year after year. Although it is likely that "our" swan stops over in the Navajo Lake area before returning to its home on Pinon Lake, the question of where it spends the winter remains unanswered.

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

Preview Calendar

continued from previous page

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.

Family Movie Night. 3 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School auditorium. Boy Scout Troop 807 is hosting a movie night to help raise funds for summer camp. Movie: "Surf's Up." The entry fee is \$5.

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.

Sunday, March 17

Spiritual Experiences Group. 1 p.m., PLPOA Clubhouse, 230 Port Ave. Discussion about "Healing, Health, and Harmony - A Combination that Offers Spiritual Growth." Learn some of the many ways that you can be aware and participate in your journey of healing, health, and harmony.

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.

Learn to Knit or Crochet. 2-3:15 p.m., Sisson Library. Come learn to knit or crochet. For ages 8 and up.

■ See Calendar on next page

Trinity Anglican Church



Come join us this
Passion Sunday
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Photo courtesy Gene Tautges

As in years past, the Pagosa Catholic Community will lead Good Friday Pilgrimage and the entire community is invited to participate. The pilgrimage will begin at 2 p.m. at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church,

Good Friday Pilgrimage to occur on March 29

By Shanna Robb
Pagosa Catholic Community

On Good Friday, March 29, Christians around the world will participate in pilgrimages that prayerfully reflect on the cross that was willingly carried by Jesus Christ. As in years past, the Pagosa Catholic Community is leading a Good Friday Pilgrimage, and the entire community is invited to participate.

The Put Hill Pilgrimage, led by Father Samuel Auta bearing a large cross, will begin at 2 p.m. at Immaculate Heart of Mary, located at 451 Lewis St. It will proceed up U.S. 160

with police escort and end at Pope John Paul II Catholic Church at 353 S. Pagosa Blvd.

Water stations will be located along the route.

Those who want to participate are encouraged to carry crosses. Whether walking a portion or the entire route, wearing comfortable shoes and weather-appropriate attire is recommended.

At the conclusion of the estimated two-hour pilgrimage, the community is invited to attend a 4:30 p.m. Stations of the Cross in the prayer garden behind Pope John Paul II Catholic Church. A Good Friday liturgy will

take place inside the church starting at 5:30 p.m.

The Good Friday events are an opportunity for the entire Pagosa Springs community to unite in Christ.

For more information, including Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday schedules, visit ihmjp2.org.

Preview Calendar

■ continued from previous page
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.

Pagosa Unplugged. 4-6 p.m., Sisson Library. Musicians of all abilities are invited to jam and sing with others. Call Susan at (970) 946-3396 for details.

Deepening the Faith Classes. 6-8 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.

■ See Calendar on next page

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Preview Calendar

■ continued from previous page

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.

Adult DIY. 1-2:30 p.m., Sisson Library. Tom, a member of our search and rescue team from Pagosa, will teach us how to read a map and compass the old-fashioned way. It would be easy to lose or damage your phone in the backcountry, so come and learn this valuable skill.

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.

Seasonal Craft. 1:15 p.m., Senior Center. Create Easter lilies from construction paper. Supplies will be provided.

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

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

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

Wednesday, March 20

Pickleball. 8-11:30 a.m., Community Center. Loaner paddles are available.

Pickleball Beginner Lessons. 8:30-10:30 a.m., Community Center. Loaner paddles are available. Reservations are required and can be made at pagosapickleball.org under the "Play" tab.

Pagosa Catholic Quilters. 9 a.m.-2 p.m., John Paul II Catholic Church classrooms. For more information, contact Maxine Everaert at quilters@ihmjp2.org.

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.

Discussion Group About Death. 1-2:30 p.m., Sisson Library. The first meeting of people who want to investigate and explore issues related to the practical, physical side of death.

Mindful Drawing. 1:15 p.m., Senior Center.

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

Pagosa Springs High School Booster Club. 5:30 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School.

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.

Spanish Fiesta Committee Meeting. 5:30 p.m., Community Center, Senior Center dining hall, 451 Hot Springs Blvd. All are welcome.

ABLAZE High School Youth Group. 6-8 p.m., John Paul II Catholic Church. Dinner provided.

Pagosa Springs High School Presents 'Mean Girls the Musical'. 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School auditorium, 800 South 8th St. Tickets are \$15 in advance for all students and adults, and \$20 at the door. Tickets can be purchased in advance at <https://our.show/meangirlspshs>. This show is rated PG-13.

