



PAGOSA SPRINGS, ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO 81147

www.PagosaSUN.com VOLUME 116 — NO. 26, THURSDAY, MARCH 28, 2024

U.S. 160 reconstruction project meeting set for April 4

By James Dickhoff
Town of Pagosa Springs

The Town of Pagosa Springs and Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) invite business and property owners, residents and other interested citizens to attend a downtown U.S. 160 reconstruction project meeting and listening session on Thursday, April 4, between 5 and 7 p.m. at the Ross Aragon Community Center, located at 451 Hot Springs Blvd.

Town staff, elected officials and CDOT staff will be in attendance.

Learn more about the reconstruction project on U.S. 160 between 1st and 10th streets that is expected to begin this summer.

This meeting provides an opportunity for your questions and comments for CDOT and the town regarding the upcoming highway improvement project.

Charter school picks next director

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

On Friday evening, March 22, the Pagosa Peak Open School Board of Directors unanimously voted for Emily Murphy, the school's current assistant director, to take the helm as school director following the departure of Angela Reali-Crossland, who currently serves in the role.

Reali-Crossland announced in December 2023 that she would not be renewing her contract at the end of its current term.

Murphy was one of three finalists interviewed by a series of panels on Monday, March 18, with the other finalists being Brianna Kaiser, of Denver; and Brian Clyne, of Brownsville, Texas.

Those panels included the board, parents, staff and the school's student restorative practices board.

The board then discussed the decision process at its regular meeting on Wednesday, March 20, including whether or not the board should enter into executive session to discuss the candidates.

After it was suggested that the board add a possible executive session to the evening's agenda and board president Lawrence Rugar suggesting the board can always go into executive session, board member Bill Hudson expressed his dislike of that idea, stating that the public was not given any warning that the board might go into executive session at the meeting.

"I have a problem with that," he said.

■ See Director A8



Pagosa Springs High School presented its spring musical, "Mean Girls the Musical," March 20-23, with the production featuring three different casts during its run.

SUN photos/Randi Pierce

LPEA board votes to leave Tri-State Generation and Transmission

By Amanda Anderson
La Plata Electric Association

With a 9-3 vote, the La Plata Electric Association (LPEA) Board of Directors voted Monday, March 25, to formally withdraw from the membership of Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association and filed its Notice of Intent to Withdraw at the Federal Regulatory Energy Commission (FERC) in Washington, D.C., effective April 1, 2026.

This departure will aid LPEA's efforts toward the advancement of affordable, clean energy initiatives, increasing resiliency and expanding local generation.

LPEA joins former Tri-State members Delta Montrose Electric Association.

■ See LPEA A8

Town moves closer to purchasing 12-acre property

By Derek Kutzer
Staff Writer

On March 21, the Pagosa Springs Town Council moved one step closer to purchasing a piece of land near Tractor Supply, known as the Goodman property, at 229 U.S. 84. The land is about 12 acres in size and borders the backside of the town-owned Reservoir Hill Park.

According to town staff, the property has a wide variety of potential uses that include the expansion of park space and trails, the development of workforce housing and camping, and a remote parking area for users of the East End section of town.

Bob Goodman, the current owner of the land, has "offered the sale of the property to the Town in the amount of \$850,000.00 and is flexible to consider a Lease Purchase Agreement or an outright purchase of the property," states agenda documentation on the matter.

A lease-purchase agreement would reduce upfront costs for the town, but, in the long-run, would be more expensive compared to an outright purchase, according to the agenda document.

An outright purchase "could be accomplished by pulling funds from General Fund Capital Reserves," states agenda documentation.

■ See Property A9

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Wastewater districts approve agreement to research new plant and potential consolidation

By Derek Kutzer and Josh Pike
Staff Writers

On March 21, the board of the Pagosa Springs Sanitation General Improvement District (PSSGID), which also sits as the Pagosa Springs Town Council, voted to approve a new memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD).

"This item will lay out the begin-

ning of a road map for the future operations and maintenance of wastewater systems in our community," states PSSGID agenda documentation on the matter.

The PAWSD board approved the MOU at its March 14 meeting.

At the PSSGID meeting, Town Manager David Harris described the MOU as "kind of a preliminary pre-nup agreement," saying that "if either entity decides that one side or

the other is getting cantankerous and decides, 'we don't want to be part of this anymore,' we can call it off."

But, he noted, "I think we have enough good will and enough common direction that I think we can move in a common direction."

The new MOU establishes a framework for a potential merger of the two entities, exploring the idea of a new regional wastewater treatment plant at the southern end of Yama-

guchi Park, which would eliminate PSSGID's reliance on pumping its wastewater 7 miles uphill to the PAWSD-run Vista Wastewater Treatment Plant.

The agreement explains that the PSSGID has faced significant challenges maintaining its uphill wastewater conveyance system, including more than \$1 million in pump replacement costs.

■ See Districts A9

Opinion

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OUR VIEW

Partly cloudy

We at The SUN, not surprisingly, sit through a lot of meetings.

We do that not only to distill down what's going on for you, our readers, who may not have the opportunity (or desire) to sit through countless meetings, but also to keep an eye on the boards to help ensure they're following pertinent laws, namely those to do with open meetings and government transparency.

Lately, however, we've found ourselves shaking our heads quite a bit, not because boards were necessarily in violation of the state's Sunshine Laws, but because they stopped short of full transparency when it seemed unnecessary. At other times, they surprised us, not in a good way, with the level of transparency displayed.

Last week, the Pagosa Peak Open School Board of Directors faced a big task — identifying who should be the next leader of the school.

The board called a special meeting for Monday, March 18, for the purpose of conducting interviews, and that meeting was noticed with a virtual option via Google Meet. However, when we tried to use that option because 3 p.m. on a Monday is not a convenient time to attend a meeting due to our deadlines and other meetings, it was not functioning.

When we asked for a recording due to the technical difficulties, we were told it was not recorded like the rest of the board's meetings. Per law, school boards are required to make a recording of each regular and special meeting "at which votes are taken and recorded and shall make the

recording available to the public."

Then, on Wednesday, the board held its regular meeting, which featured the biggest audience we remember seeing at a PPOS board meeting.

Much of the conversation on the topic of the new director at that meeting centered on discussing the candidates in executive session or in open session.

Some board members suggested an open discussion on the matter, while others stated that sensitive information should be discussed in executive session and they were allowed to do just that.

Ultimately, the board scheduled a special meeting with a possible executive session for Friday evening.

That meeting was also well attended, both in person and online.

Again, the board debated whether or not it should enter into executive session to discuss the finalists, and ultimately opted to do so.

Following the executive session, the board president proceeded to make a motion for each of the three finalists, with the first two failing, until the board unanimously chose the school's assistant director, Emily Murphy.

While the decision was met with cheers and applause, giving us comfort that those with a stake in the situation are pleased and the correct decision was made, we left the meeting unsure of what set Murphy apart from the other finalists. Most of the board members never stated their views on the matter publicly.

At times it felt like some of the board

members were doing anything they could to avoid open, public discussion on the topic.

On the other side of the coin, on Tuesday evening we were a little taken aback by a special district board member who was very transparent about the fact that she had not thoroughly prepared for the meeting.