Thursday, March 21

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.

Virtual Author Talk: Madeline Miller. 5 p.m., virtual. Listen live or recorded. Featuring Madeline Miller. For details and to register, go to <https://libraryc.org/pagosalibrary/>

■ See Calendar on next page

The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

- 1 "___ we forget"
- 5 Salon service, briefly
- 9 Water park feature
- 14 Initial chip
- 15 Fever with chills
- 16 Former Russian leader
- 17 Tech support caller
- 18 Not too bright
- 20 Palace figures
- 22 Intrepid
- 23 Macho dude
- 24 Luxury watchmaker
- 25 Of the Vatican
- 27 Storage medium
- 30 West African country
- 33 De Niro's "Goodfellas" co-star
- 36 Gardner of film
- 37 Payback seeker
- 39 Piece keeper?
- 41 Faddish disk of the '90s
- 42 Forest worker
- 44 Composes
- 45 Credit card motion
- 47 Washing machine cycle
- 49 Defame
- 52 Macaroni shape
- 56 Religious offering
- 58 Sandwich meat
- 59 Whip
- 61 Kind of tea
- 62 Baby-to-be
- 63 Landfill emanation
- 64 NASA scrub
- 65 Word with tooth or heart
- 66 Part of A.P.R.
- 67 Chew like a squirrel

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
14					15					16				
17					18					19				
20				21			22							
23					24									
			25		26					27			28	29
30	31	32			33			34	35			36		
37				38				39			40			
41				42			43			44				
45			46			47			48					
		49			50	51			52		53	54	55	
56	57								58					
59								60			61			
62						63					64			
65						66					67			

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DOWN

- 1 Bust a gut
- 2 Occur as a result
- 3 Pressing need?
- 4 Small turtle
- 5 Mountain route
- 6 Something that's bruisable
- 7 Mark who plays the Hulk
- 8 Taxi feature
- 9 Like some errors
- 10 Good as new
- 11 Review unfairly
- 12 No-win situations?
- 13 Stopping points
- 19 Stetson, e.g.
- 21 Paternity identifier
- 24 Terrier type
- 26 Court statement
- 28 Place to broil
- 29 Big name in candy
- 30 Navigator's aids

- 31 State confidently
- 32 Lay down the law?
- 34 "A League of ___ Own"
- 35 Conflicted
- 38 Part of G.O.A.T.
- 40 Grade school subject
- 43 1980s invasion site
- 46 Deadly epidemic
- 48 Deep blue

- 50 Zippo
- 51 Great sadness
- 53 Breakfast strip
- 54 Last Greek letter
- 55 Lehar operetta "The Merry ___"
- 56 Rubs out
- 57 "Black ___" (2021 Marvel movie)
- 58 Very dry
- 60 Day care candidate

Answers to Previous Crossword:

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

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Preview Calendar

■ continued from previous page

upcoming.

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.

Pagosa Springs High School Presents 'Mean Girls the Musical'. 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School auditorium, 800 South 8th St. Tickets are \$15 in advance for all students and adults, and \$20 at the door. Tickets can be purchased in advance at <https://our.show/meangirlspshs>. This show is rated PG-13.

Friday, March 22

Pickleball. 8-11:30 a.m., Community Center. Loaner paddles are available.

Ready, Set, Learn. 10-11 a.m., Sisson Library. A centered approach designed to build preschool skills.

Paws to Read. 2-3 p.m., Sisson Library. For all ages. Read with Muppet or Maple, therapy dogs who love stories. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information.

Great Stories Club. 2-4:30 p.m., Sisson Library. Celebrate Indigenous voices and artists in our community. Participants will hear from local Indigenous artists who will share about their work and inspiration, and get a chance to do some art of their own. Everyone will also come away with a free book. Pizza 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.

Pagosa Springs High School Presents 'Mean Girls the Musical'. 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School auditorium, 800 South 8th St. Tickets are \$15 in advance for all students and adults, and \$20 at the door. Tickets can be purchased in advance at <https://our.show/meangirlspshs>. This show is rated PG-13.