She asked the presenter if something he mentioned in his presentation was in the document the board would be asked to approve later in the meeting, stating, "I didn't read it."

Shortly thereafter, she voted on the item — the only item on the meeting's decision agenda — despite having indicated she didn't know what is in that document.

We appreciate the honesty, but if you have been elected to be a board member of any local entity, please take the time to do what you were elected to do — prepare for meetings and help lead the entity you serve to the best of your ability.

Also on the transparency front, we continually wonder why the county no longer attaches its payables to its agendas, despite people within the organization acknowledging that isn't a transparent way to inform the public of operational expenses.

Instead of knowing what's up for approval before it's approved as we see with most other local public entities, those with an interest in the county's finances are left to file records requests and wait for the monthly expenses to be printed in The SUN, after they're approved and unlikely to be changed.

We hope our local leaders remember a little transparency can go a long way.

Randi Pierce

LEGACIES

By Shari Pierce

100 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
 March 28, 1924

At the school site referendum, held at the court house Tuesday afternoon, whereby the qualified electors of the district were given an opportunity to state their preference of five proposed sites submitted for the erection of the new school building in Pagosa Springs, no majority was received by any one site, though two, the Himes corner in east Pagosa and the old school house hill, ran about even in the favor of the voters.

The question whether the school board members should proceed to choose and acquire a suitable location for the school, using their own judgment, provided a majority of votes was not cast for any one of the sites submitted, carried by a vote of 85 to 64.

Wednesday morning, considering that sufficient time had elapsed since the burning of the school building without any definite site being selected, and proceeding under the vote of confidence rendered Tuesday, the school board selected a portion of Block 22, involving some of the property which had originally been embraced in Proposition no. 1.

75 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
 March 25, 1949

The store front of the Goodman Department store is plainly discernible in the March 23 "Red Ryder" strip cartoon as are the letters P-A-G-O-S-A on another building in the drawing. The cartoon is drawn by Fred Harman, who never misses a chance to get Pagosa Springs some publicity.

The details of the Pagosa Springs Chamber of Commerce Slogan contest were announced this week and include such features as a \$25 cash prize for the best slogan and \$10 in cash for the second prize.

The organization is desirous of obtaining a slogan that may be used in their advertising of this area. According to the announcement the slogan should be short and snappy and yet describe the many advantages of this area.

Complete details and entry blank may be found on page five of this issue of the SUN. It sounds like a pretty good chance to pick up a little folding money.

Little Terry Pat Alley celebrated his first birthday on Saint Patrick's Day. Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Rinsinger had a family dinner in his honor.

50 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
 March 28, 1974

After being closed for several months the county jail is again approved as a lockup for lawbreakers. The facility has been thoroughly cleaned, painted, and renovated.

One bunk has been removed from each cell, leaving only one bunk. New mattresses and bedding have been purchased and the jail is clean and warm. New windows, new plumbing, and new wiring have also been installed.

The jail is a county jail but the renovation of it was a joint town and county project. Prisoners from both units may now be lodged there. Any long jail sentences will be served at the La Plata County Jail and some types of prisoners will also be lodged there while awaiting trial or hearings.

The jail has been used on a cooperative basis between the county and town for many years. The town has no jail. Both county and town have budgeted revenue sharing funds for the eventual construction of a new jail facility that will meet all federal and state requirements.

No date has been set for the start of construction of the new facility. In the meantime, though, there is now a holding jail so that prisoners may be locked up locally and not hauled to Durango.

25 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
 March 25, 1999

Archuleta County's only known female lynx died last week, according to Glen Eyre, a local Colorado Division of Wildlife conservation officer.

The female feline had lived in the Upper Blanco Basin for approximately three weeks. She was one of five lynx released Feb. 3 near Wagon Wheel Gap as part of a Canadian lynx restoration project being conducted by the Colorado Division of Wildlife. Of the original five, two died near the Wagon Wheel Gap drop point, and the fifth made a 60-mile trek across the mountains from Wagon Wheel Gap to the Upper Blanco Basin location.

An initial analysis of the dead lynx's remains indicates starvation as the cause of death, Eyre said. Study of the remains continues, Eyre said, to determine if a cause other than the inability to catch food led to the starvation.

LOOKING BACK



From the March 17, 1988, Pagosa SUN — A + students — Cathne Thomas's Pagosa Springs Elementary third grade students eagerly manned the extremely long handled shovel used Friday morning to break ground for the Ruby M. Sisson Memorial Library. Speaking to the numerous people involved in making the occasion a reality, Mayor Mrs. Ruby would give you all an A plus."

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3/14	57	26	NA	NA	0.01
3/15	58	28	NA	NA	0
3/16	53	37	NA	NA	0
3/17	42	30	.2	S	0.06
3/18	38	26	NA	NA	0.23

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Letters

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

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

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

Saul Alinsky

Dear Editor:
It's the oldest trick in the book. Mis-characterize the positions of people with whom you disagree, then attack that false caricature. There is a perfect example of this in the letter to the editor in last week's Sun about the work of Piven and Cloward and of Saul Alinsky. In the interest of space, and because I have read more of the writings of Alinsky, I will focus on the Alinsky part of the letter.

The letter presents eight "steps to destroy a free country" supposedly set forth by Alinsky. I would strongly suggest that anyone interested in learning more about Alinsky read the Wikipedia article on him, or better yet, read some of Alinsky's books. If you read the Wikipedia article, you will see that none of the eight items mentioned in the letter to the editor actually appear anywhere in Alinsky's writings.

Some of the eight items are real whoppers. One of them says "increase poverty to the highest level possible."

In fact, Alinsky's entire career was devoted to helping poor people organize to improve their lives and escape poverty. Another one mentions removing the belief in God. Actually, Alinsky worked closely with the Archbishop of Chicago, various African American churches, Unitarians, and other religious organizations. Hardly the mark of someone that wants to get rid of religion or the belief in God.

Another claim mentions "class warfare." But here is my question: why is it only called class warfare when poor and working-class people organize to gain power and improve their lives. Why don't we call it that when billionaires like Donald Trump bust unions, cheat their contractors out of money owed, and try to take health care away from Americans? It takes two to make a war, doesn't it?

Alinsky's life was dedicated to empowering poor people in local communities to use political power to gain better lives. He did this not only in urban areas like Chicago but also in rural areas. For example, Alinsky's organization was strongly involved in the organization of the United Farm Workers Union in the 1960s. Yes, one of those unions that people like Trump fight because they do not want to give a fair share to the people who do the hard work in their business organizations.

Perhaps the biggest whopper of all is the claim that Alinsky's position was to "take control of what people are allowed to read and listen to, including what children learn in school." That sounds a whole lot more like Ron DeSantis than Saul Alinsky!

I do agree with the writer on one thing - our freedoms ARE slipping away. But the people who want to ban books, forbid discussion of diversity and inclusion, make abortion illegal, and tell us who we can and cannot marry are not followers of Alinsky. That shoe fits today's Republican party far better than it fits Alinsky.

John Farley

Upcoming elections

Dear Editor:
Every recent election, it seems, is dubbed "the most important of our lives". When visiting a cave system in Arkansas, the tour guide repeatedly said that "this next section is the most dangerous on the tour". About halfway through, he asked the group if we started to see a theme happening with his comment. The point is, every footstep can be dangerous, and every election is important. However, there are variables that make the next step even more dangerous than the last, and election results that can cripple the country, states or counties more than others.