Saturday, March 23

Pagosa Piecemakers Quilt Guild. 9:30 a.m., Centerpoint Church, 2750 Cornerstone Drive. Enjoy social hour from 9:30 to 10:30, then stay for a crumb quilting class and a demonstration of the log cabin block and its many variations. Please use the rear entrance.

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.

Pagosa Springs High School Presents 'Mean Girls the Musical'. 2 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School auditorium, 800 South 8th St. Tickets are \$15 in advance for all students and adults, and \$20 at the door. Tickets can be purchased in advance at <https://our.show/meangirlspshs>. This show is rated PG-13.

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.

Pagosa Springs High School Presents 'Mean Girls the Musical'. 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School auditorium, 800 South 8th St. Tickets are \$15 in advance for all students and adults, and \$20 at the door. Tickets can be purchased in advance at <https://our.show/meangirlspshs>. This show is rated PG-13.

Monday, March 25

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. Andy Zach will speak.

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.

Deepening the Faith Classes. 6-8 p.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church classrooms.

Tuesday, March 26

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.

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 27

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.

Mindful Drawing. 1:15 p.m., Senior Center.

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

Submit your calendar items to editor@pagosasonline.com; mail them to The Pagosa Springs SUN, P.O. Box 9, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147; or deliver them to The SUN office by noon Monday.

Community news.

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

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

WORDS

- ALYSSUM
- ASTER
- AZALEA
- BEGONIA
- CARNATION
- DAFFODIL
- DAHLIA
- DAISY
- DANDELION
- FLOWER
- IRIS
- LEAVES
- LILY
- MARIGOLD
- ORCHID
- PEONY
- PETALS
- POLLINATE
- ROSE
- SNAPDRAGON
- STEM
- TULIP
- ZINNIA

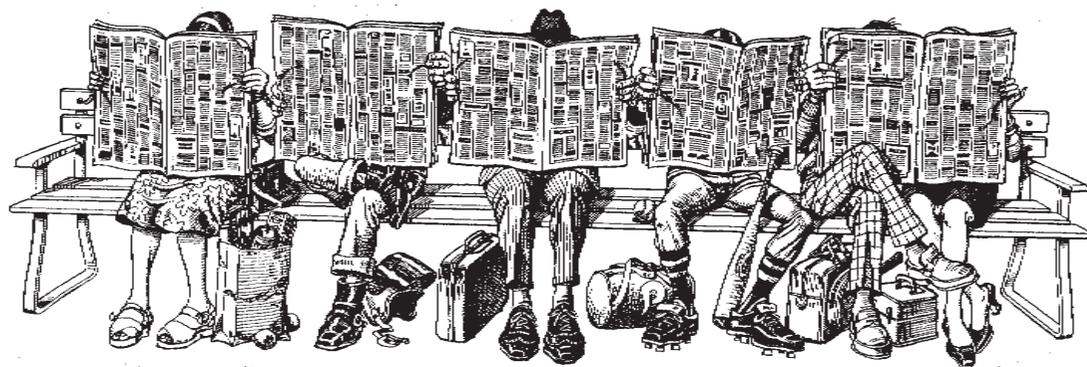
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Cardboard construct-a-thon contest underway

By Carole Howard

PREVIEW Columnist, and the library staff

Creative people of all ages are invited to show off your building skills by competing in our free cardboard construct-a-thon that offers prizes for each of five age categories: ages 0-5, ages 6-8, ages 8-11, ages 12-17 and ages 18 and up.

Entries need to be brought to the library by 5 p.m. on March 29. You must be able to carry your entry in and out of the building without help of library staff. Winners will be contacted on March 30.

Entries may not exceed 36 inches by 36 inches by 36 inches and must be built ahead of time. Your creation must be made entirely of cardboard — but tape, glue, paperclips or brads may be used to hold pieces together. While you are welcome to decorate your creation, please note that we will be judging based on construction and not final decorations.

Entries must be your own creation, not a kit or other pre-built structure.

Cardboard is available at the library, or you are welcome to use your own. One entry per person.

Free tax forms

We have 1040 federal tax forms and instructions, as well as 0104 Colorado tax forms and instructions, available free while supplies last.

If you need other forms, we will pull them up online and print them out for you for free — but there is likely to be a charge for the instructions when they are long, multipage documents.

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/upcoming>.

Today, 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."

Library News

Knowledge Bowl

Our free Knowledge Bowl for tweens and teens takes place today, Thursday, March 14, from 4 to 5 p.m. Test your trivia skills on a wide range of subjects.