This upcoming November election will no doubt be the most important than any living person could put into perspective. The reason lies in what exactly is at stake. What's at stake is our freedom, and the ability to understand what our freedoms are. Very few of our government officials today know our Constitution as well as they should in order to hold the office they're in, though they swore to uphold and defend the Constitution. Most reading this letter probably believe there are three equal branches of government, if they even know there are three separate branches. However, the Legislative branch has

more power than the Executive, and the Judicial has the least.

The only requirement for retaining the seat held by an appointed federal judge is "good behavior". By neglecting this, they can be ejected from their position. They are not necessarily in for life, no matter what. Question to you: Do you actually believe someone that cannot define what a woman is has the mental capacity to interpret the law as originally described by the founders? This is like approaching a chasm's edge, in the aforementioned cave, without a rope or light source, on a slippery alga covered mineral deposit. What could possibly go wrong? Yet, our society and representatives seem to be passing the buck to the Supreme Court to let them interpret the law. When they redefine laws, going against the Constitution as originally intended, and is not an answer they were appointed to give. This should be deemed "Bad Behavior", and should be run out of their office immediately. Yes, we do know what original intent is, but it takes due diligence to find it.

This upcoming election is a tough one. What freedoms do we want to keep? Freedom of religion, speech, property, self-defense? Or do you prefer looting, shoplifting, rape, murder, robbery, assault, illegal imprisonment, unlawful search and seizure, illegal immigration, guilt before innocence, rampant homelessness, \$37,000,000,000+ debt and rising, China buying up America, speech suppression, rampant opioid deaths, nuclear Iran, and general lawlessness?

What kind of world do you want your kids and grandchildren to inherit from you? Not from the government, but from YOU? Are you doing your duty? Are you doing anything to help us retain the freedoms that have made this country so special and prosperous? Or are you part of the problem? Vote for real Freedoms, not chaos!

E. Fisk

Wake up

Dear Editor:
For many years, Archuleta County has been reliably conservative Republican and that has generally served the citizens of the county pretty well, overall. But now the leader of the Republican party is a convicted sex offender, has been convicted of

civil fraud and accused of multiple criminal actions, including some that, when proven will have been detrimental to the national security of this country! In this year's primary, nearly 33% (1237 out of 3788 total) of voters identified as Republican cast a primary ballot for someone OTHER than Donald Trump! If you are a card carrying, die hard Republican, I imagine you would vote for the Republican that your party seems to be tied to, even if it were a rabid skunk!!

It is TIME TO WAKE UP! Donald Trump does not care about you one bit! That should be apparent to anyone who is paying attention, to anyone who is not sleep walking through life! In fact, it is pretty apparent that those who profess undying fealty to this man are simply ignorant about how government works! Donald Trump has NO clue about how to be a president! He WILL run this country into the ground! He WILL get us into 1 or more military conflicts around the world! He WILL have the economy in shambles within the 1st year! If you think your situation is difficult now, just wait until he takes office!

You have the power to prevent that from happening with your vote! You can continue to blindly follow this man and let him deceive you and lead you down a path of deceit and destruction and cast your vote for him in November! But that would be a grave mistake! Or you can choose one of two other options. One, you can force back your gag reflex and vote for Biden OR, if you just can't bring yourself to make that choice, then just DO NOT VOTE AT ALL! Then at least you can defend the results by saying you did not vote for Biden! At least you won't be telling a lie and you won't be embarrassed by voting for Trump!

So, my fellow citizens of Archuleta County, you are now faced with a crisis of your own making. You can continue to blindly support someone who has been proven over and over again to have lied to you, who has shown you who he is over and over again! It is time for you to stop supporting this con man! I think you are ALL smart enough to realize you have been duped! It is time to WAKE UP and show the courage I know you have to make the right decision! There is NO SHAME in admitting you were wrong! The shame will come when

■ See Letters A4

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- be 500 words or less
- be signed by the author, unless emailed
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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.

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Obituaries

Alan William Dreeben

Alan William Dreeben passed away peacefully at home on March 21 at the age of 80. Alan was born on July 3, 1943, in Dallas, Texas, to Bertha and Milton Dreeben. He graduated from Highland Park High School and headed off to the University of Texas in Austin. While in school, Alan was a member of Zeta Beta Tau fraternity and the Silver Spurs. It was there that he met Barbara Block, the love of his life. He and Barbara were married on Jan. 2, 1966. After graduation, they moved to Los Angeles, where Alan could start his career in



the wine industry and learn under the tutelage of Ernest Gallo. Alan and Barbara moved back to San Antonio in 1967, where Alan began working with his mentor and father-in-law, Ed Block at Block Distributing Company. Alan grew the wine side of the Block business to a formidable force. The company then grew from a South Texas operation to become Republic National Distributing Company, a national wholesaler in 40 markets coast to coast.

Alan also received his executive MBA from Harvard University. Alan was passionate about education. He served proudly on the board of Alamo Heights ISD, as past regent and chairman with the Texas State University System, as a trustee of the University of the Incarnate Word, and as past president and trustee of the McCombs School of Business at the University of Texas. He was inducted into the Alamo Heights School Foundation Hall of Fame in 2023, the Mc-

Combs Business School Hall of Fame in 2015 and the Texas Business Hall of Fame in 2023.

Alan always believed it was sin to be so fortunate and not give back. And give back he did. Alan was highly involved and held leadership positions in countless community, social, industry and religious organizations, including MD Anderson, Hospice of San Antonio, the McNay Art Museum, the Santa Rosa Children's Hospital Foundation, United Way, Temple Beth El, San Antonio Country Club, The Argyle, Club Giraud, the Order of The Alamo, the Wine Market Council, and the Wine and Spirits Wholesalers of America, where he was honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award in 2017.

Alan is survived by his wife of more than 58 years, Barbara Block Dreeben; his three daughters, Lisa Dreeben Sechler (Kelly), Allison Dreeben Zeller (Josh) and Paige Dreeben Sachs (Marc); and his nine

grandchildren, who affectionately call him "Buddy": Grant, Reed and Mark Sechler; Emily, Ben and Abbie Zeller; and Tucker, Sallie and Bo Sachs. He is also survived by his brother, Oren Dreeben, and his sister, Hope Dreeben.

Alan had many accolades in the community, and the wine and spirits industry, but what he was most proud of was his family. He cared deeply about each of them and loved bragging whenever given the chance about them. Alan was blessed with four beautiful women, the queen, the princess, the duchess and the contessa while referring to himself not as the king, but the court jester Alan was known for many of his "Alan-isms," but will be most remembered for "Hi Gang!" and "Say Goodnight, Gracie."

The Dreeben family wishes to thank Scott Campbell, Robert Luevano, Cesar Carillo and Nadine Michelena for all of their love and amazing care.

SJWCD discusses PAWSD letter, selects representatives to arrange work session

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

At its March 18 meeting, the San Juan Water Conservancy District (SJWCD) Board of Directors discussed a letter from the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD) responding to a previous letter from the SJWCD.

The SJWCD letter objected to PAWSD's efforts to extend a gravel mining lease on Running Iron Ranch, the proposed site of SJWCD's reservoir project, and raised concerns about PAWSD's compliance with a three-way agreement between SJWCD, PAWSD and the Colorado Water Conservation Board concerning the ranch and the reservoir project.

The PAWSD response letter, approved by the PAWSD Board of Directors at a March 7 special meeting, objects to the SJWCD's claims of potential violations of the three-way agreement, notes the SJWCD's role

in finding partners and funding to move the reservoir project forward, and requests a written update on the SJWCD's progress.

The SJWCD letter was covered in the Feb. 29 issue of The SUN, while the PAWSD response and the creation of a Running Iron Ranch subcommittee of the PAWSD Board of Directors was covered in the March 14 issue.

SJWCD board president Candace Jones opened the discussion at the March 18 meeting, commenting that she was "disappointed with the tone of the response."

However, she commented that finding opportunities for common ground with PAWSD is "essential" and noted the creation of the PAWSD Running Iron Ranch subcommittee.

Jones commented she had not heard what position PAWSD has on the extension of the mining lease on the ranch, which she noted is the central issue in the SJWCD's letter, and proposed that the board should invite the PAWSD subcommittee to a joint

work session to discuss the topic.

"We should start focused and see if we can take some small steps to find common ground on any issues," she said, adding that she does not want to distract the PAWSD board from its focus on the district's capital projects and noting that the two districts largely overlap.

"We share the same constituents," she said. "We should be supportive of their mission, and I hope that they will be, at some time, supportive of our mission because we ultimately serve all the same people. ... The view opposing the reservoir I think is increasingly out of step with public sentiment, in large part because of the environmental conditions under which we live."

Jones added that the district is at a "unique point in time" in terms of reservoir funding opportunities.

"One lesson we can take from PAWSD's recent experience with rate increases is that failing to plan for downsides is painful when the

downside happens," she added. "And, so, water storage is not going to happen in this community if we don't get started and keep at it, and so that's where I want us to focus, is on our objectives and reaching out to the community, building relationships and finding common ground to move forward."

She commented that, in "due course" the SJWCD would review the PAWSD letter further and respond to it.

SJWCD board member Rob Haggberg asked if the district would eventually respond to the specific requests in the PAWSD letter.

Jones commented that she would start by addressing the extension of the gravel lease and that she would propose having representatives of the SJWCD subcommittees working on advancing the reservoir and on finding supplemental uses for the property during the reservoir planning process serve as points of



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Letters

Continued from A3

you actually find out how you allowed him deceive you! WAKE UP!

Gary Hardin

'Mean Girls'

Dear Editor:

The Saturday's production of the "Mean Girls Musical" at the High School facility was a 2.7 hour long (with a 20 minute intermission) vile expression how bullying should not be tolerated - with .2 hours of it changing their minds and now "being friendly" with no real supporting reason of why.

I'm in construction, and I haven't heard such foul and graphic language - ever. I had to attend a local musical to be downgraded in my morality. And THIS is what is being taught to our young teenagers - imprinted on their tender hearts with these memorized lines?

Obscene lines that will surface in life's difficult situations?

Who was responsible for determining that 2.5 hours of filth and aggression could be "all made good" by .2 hours of, "now we're going to be nice." The juice was not worth the squeeze, because the juice was rotten!

It was sad that the best part of the production was that the orchestra was played too loud, and it that covered up much of the additional profane language and singing.

Afterwards, I wanted to go home to shower where I could weep in privacy for the degradation of our town's morality.

Joel Hellwege

Editor's note: It should be noted that press releases printed prior to the productions and a statement made

to the audience immediately before each show discussed the content and language involved in the play, as well as why it was chosen.

Cultivated meat

Dear Editor:

I was happy to learn a company in the United Kingdom has produced the first canned cat food made of cultivated meat. For those who don't know, cultivated meat is grown from animal cells, without slaughter. Soon we won't have to harm other creatures to feed our pets.

"This is a major milestone for cultivated meat globally and shows that we are ready to sell product," said Owen Ensor, cofounder and CEO of Meatly. "Cultivated meat gives pet parents an easy choice - high quality, tasty, nutritious, and sustainable pet food."

Despite this progress, increased public funding for research is needed for the field of cellular-agriculture to reach its full potential. Our legislators should support this so the remaining technological hurdles can be overcome. We can create a better world.

Jon Hochschartner
Granby, Conn.

Excessive?

Dear Editor:

The news tells me today that former President Donald Trump has just been fined \$454,000,000.

The 8th Amendment of the Constitution Of The United States states, "Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted."

I wonder, in this economy today, how much should be considered to

be an excessive fine? What amount would constitute a cruel punishment? Who much of a fine should be called an unusual punishment? Half a million dollars? One million dollars?

I hope that soon I will hear in the news that the fine assigned to Trump has been determined to truly be an excessive fine and that it has been found that to decree a fine of \$454,000,000 violated the Constitution Of The United States. What punishment should be meted out to the official who would so violate the Constitution?

Yours for fair trials and good government in America,

Dan Manka
Fairmont, W.Va.

PAWSD fee increase

Dear Editor:

PAWSD is considering adding a water fee increase of 5% each year for the next eight years. This affects senior and disabled citizens the most. Many Seniors or disabled citizens are living on Social Security or Disability only.

For 2024 the Social Security raise was 3.2%. This increase percentage will probably remain the same for each year unless inflation becomes extremely high. Even in a high inflation year like 2023, the Social Security raise was only 3.2%

Another issue with the PAWSD bill is that everyone is charged a base fee set up by 2000 gallons of water use. The base rate does not change until over 2000 gallons are used, the next change in price is at a use of 8000 gallons. As a new homeowner I now have access to the website that shows

exactly how many gallons of water I use. My particular water use as a one-person home owner is between 720-990 gallons per month. So I am already being charged for more water use than my actual use.

This again penalizes especially seniors or disabled citizens many of whom live as only one person in a household.

What I would FIRST like to see would be PAWSD to create a lower rate for the first 1000 gallons used and a rate for each increase of usage in 1000 gallon increments. All billing would be based on ACTUAL usage, without the base fee set at the 2000 gallons of use. If a user was paying only a fee set at actual usage that would be the most help to users AND this would show citizens that by using less water they could save more therefore helping with water conservation.

I know I will use more water in the mid-year when I will be watering my small garden area and any plants I have in my yard. I don't mind paying more at that time because I would know that my bills would be based on actual usage.

The second price increase on 'Wastewater' Charges, what I call sewer, a 30% increase again hurts those with the small usage. And raising 30% in BOTH 2024 and 2025 then changing to a 5% increase each of the following four years is quite a large increase.

The two increases that would begin next month, March, 2024, total \$10.78 for most citizens. For seniors and disabled folks that might come out of their grocery funds.