AARP aging program

Seniors aged 60 and over are invited to a free live online Senior Planet AARP program tomorrow, March 15, at your library from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Judy will connect the group via the video conferencing platform Zoom so that you can join other seniors across the country in discussing aging issues such as loneliness, isolation, making new friends and learning in new hobbies.

In addition to the aging discussions at the library, Judy will show you how to use Zoom from your home to participate in topics like finance, wellness, fitness, computers and technology on other times and dates if you are interested.

Board games tomorrow

Come play a favorite game or bring one of your own to share at this free all-ages event Friday, March 15, from 2 to 4 p.m.

LEGO Club

Kids aged 6-11 are invited to the free LEGO Club on Saturday, March 16, from 11 a.m. to noon. Bring your own LEGOs or use ours.

Pokemon Club

If you're aged 6-11 and love Pokemon, this free club is for you. Bring your cards on Saturday, March 16, from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Knitting and crochet lessons

Learn to knit or crochet on Monday, March 18, at our free gathering from 2 to 3:15 p.m. for ages 8 and up. Supplies are provided.

Music fun Monday

Pagosa Unplugged is free from 4 to 6 p.m. Monday, March 18, for amateur musicians of all ages to jam and sing with others. For details, contact Susan at (970) 946-3396.

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 Monday, March 18, from 4 to 5 p.m. Preregistration is required.

Adult DIY

At the free adult DIY next Tuesday, March 19, from 1 to 2:30 p.m., Tom, a member of our search and rescue team, will teach us how to read a map and compass the old-fashioned way

— valuable skills if you lose or damage your phone in the backcountry or have no cell service.

Spanish conversation

Practice your Spanish in a free group setting on Tuesday, March 19, from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. No minimum skill level is needed. This group meets twice a month, on the first and third Tuesdays.

Dungeons and Dragons

Thursday, March 21, from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m., join our Dungeons and Dragons game free for teens and young adults. Preregistration is required because space is limited. Contact Josie@pagosalibrary.org to join.

Elementary tutoring 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.

■ See Library on next page

At the Humane Society of Pagosa Springs, WE ♥ ANIMALS!

REMEMBERING YOUR BELOVED PET

Losing a pet can be one of the most difficult experiences of your life. When faced with the loss of your beloved animal, the Humane Society of Pagosa Springs is here to help honor and remember your faithful companion by providing cremation services and pet memorials.

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Library

■ continued from previous page 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 Thursdays, with 4 to 5 p.m. reserved for beginners, 5 to 6 p.m. for intermediate and 6 to 7 p.m. for advanced students. Please help us share the word about these classes.

Tech Time

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

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

Pagosa Adult Learning Services (PALS)

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

Activities calendars

Pick up monthly events calendars at the library so you don't miss any of the free activities available to you and your family.

Downloadable books

CloudLibrary has a wide variety of downloadable e-books and audiobooks for all ages. To access this free digital collection, download the cloudLibrary app, answer a few simple questions, select AspenCat Union Catalog for the name of your library, then enter your library card number and four-digit PIN. Library staff are happy to help you set up your device if you need assistance.

Two local authors

"Blossoms on a Poisoned Sea" by local author Mariko Tatsumoto is an account of corporate greed told through the lives of a young couple in love who survived but still bear the psychic scars of betrayal. Together they fight both the Japanese government and a powerful, ruthless chemical conglomerate that are ignoring the suffering of dying fishermen's families suffering from an agonizing neurological disease.

After emigrating from Japan at the age of 8, Mariko Tatsumoto detoured from her love of books and became the first Asian woman attorney in Colorado. Later she wrote "Ayumi's Violin" and "Swept Away," which won a total of seven awards. Both "Blossoms on a Poisoned Sea" and "Ayumi's Violin" are available for

your reading pleasure at your Ruby Sisson Library.

Also new to our collection, local author M Avery has written "Sojourn in the Land of the Sun," historical fiction based on real people living in the 20th and 21st centuries. It features Joseph, a Norteno elder whose Spanish ancestors settled the upper regions of New Spain, and an Anglo upstart to whom he imparts a lifetime of experience after the man asks politically incorrect questions to further his own career.