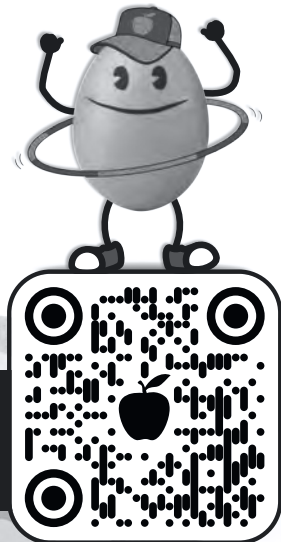
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Connie Schanzenbaker

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Business



SUN photo/Josh Pike

Pagosa Springs Community Development Corporation (PSCDC) staff, construction workers from contractor BWD and community partners prepare to cut the ribbon at a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the PSCDC's workforce housing project in the Trails subdivision on Monday, March 25. The project includes the construction of 10 workforce housing units in 2024 and also involves extensive grant-funded infrastructure and road improvements in the Trails and Chris Mountain Village II subdivisions.

Housing, infrastructure project awarded \$1.9 million

By Ashley Springer
Archuleta County

The Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) announced a More Housing Now grant award on March 19 of \$1,919,200 to Archuleta County for infrastructure improvements in the Chris Mountain II and Trails subdivisions in the Pagosa Lakes area.

These funds will pay to upgrade existing roads, along with bringing in electric and broadband utilities, allowing for homes to be built on lots for the first time since the subdivisions were platted in the 1970s.

DOLA Executive Director Maria De Cambra stated, "Competition for these grants was intense and highly competitive."

The county's success, she noted, was "... due to local partnerships,

incentives, and other support for affordable housing projects in the community."

Local partnerships included the county, Town of Pagosa Springs, Pagosa Springs Community Development Corporation (PSCDC), Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Association (PLPOA), Habitat for Humanity of Archuleta County, Visionary Broadband, the Pagosa Springs Area Chamber of Commerce and La Plata Electric Association.

The PSCDC initiated the More Housing Now grant in November 2023 with Community Grants Manager Beth Lamberson, Executive Director Emily Lashbrooke and Administrative Manager Kathleen "Kat" McFadden.

DOLA follow-up meetings took place with County Development Director Pam Flowers.

Lashbrooke made an in-person presentation to the DOLA grants review committee on Feb. 29 in Manitou Springs with support from Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners chair Veronica Medina and Commissioner Warren Brown. Commissioner Ronnie Maez joined remotely. County Manager Derek Woodman, Flowers, Habitat Executive Director Leah Ballard, Town Manager David Harris and PLPOA General Manager Allen Roth attended. Visionary Broadband's Brian Shepherd, vice president of grant engagement, was also present.

At the meeting the review committee voted to send the full grant forward for approval.

"The effort to secure this grant shows just what this community and its leaders can do when we are all rowing the boat in the same di-

rection," said Flowers. "We listened to dozens of other communities present their projects seeking these same funds. It was evident that the requests were far greater than the funds available. I am convinced it was our cooperative approach with such broad support that pushed us across the finish line."

More Housing Now grants come from the DOLA Energy and Mineral Impact Assistance Fund (EIAF).

The EIAF was created to assist political subdivisions that are socially and/or economically impacted by the development, processing, or energy conversion of minerals and mineral fuels.

The county and the PSCDC recognized the opportunity to secure EIAF funding to rebuild a mile of failed gravel roadway and install electrical and broadband utilities.

The county has conveyed ownership of 35 lots to the PSCDC and 10 to Habitat for workforce housing. With this grant, workforce housing in Chris Mountain II and Trails, takes a major step forward to provide home ownership for households earning 60 to 100 percent of the area median income.

"This is a fine example of how when we can collaborate collectively on a project it produces an outstanding outcome," commented Woodman.

County unemployment continues to rise in February

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

According to a March 22 press release from the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment, Archuleta County's unemployment rate rose from 4 percent in January to 4.5 percent in February.

County unemployment previously rose from December 2023 to January. From January to February, Archuleta County's labor force rose from 6,541 to 6,639.

For the month of February, there were 6,338 individuals employed in Archuleta County, according to the press release. This figure is up from January's report of 6,282 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 February was Huerfano County with 7.7 percent unemployment, followed by Fremont County at 6.4 percent and Las Animas County at 6.3 percent.

Rio Grande County and Montezuma County are next, with unemployment in both counties at 6 percent.

The state's unemployment rate

rose from 3.4 percent in January to 3.5 percent in February.

The state's labor force fell by 1,800 from 3,237,300 in January to 3,235,500 in February.

The press release notes, "Colorado's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased one-tenth of a percentage point in February to 3.5 percent compared to the January rate of 3.4 percent. The number of unemployed individuals grew by 4,200 over the same time period to 114,400. The national unemployment rate increased two-tenths of a percentage point to 3.9 percent from January to February."

Employers in Colorado added 8,500 nonfarm payroll jobs from January to February, bringing the total number of jobs in Colorado to 2,975,800.

Nonfarm payroll jobs measure the number of workers excluding farmers.

The private sector gained 6,500 nonfarm payroll jobs and the government sector gained 2,000 jobs.

The largest private-sector job gains in February include:

- Educational and health services at about 3,400.
- Construction at about 1,200.
- Professional and business ser-

vices at about 1,100.

There were no sectors with significant over-the-month declines in the number of jobs, the press release indicates.

"Since February 2023, nonfarm payroll jobs have increased 60,300, with the private sector growing by 33,500 and government adding 26,800 jobs," the press release notes.

Since February 2023, the largest private-sector job gains include:

- Educational and health services at about 18,900.
- Professional and business services at about 10,100.
- Leisure and hospitality at about 8,300.

Since February 2023, the largest private-sector job losses include:

- Trade, transportation and utilities at about 4,400.
- Information at about 1,900.
- Manufacturing at about 1,600.

According to the press release, "Over the year, the average workweek for all Colorado employees on private nonfarm payrolls was unchanged at 33.0 hours, while average hourly earnings grew from \$35.27 to \$37.19, two dollars and sixty-two cents more than the national average hourly earnings of \$34.57."

josh@pagosasun.com

SJWCD

Continued from A4
contact to PAWSD.

She stated that she would want these points of contact to reach out to PAWSD and attempt to arrange a work session with PAWSD representatives where the discussion would focus on the gravel mining and grazing leases for the Running Iron Ranch.

Jones suggested that the leases

might be "easier to tackle" and a good step to build the district's relationship with PAWSD.

In response to a comment from SJWCD Executive Assistant Sally High pointing out the involvement of the SJWCD lawyer in the issue of the leases, Jones commented, "At some point, you get to the leases and you need the lawyers, but, for the most part, I would really like to invite a

discussion and see how that goes."

SJWCD board members Charles Riehm and Bill Nobles volunteered to reach out to the PAWSD subcommittee and attempt to arrange a work session.

Jones pointed out that, if only two board members from each board are involved, the meeting would not have to be public due to not meeting the legal requirements for a public meeting.

josh@pagosasun.com

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Sales Tax Fundamentals course now available

By Derek Kuhn
Colorado Department of Revenue

Business owners looking to level-up their sales tax knowledge can now do so.

In an effort to educate business owners, the Business Support Division of the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT) and the Colorado Department of Revenue (DOR) released a free, 16-part Sales Tax Fundamentals online educational course on Tuesday.

The Sales Tax Fundamentals course is self-paced, lasts about an

hour and covers key information, such as business owners' general tax responsibilities, and provides an overview of how to stay voluntarily tax compliant.

The course is also available in Spanish.

"Colorado is home to more than 684,000 small businesses that help drive our state's economy and employ 1.2 million people. We are committed to providing resources like the Fundamental Sales Tax course that save these small business owners money and help them build a strong business foundation so they can grow their revenues and their impact," said

Eve Lieberman, OEDIT executive director.

Department of Revenue, Taxation Division Director Brendon Reese agreed and touted the course's content.

"This is a great tool that will help small business owners build their understanding of sales tax," Reese said. "It breaks down the basics simply and in a way that business owners who have little sales tax experience can better understand Colorado's taxing requirements."

The course is part of OEDIT's To Establish Learning Track, which helps Colorado business owners learn how to establish a business legally in Colo-

rado; develop and manage a business accounting system; develop basic digital marketing strategies as well as an online store; and more.

To access the Sales Tax Fundamentals course, please visit ColoradoBusinessLearning.thinkific.com/pages/the-nest for the English course and EducacionNegociosColorado.thinkific.com for the Spanish course.

For more information on the ways OEDIT helps Colorado businesses succeed, explore business training resources at <https://coloradobusinesslearning.thinkific.com/pages/the-nest>. For information about state taxes, visit [Tax.Colorado.gov](https://tax.colorado.gov).

END-OF-SEASON INFO

OUR LAST DAY of the season is March 31.

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Thank you for a great season. We will see you in the fall!

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April shaping up to be busy with business and community activities

By Mary Jo Coulehan
Pagosa Springs Area Chamber of Commerce

For such a typically slow month in Pagosa, there are a number of important business and community activities that you should get on your calendar.

Let's start off with the business events.

On April 16 at 4:30 p.m., the next Main Street Cone Zone/downtown business meeting will take place. This time the meeting, which includes representatives from the Colorado Department of Transportation, will be held at the new Hidden Track Speakeasy at 251 Pagosa St., Ste. B. With the major construction project on U.S. 160 coming our way, if you have a business or are a resident in the downtown area from 1st to 8th streets, you should plan on attending to find out all the latest information, get your questions answered and find out firsthand how the upcoming construction project might impact you.

On April 23 and 24, the Tourism Department will be hosting a free tourism conference. Whether you are in lodging, restaurant or retail, or maybe trying to open a business, this is a conference you should consider attending or sending some of your employees to. On April 23 beginning at 3 p.m., there will be a hands-on social media workshop followed by

a networking event. Then, on April 24, there will be a variety of different tracks all day that could impact your business such as marketing ideas, how to elevate your brand, how you can tie into the efforts of the Tourism Department both locally and through the state of Colorado, and the effect of social media. At the speed of a click someone can celebrate or condemn your business. Are you ready? There will also be tracks on business resources, the Main Street Program and more. Watch for more information on attending this conference and where to register.

On April 10, the Pagosa Springs Community Development Corporation (PSCDC) will host an affordable housing training. This half-day seminar from 9 a.m. to noon will be hosted by the Colorado Department of Housing and will cover topics such as our community's specific housing challenges, solutions to meet our housing needs and the new Proposition 123 funding. It will be held at the Ross Aragon Community Center. If you are a contractor, supplier, public official or just an interested developer, please attend this seminar. You can register for the event at <https://forms.gle/cqTRMJRyJPxYFzMM8> or visit the PSCDC's website at www.pagosaspingscdc.org.

Remember that the Chamber's monthly Business Happy Hour has now been moved from the fourth

Wednesday to the fourth Friday of the month. The April Business Happy Hour will take place on April 26 from 5 to 7 p.m. Watch for our notices on the monthly location.

The Chamber's Pagosa Pride Hanging Basket Program will kick off on Tuesday, April 2, at 9 a.m. This annual program helps beautify Pagosa businesses and homes with show-stopping 12-inch and 16-inch flower baskets. We thank our nursery partners for allowing us to host this program every year, which we have been conducting for more than 20 years, and it continues to grow — no pun intended. If you click on the flower basket graphic on the Chamber website's home page, www.pagosachamber.com, that link will take you directly to the registration site. Please do not try to order your baskets prior to 9 a.m. as the system will not be in effect. All orders need to be entered into the online system. The 12-inch baskets are anticipated to be available for pickup on May 24 in the afternoon. The 16-inch baskets are usually available after Memorial Day, but we may get them earlier depending on the weather. If you order baskets and are not going to be in town, please make arrangements to have your flowers picked up at the appropriate date.

Earth Day activities are going to be held on April 21. Many of the activities will be centered around the

growing domes in Centennial Park; however, there will be other booths along the Riverwalk. Is your business contributing to ecological programs: recycling paper and cardboard in your offices? How about toner and printer cartridges? Do you leave the lights on all the time, or can you put lighting on timers or at least use LED bulbs? There are a number of things businesses can do to help reduce our footprint on trash and power. What can you challenge your staff and business to do?

In conjunction with Earth Day activities, the annual Geothermal Greenhouse Partnership Environmental Film Festival will be held on April 19 and 20. On April 19 there will be a Premiere Gala where two films will be viewed and a delicious catered dinner will be served. On April 20, the festival is open for general admission tickets. All of the films are award-winning films in the environmental arena. To purchase your tickets for either day, visit www.pagosagreen.org.

On April 27, the Brews for Rescue Beer Festival will be held. This popular event in Town Park brings a plethora of brewers to Pagosa, highlighting some exceptional quaffs for the public to taste. Along with the beer there will be live music, a dog show, food trucks and vendors. Tickets can be purchased at www.pagosafun.com and are \$25 online or \$35 at the gate.

Axis Health System earns recognition from American Diabetes Association

By Haley Leonard-Saunders
Axis Health System

The Axis Health System diabetes self-management education program in its Southwest Colorado integrated clinics has been awarded continued recognition from the American Diabetes Association (ADA).

This program, offered in Axis' Du-

rango, Cortez, Dove Creek and Pagosa Springs clinics, is led by a team of highly skilled professionals. Lisa Messerli, MS, RD, CDCES, a registered dietitian and diabetes educator, leads the program with her expertise alongside Kim Ayres, RD, CDCES, and David Kitley, PharmD, who bring their wealth of knowledge to the program.

The ADA Education Recognition

effort is a voluntary process that assures that approved education programs have met the National Standards for Diabetes Self-Management Education Programs.

Programs that achieve recognition status have a staff of knowledgeable health professionals who can provide state-of-the-art information about diabetes management for participants.

"At Axis, we know that learning how to manage your health conditions can make a huge difference in combating diabetes. Such education, paired with steadfast support, is a critical part of today's diabetes care. We're excited to include these vital elements in the complete care we offer," said Axis Medical Director Dr. Jill Rimmey.

Rotary Youth Leadership Awards program registration now open

By Jemal Mihalik
Rotary Club of Pagosa Springs

The Rotary Club of Pagosa Springs is thrilled to announce that registration for the upcoming Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) program is now open.

The deadline to submit your application is April 19 at 6 p.m.

RYLA is a workshop organized and sponsored by Rotary District 5470 for future leaders in Pagosa Springs currently in grades 10 and 11. Participants are selected for their leadership potential to attend an all-expense-paid, hands-on experiential program designed to foster and strengthen leadership skills, self-confidence, community-building skills and character.

RYLA provides a memorable and unique opportunity to learn, grow

and have fun while making lasting friendships and connections.