For authentication of this story, the author suggests a visit to Spruce Tree House in Mesa Verde to view the pictograph, which confirms Joseph's stories about his Native American initiation. He also was involved in the book's production.

The author dedicates her book to her community in Espanola Valley and its outlying villages on the high road to Taos, newcomers in Los Alamos, special sisters in Taos, and all her Native American counterparts fighting for sovereignty against the odds.

Mysteries, thrillers and suspense

"The Locked Room" by Elly Griffiths features three women who go missing from an isolated cottage during the pandemic. "The Libyan Diversion" by Joel C. Rosenberg is a Marcus Ryker CIA suspense story. "Lost and Found" by Rita Mae Brown begins when a body is found on Virginia foxhunting grounds. "The Hunter" by Tana French is a crime story of revenge set in rural Ireland. "The Ink Black Heart" by Robert Galbraith features a PI and her partner investigating a murder of a man who was persecuted by an online figure.

Nonfiction

"Otter Country" by nature writer Mariam Darlington explores the lives of these playful animals. "Worthy" by Jamie Kern Lima helps those with self-doubt change their lives. "A Midsummer Night's Dream" and "Twelfth Night" by William Shakespeare are side-by-side plain English versions of these classic plays. "The Backyard Beekeeper" by Kim Flot-

tum is the fifth edition of this guide to beekeeping for all skill levels. "Our Ancient Faith" by Allen C. Guelzo is a study of Abraham Lincoln's powerful vision of democracy, which he believed to be the greatest political achievement in human history.

"JoyFull" by Radhi Devlukia-Shetty contains more than 125 plane-based recipes. "Normal Women" by historical novelist Philippa Gregory covers nine centuries of women's lives in England from the Norman Conquest to modern times. "Out of Shape Worthless Loser" by Gracie Gold is a memoir of an Olympic figure skater who became famous at the Sochi Olympics while dealing with anxiety, an eating disorder and sexual assault. "The Trump Indictments" is an annotated version of the legal papers by NYU law professors Melissa Murray and Andrew Weissmann.

Books on CD

"The Bullet Swallowed" by Elizabeth Gonzalez James is an intergenerational saga of a Mexican family. "Lone Wolf" by Gregg Hurwitz follows a case by a former black ops government assassin. "The Guest" by B.A. Paris begins when a close friend moves uninvited into a couple's home. "End of Story" by A.J. Finn is a thriller about a reclusive mystery writer who asks a friend to help draft his life story. "The Ghost Orchid" by Jonathan Kellerman is a Milo Sturgis and Alex Delaware mystery.

DVDs

"Wonka" shows viewers how a young dreamer named Willy became Wonka. "Migration" is a new animated family comedy that contains three mini-movies. "Planet Earth III" is a BBC documentary.

Quotable quote

"The older I get the more clearly I remember things that never hap-

pened." — Mark Twain (1835-1910). American writer, humorist, essayist and lecturer.

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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Photo courtesy Friends of the Library

A fan of mystery writers, Barbara Palmer selected "The Exchange" by John Grisham as her free book from the Friends of the Library. Each month, the Friends draw a name from its membership to receive a free book of their choosing.

As a contributing member of the Pagosa community, Barbara volunteered for the Chamber of Commerce for 25 years. Now fully retired, she enjoys time for reading and taking leisurely walks with her dog.



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Produce box program for seniors announced

By Rose Chavez
PREVIEW Columnist

Senior News

This growing season, Archuleta Seniors Inc. (ASI) and Terrawalk Farms are partnering with Nourish Colorado to bring low-income older adults (age 55 and older) in Archuleta County locally grown, seasonal, organic produce shares through Community Supported Agriculture (CSA).

CSAs, or farm memberships, are a means of creating a mutually beneficial connection between consumers and their farmers. These partnerships result in a bi-monthly bounty of vegetables for the subscriber.

If you are interested in participating in this free fresh produce program, you must meet one of the minimum requirements to be selected as a subscriber.

The criteria for being selected is either: 1. Being a new or current client of ASI through our congregate, Meals on Wheels, or pick-up/Grab-N-Go meal program or 2. Being a resident of the low-income senior housing community (Socorro, Archuleta Housing for the Elderly, Casa De Los Arcos or Lake View Estates).