This year RYLA will be held at the Colorado Mountain College in beautiful Leadville June 13-16. Transportation will also be provided.

The Rotary Club of Pagosa Springs is comprised of community leaders who are passionate about and committed to taking decisive actions that address and solve real-world issues both at a local and global level. As part of this commitment, we are devoted to nurturing our local future leaders by providing opportunities for our youth to garner the skills necessary to achieve their dreams and aspirations while also being active, contributing members of our community.

Not only will the selected youth be given the opportunity through RYLA to learn valuable leadership skills

such as conflict resolution, public speaking and working effectively as a team — they will also make lasting connections with some of the most influential leaders in the area and have the opportunity to forge meaningful relationships with members of the Rotary and other local future leaders.

This program, therefore, is perfect for a future leader currently in grades 10 or 11 who truly wishes to make a lasting impact in their community both here in Pagosa Springs and beyond.

For more information about the application process or to apply, interested and eligible youth can reach out to Cindi Galabota by text at (970) 903-9860 or via email to cindi@pagosalibrary.org.

For general information about RYLA, please go to <https://www.rotary.org/en/our-programs/rotary-youth-leadership-awards>.

rotary.org/en/our-programs/rotary-youth-leadership-awards.

We look forward to welcoming all future leaders interested in this program and providing them with this unique and exciting opportunity.

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WJ pagosa

Lodgers' tax revenues down from previous two years, up compared to pre-pandemic

By Derek Kutzer
Staff Writer

Prior to a March 19 Pagosa Springs Area Tourism Board meeting, Tourism Director Jenny Green released the lodgers' tax revenue financial report for 2023.

The report offers a window into the health of the tourism economy in the community.

At the meeting, Pagosa Springs Town Council and tourism board member Gary Williams asked, "I want to know, are we generally doing better this year than the last five years?"

The financial report shows that, in general, lodging tax revenues for 2023 are down when compared to 2021 and 2022, but up when compared to the years from 2007 to 2020.

The report states that compared to the pre-pandemic years, the com-

bined town and county 2023 lodging tax revenues reflect a 34.39 percent increase, or an increase of \$330,305.

When town collections for 2023 are compared to the year 2022, the numbers show a 14.69 percent (or a \$137,706) decrease, but show a nearly 13 percent increase when compared to the pre-pandemic years.

For the county's part, lodgers' tax revenue collection numbers for 2023 show a 6.88 percent (or a \$36,275) decrease when compared to the previous year, but show an 84 percent increase when compared to the pre-pandemic years.

When the town's and county's lodging collections are combined, it amounts to a nearly 12 percent decrease from the previous year, but reflects a 34.39 percent increase from the pre-pandemic years' collections.

This phenomenon was called a

"plateauing" by previous town manager Greg Schulte. The data reflects that the peak for lodging tax revenues was 2021, but since then a sort of plateau has formed that is establishing a higher line than the years before the pandemic.

This means that while tax revenue collections from both sales and lodging taxes might be down compared to the previous year, they are up in the longer-term trend.

At the meeting, Green said, "I don't see us ever matching the numbers that we saw in 2020 and 2021, not for quite some time."

However, she also noted that she didn't see the area's tourism-based economy dipping below what it was in the years before the pandemic.

"Pagosa has been discovered," she said.
derek@pagosasun.com

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County approves purchase of four grant-supported bus shelters

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

The Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) approved the purchase of four bus shelters for the Mountain Express Transit (MET) bus system at its March 19 meeting.

At a BoCC work session earlier in the day, Transportation Coordinator Kevin Bruce presented to the BoCC about the bus shelters, explaining that the bus shelters were budgeted last year and that 80 percent of the costs will be paid by grants from the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT).

He stated that the quotes his department received for the shelters were "wide ranging," but that he wanted to proceed with a bid from the Durango-based company ModStreet due to it being the only bidder to use steel construction instead of aluminum and being compliant with the American Disabilities Act.

He stated that the ModStreet shelters are modular, meaning they can be picked up and relocated, and that

ModStreet is the only company out of those that submitted quotes to provide solar lighting, a bike rack and a bench as part of the shelter.

Bruce commented that the industry standard is to provide a one-year warranty on bus shelters, but that ModStreet is providing a three-year warranty.

ModStreet was the "middle bid" in terms of cost, he added.

Commissioner Ronnie Maez asked if aluminum shelters are more expensive than steel ones.

Bruce explained that all the other bids were for aluminum shelters, including bids higher and lower than the ModStreet bid, but that he expected that the cost of shipping aluminum might contribute to a higher cost.

Maez commented that he likes that the shelters are movable.

Bruce added that the bike racks can be mounted on the shelter in multiple locations and the roofs can be realigned in multiple configurations, making the shelters highly customizable depending on location.

In response to questions from

Commissioner Warren Brown, Bruce explained that the county received five bids for the bus shelters with prices ranging from \$56,000 to \$76,000. ModStreet came in at \$69,127.

Brown asked if Bruce knew if the Town of Pagosa Springs plans to buy any bus shelters for town.

Bruce stated that he did not know of any such plans.

Brown suggested that the information on these shelters should be shared with the town to ensure consistency.

Bruce noted that, in a grant application for the Town-to-Lakes Trails project, the town included ModStreet products, but that he was unsure if the town intends to purchase from this supplier or if they were only included as an example for the grant.

In response to a question from County Manager Derek Woodman, Bruce explained that there are a "half dozen proposed locations" for the bus shelters, including at the intersection of Vista Boulevard and Bonanza Avenue, at Walmart, at City Market, at the new county transit

facility and at 1st Street near U.S. 160 and the proposed pedestrian bridge over the San Juan River.

Bruce also explained that the delivery time for the shelters would be 12 weeks, which is the fastest delivery time offered in the bids.

He added that gathering stakeholder input would be critical for determining the locations for the shelters.

Maez asked what Bruce's opinion is on where the shelters should be located, to which Bruce responded that he prefers the Vista and Bonanza intersection, Walmart, City Market and Pagosa Springs Middle School as locations.

Maez commented that Bruce is likely well informed about the correct locations and that he would "depend on you" to choose shelter locations.

At the meeting, Brown thanked Bruce for his work and pointed out that the CDOT grant will cover \$56,286.40 of the cost of the shelters.

The board then unanimously approved the purchase.
josh@pagosahun.com

Commissioners approve first readings of revised ordinances

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

At its March 19 meeting, the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) approved first readings of revised dog, noise and open burning ordinances.

County Attorney Todd Weaver explained that the Colorado General Assembly recently changed the enforcement provisions for these types of county ordinances from class 2 petty offenses to civil infractions, meaning the county ordinances need to be amended to reflect the state laws.

Weaver first presented the amended noise ordinance, explaining that the changes include alterations to the enforcement provisions to indicate that violations of the ordinance are civil infractions instead of class 2 petty offenses and minor clarifications to wording in other portions of

the ordinance.

The BoCC unanimously voted to accept the first reading of the amended ordinance.

Weaver then presented the amended dog ordinance, which include changes designating that violations of the ordinance would be civil infractions and not class 2 petty offenses and other minor clarifications and alterations to the ordinance's wording.

The board then unanimously approved the first reading of the revised ordinance.