Participating subscribers will receive a fresh local organic produce box alternating weeks throughout the growing season, which spans from June 2 to Sept. 29. Subscribers will pick up their bi-monthly fresh produce boxes either on site at the Ross Aragon Community Center on Tuesdays or at a to-be-determined location in Pagosa Springs on the weekends. Details are still being finalized and subscribers will be notified.

What's available each season? Below is a sample list of possible vegetables you might expect in your share on a bi-monthly basis.

Note: This is not exactly what you will receive. By joining a CSA you are recognizing that there are many factors week to week, season to season, that may challenge the well devised production plan. Mother Nature does not always consider the crop plan.

Produce Share 1: Spinach, radishes, garlic scapes, kale, parsley and

arugula.
Produce Share 2: Lettuce, turnips, baby beets, mustard greens and greens mix 1.

Produce Share 3: Spinach, radish, summer squash, greens mix 2, basil, kale and beets.

Produce Share 4: Swiss chard, mizuna, carrots, turnips, arugula, summer squash and cucumber.

Produce Shares 5-17: Greens of the week (kale, arugula, greens mix, Swiss chard, lettuce or Asian greens) and the following options that are subject to availability: tomatoes, car-

rots, turnips, cucumber, onion, beets, eggplant, summer squash, garlic and peppers (sweet and hot).

Produce Share 18: Lettuce, carrots, tomatoes, cucumber, broccoli, leeks and cilantro.

In addition to your weekly food, you will receive the following perks:

- A quarterly newsletter that includes simple, relevant recipes, musings and photos of the farm you support.

- The opportunity to directly support young farmers.

- Optional opportunities to learn and work on the farm. There will be two community days throughout the season. One will be in July and another in September.

- Attend monthly recipe tastings during ASI's upcoming "Fresh Conversations" nutrition education and

■ See Senior on next page



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

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Senior

■ continued from previous page

healthy aging circles starting April through September.

Please call (970) 264-2167 or stop by the ASI office at 451 Hot Springs Blvd. to sign up to be considered for this Older Adult Fresh Local Produce Box program.

The first 30 interested clients who meet the minimum requirements will become subscribers and will be eligible to receive their fresh produce boxes throughout the growing season of 2024.

For more information, contact ASI at (970) 264-2167.

Free seasonal art class

Next free art class at the Pagosa Senior Center will be Tuesday, March 19, at 1:15 p.m. We will be making Easter lilies.

No reservations are required, but space is limited, so be sure to be there by 1:15. The class will last approximately an hour and a half. No art skill is required for this class — just a desire to have fun and learn how to make an Easter lily from construction paper.

All materials will be provided, including the scissors, paper and glue. Templates will be provided to trace and cut out the various parts that go into making this lovely lily.

All ages are invited, so find a friend and bring them along. Our teacher will again be Denise Fisk, who is a retired elementary art teacher. For more information, 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, 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 individuals, brain health, heart and cardiovascular health, mental and emotional well-being, community connections, and stress management, to name a few.

Classes will be educational for participants to utilize practices in daily life and are meant for all levels of experience with yoga.

The class is hosted by local yoga therapist AJ Connors, with a hybrid focus for the winter months, blending in-person, online and, occasionally, recorded classes. Zoom sessions will be streamed at the Senior Center to

provide the community experience to practice together or can be accessed at home if weather is a factor.

Mats and chairs will be provided at the Senior Center; some blocks and Therabands are available, too. The addition of yoga props is always welcomed.

We are requesting that individuals who are new to joining the series arrive early for intake inquiries and to please communicate with AJ directly by emailing ajconnorslove@gmail.com.

Bingo

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

Bingo will be on 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.

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 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.

Monday, March 18 — Corned beef, cabbage colcannon, carrots, minted peas, garden salad, fruit, chocolate Baileys cupcake and milk.

Tuesday, March 19 — Tomato basil soup and grilled cheese sandwich; chef salad with avocado, turkey, cheese; garden salad; fruit and milk.

Wednesday, March 20 — Beef spaghetti with garlic bread, broccoli, garden salad, fruit, vanilla yogurt and milk.

Thursday, March 21 — Sliced ham with cherry sauce, scalloped potatoes, garden salad, fruit, vanilla cake and milk.

Friday, March 22 — Stuffed portobello mushroom caps, roasted cauliflower, garden salad, fruit, Bavarian cream puffs 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.

Medicare call by appointment

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

Mindful drawing

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

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

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. year? The donation from the account would be payable to Archuleta Seniors Inc. and sent to P.O. Box 344, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147. This gift option is called the IRA charitable rollover or qualified charitable distribution.

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THERE IS A SOLUTION GROUP of Alcoholics Anonymous meets Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, 5:30-6:30p.m. Pagosa Bible Church, 209 Harman Park Drive. Questions? Richard: (970)903-1456. Diamond: (970)264-1073. More resources: www.aa.org, www.aa-westerncolorado.com, (970)245-9649, (888)333-9649 (24 hours).

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CUSTOM HOMES



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Detail Oriented, Trustworthy & Reliable Cleaners
 For All Your Housekeeping & Window Cleaning Needs
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You call, we haul! Since 1999

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Over 25 years of expertise in stone and tile installation.

Leaky shower? We can fix that too!
 Visit **tilestonetworks.com**
 or call 720-422-6652

SERVICES

DRYER VENT CLEANING. Prompt courteous services including chimney sweep and repairs, roof screw tightening and replacement, roof leaks. 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.

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.

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.

PagosaSUN.com

264-2100

Classifieds

264-2100

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

Classified Deadline: Tuesday 10 a.m.

SERVICES

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

ALLEY HOUSE GRILLE. Seeks Support Staff Bussers and Food Runners. Nights and Weekends. 5p.m. -9p.m. Send an email to Contact@AlleyHouseGrille.com stop by and see Chris after 4p.m.

ALPINE PORTABLE TOILETS is hiring a FT service technician to service portable restrooms. Must have drivers license. Call David (970)946-3692.

DEDICATED CLEANERS ranging from \$15-\$20 /hour. Must be detail oriented, trustworthy, reliable and committed. Text Pagosa Sparkles, LLC, (970)946-6446.

DENTAL ASSISTANT wanted. We will train you. We work hard and make a great living serving our patients. We are blessed to have weekends and holidays off. Beautiful facility, modern equipment, excellent pay, Get the satisfaction of helping people! Email resume to office@pagosasmiles.com or drop it off.

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.

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

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/.

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.

HELP WANTED

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/>



Equal Housing Lender. Member FDIC.



Now Hiring!

Parts & Maintenance Coordinator: This position will be helping customers with parts and maintenance orders. It requires the ability to identify and diagnose parts of a Growing Dome and the replacements needed. This position will also create estimates, schedule, and coordinate maintenance jobs. Computer experience with CRM, Shopify and QuickBooks programs preferred. This is a full-time, onsite position. (\$20-23 DOE)

Digital Marketing : This position is responsible for coordinating Growing Spaces' digital platforms including the website, monthly newsletter, SEO, Shopify, paid ads, and customer email campaigns. Programs must align with Growing Spaces' marketing strategies, budget and our company's brand. This full-time position is hybrid, working in the Pagosa Springs office as well as remotely. Applicant must also be willing to travel for marketing related events. (\$20-25 DOE)

Full-time positions include paid health benefits, 401(k) match and paid time off.

Go to www.growingspaces.com/employment to print an application, or send resume to employment@growingspaces.com, or mail to PO Box 5518, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147

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.

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.

264-2100

Classifieds

264-2100

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Classified Deadline: Tuesday 10 a.m.

HELP WANTED



Now Hiring
for Spring Break
& Summer!
Full time and
Part-time available
Bring your fun
attitude & apply
in person in the
River Center

Summit
SKI & SPORTS
IN THE RIVER CENTER
970-264-2456

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!

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.

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.

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 and bonuses in a beautiful facility. Colorado dental hygiene license required. Email resume to office@pagosasmiles.com or drop it off.

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.

HELP WANTED

JONES MECHANICAL. EXPERIENCE PREFERRED but will train right person. Excellent opportunity to learn the HVAC trade. (970)731-3046.

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.

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.

PAGOSA LIQUOR IS HIRING a full-time cashier. Please come and apply in person at 30 N. Pagosa Blvd.

PAGOSA ROOTER is hiring a full-time main line camera technician. Job consists of driving a remote control camera inspecting sewer lines. For more info call David (970)946-3692.

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.

HELP WANTED

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

WANTED Drivers

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



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 pásate por aquí para rellenar una aplicación.

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.

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.

HELP WANTED

Terry's Colorado Home Supply and Ace Hardware

Hiring for:

Full time Cashier
Full time Seasonal Garden Associate

Weekend days required.

Starting at \$17/hr.

Must be reliable, motivated and team oriented.

Benefits include discounts, paid time off, profit sharing and more.

Apply in person.

Applications available at terrystate.com



Terry's ACE
525 Navajo Trail Dr.

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 at ppine000@centurytel.net

POSTAL SUB NEEDED. Call Sandra (970)403-4614.

SIGN-ON BONUS! 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.

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.

FOR SALE

2021 10' TWIN TROLLER FISHING BOAT. Like new, only used four times. Perfect for small lakes. Call for photos and more details, (954)309-2837. The boat is in Pagosa.

DOUBLE BED FUTON (COUCH) \$50. Twin bed futon (chair) \$25. Stereo cabinet \$25. Professional grade stone and tile saw \$150. Three bar stools \$15 each. (303)594-5117.

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 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.

FOR SALE

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

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

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

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.

LIVESTOCK

TRIMMING AND SHOEING. Accepting new clients. Uncooperative and special needs horses welcome. (719)285-3584.

PETS

ADOPT FROM THE Humane Society. Stop by or call (970)731-4771. You'll be amazed at what we have to offer. www.humanesociety.biz.

AKC GOLDEN RETRIEVER PUPPIES. 1 Female, 2 Male. Ready for new homes 3/28/24. Call (719)641-7617.

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.

RECREATIONAL VEHICLES

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.

PagosaSUN.com

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Classifieds

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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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970.731.5515

Info@rmrealtyandrentals.com

117 Navajo Trail Dr. Ste E, Pagosa Springs

Largest Local Property Management Co.



150+ SW Colorado
Property Owners Served
19+ Years. Mortgage &
Real Estate Exp
FULL LT TENANT SCREENING
NATIONWIDE ADVERTISING
ON CALL 24 HR 7 DAYS



WANTED

RETIRED COUPLE looking for a housekeeper. Not looking for a cleaning service. Two cats. (970)946-3038.

CARS FOR SALE

1999 FORD 150 4X4. \$3,000. (303)594-5117.

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

1000 SQUARE FOOT COMMERCIAL space for rent. 25' x40' with bathroom and 12' x12' roll up door. Located at 190 Seminole Dr. \$1200 per month. Contact Dean at (970)946-2187.

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.

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.

EFFICIENCY CONDO in uptown Pagosa Springs for rent. Close to shopping, City Market, coffee shops and more. Pets are welcome. Washer/ Dryer in the unit and it is furnished. Trash and free parking as well. \$1,400 /plus security deposit. Call Angela (970)531-4025.

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.

LONG TERM RENTALS AVAILABLE. Call Team Pagosa (970)731-8599, 46 Eaton Drive, Suite #1, pagosaspringsrealty.com.

HOMES FOR RENT

Nicely furnished 2 bed 2 bath condo. Conveniently located near uptown amenities. Water, sewer, trash and snow removal included in rent. TP-16. \$1750/ month. No smoking. No pets. Team Pagosa (970)731-8599 or visit teampagosa.com.

Nicely remodeled unfurnished 2 bedroom 2 bath condo. Conveniently located near uptown amenities. End unit. TP-17. \$1700/ month. No smoking. No pets. Team Pagosa (970)731-8599 or visit teampagosa.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

REAL ESTATE SERVICES

Whether Buying or Selling



Call Marcie Lewis
(970) 759-8672



MarcieLewis.com



Christie Calderwood
SRS, ABR, ePRO

Serving Sellers & Buyers
970-946-6856
christie@jimsmithrealty.com



LAND/ BUILDING SITES

MOUNTAIN VIEWS, MEADOWS. Unique high elevation and complete privacy. 5.6 acres bordering national forest, (970)769-3588 blancoctreat@gmail.com.

PagosaSUN.com

LAND/ BUILDING SITES

Email us at
classads
@pagosasun.
com
to submit your
classified.



All real estate advertised in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing act of 1968 which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, or national origin, or an intention, to make such preference, limitation or discrimination." This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis.



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 **MONDAY
TO
FRIDAY**

8 AM - 5 PM 

AVAILABLE ANYTIME AFTER HOURS AS WELL!

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service after hours:**

970-264-1301

 intermountainpropane.com