Weaver moved on to presenting changes to the open burning ordinance, which include a variety of formatting and typographical changes, as well as new language indicating that violations of the ordinance would be civil infractions instead of class 2 petty offenses.

According to Weaver, the ordi-

nance changes also included the addition of a fine of not more than \$800 for violations that occur during stage 1 open burning restrictions.

The ordinance adds that this fine will be set by the county courts unless the violator wishes to admit guilt and pay a \$400 fine set by the penalty assessment procedures outlined in the ordinance.

The fine for violations during stage 1 open burning restrictions is a middle point between the up to \$600 fine for open burning violations occurring when no fire restrictions are in place and the up to \$1,000 fine for violations occurring when stage 2 open burning restrictions are in place that a court can impose.

At a BoCC work session earlier that day, Weaver explained that state law does not include guidance for what fines should be charged for violations that occur during stage 1 open burn-

ing restrictions and that he chose a middle value.

He added that, for those who wish to admit guilt and pay the fine for a violation, he implemented a 50 percent discount from the maximum court-determined fine in the ordinance.

Sheriff Mike Le Roux commented that this formulation of the fines was "perfect."

In response to a question from Commissioner Ronnie Maez, Weaver and Le Roux indicated that agricultural burning is exempted from the ordinance.

At the meeting, the BoCC unanimously approved the first reading of the revised open burning ordinance. Second readings of the ordinances are scheduled for April 16.

For more information on the ordinances, see the Public Notices section of this issue.
josh@pagosahun.com

Public Meetings

The following meetings are subject to change.

Thursday, March 28

Archuleta County Planning Commission meeting. 6 p.m., Archuleta County administration building, commissioners' meeting room, 398 Lewis St. View Zoom meeting at: <https://zoom.us/j/91609048375?pwd=d1FFV0J1cGVKa1NHWHFsa2taeGxtZz09>, meeting ID: 916 0904 8375, passcode: 4141885. For more information, visit <http://archuletacounty.org/agendacenter>.

Friday, March 29

Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners special meeting. 7:30 a.m., Archuleta County administration building, commissioners' meeting room, 398 Lewis St. View Zoom meeting at:

<https://zoom.us/j/91609048375?pwd=d1FFV0J1cGVKa1NHWHFsa2taeGxtZz09>, meeting ID: 916 0904 8375, passcode: 4141885. For more information, visit <http://archuletacounty.org/agendacenter>.

Monday, April 1

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

Tuesday, April 2

Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners work session. 8:30 a.m., Archuleta County administration building, commissioners' meeting room, 398 Lewis St. View Zoom meeting at: <https://zoom.us/j/91609048375?pwd=d1FFV0J1cGVKa1NHWHFsa2taeGxtZz09>, meeting ID: 916 0904 8375, passcode: 4141885. For more information, visit <http://archuletacounty.org/agendacenter>.

<https://zoom.us/j/91609048375?pwd=d1FFV0J1cGVKa1NHWHFsa2taeGxtZz09>, meeting ID: 916 0904 8375, passcode: 4141885. For more information, visit <http://archuletacounty.org/agendacenter>.

Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners meeting. 1:30 p.m., Archuleta County administration building, commissioners' meeting room, 398 Lewis St. View Zoom meeting at: <https://zoom.us/j/91609048375?pwd=d1FFV0J1cGVKa1NHWHFsa2taeGxtZz09>, meeting ID: 916 0904 8375, passcode: 4141885. For more information, visit <http://archuletacounty.org/agendacenter>.

Pagosa Springs Town Council meeting. 5 p.m. Town Hall, 551 Hot Springs Blvd. See town website for participation information: <https://pagosahun.com>.

pagosahun.com.

Thursday, April 4

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

Public meeting information should be sent to editor@pagosahun.com with "Public Meeting" in the subject line. The deadline is noon Monday each week prior to publication for that week's issue.

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| Pagosa Baking Company | Pagosa Springs Head Start |
| Healing Waters Resort and Spa | Seeds of Learning |
| Rosie's Pizzeria | Wings Early Childhood Center |



EASTER Egg Hunt

WYNDHAM PAGOSA ACTIVITY CENTER
538 Village Drive, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147

Sunday, March 31st at 10:00AM
Ages 3-5 & 6-10

Bring your own Easter basket!

Easter Bunny pictures
9:30 to 10:30

LPEA

Continued from front
socioation and Kit Carson Electric Cooperative, who have already exited Tri-State, and Mountain Parks Electric, Northwest Rural Public Power District and United Power, who will fully depart soon.

"This decision was not made lightly and is in alignment with the cooperative principles we were founded on almost 85 years ago," said Ted Compton, LPEA board president. "We want the autonomy to manage our future as we are more familiar with unique opportunities and challenges in our backyard than someone on the Front Range."

Over the past five years, LPEA has brought multiple solutions for its en-

ergy future to Tri-State, but Tri-State has not developed any solution approved by its regulator, FERC.

Without the ability to rework LPEA's current contract with Tri-State, which runs through the year 2050, LPEA has been unable to have more direct control over its own rates or to seek new clean energy opportunities and to bring those benefits to the local community.

"We want to take back control for our community to decide LPEA's future," Compton continued. "Staying with Tri-State creates future risk for our members based on experience. Tri-State proposed rate increases, created future energy rate uncertainty through a new rate structure, was downgraded by its financial rating

agencies, struggled to make margins and has had difficulty adapting to FERC regulation. LPEA should take responsibility for its own rates, resiliency and reliability to create better certainty for LPEA members."

Leaving the 50-year contract with Tri-State will allow LPEA to move beyond the current 5 percent limit of local energy development projects.

By leaving Tri-State, LPEA will be able to build and/or contract for its own renewable energy, encourage more roof-top solar production, incorporate battery storage and partner with members to build other generation sources.

New and local energy development projects will increase LPEA's energy reliability and opportunities for LPEA's

service region.

A good example of this potential is the Sunnyside Community Solar Garden in partnership with Fort Lewis College and La Plata County. LPEA leaving the Tri-State contract will create more opportunities to partner with local organizations, creating jobs, developing clean energy, improving LPEA's ability to keep the lights on, and keeping more of our community's dollars in our local and regional economy.

Monday's filing of the Notice of Intent to Withdraw starts a two-year time clock. During this time, LPEA will work to secure power contracts, accurately establish costs and identify the many details needed to exit the 50-year contract.

Director

Continued from front
said. "We also have a serious desire on the part of many people that we make a decision on the candidates that we interviewed."

He added that if the board didn't feel it could talk in open session, which he'd seen numerous other boards do, he would prefer that the board call a special meeting on Friday with an announced executive session.

Board vice president Jesse White explained counsel had given him and Rugar a suggested procedure to follow that included an executive session and steps to take afterward.

In later discussion on the topic, Rugar suggested the board could go into executive session at any time, indicating the board should "be protective" of other people's information and its processes for assigning salaries and benefits.

Hudson later reiterated he would be happy to consider a possible executive session at a later meeting, but that he didn't feel it was necessary at that meeting out of respect for the audience members present in person and online.

He added he thought the board could possibly pick a candidate to start negotiating with.

The board ultimately did not add a possible executive session to that evening's agenda.

In later conversation on the potential candidates, White noted the board had three outstanding candidates, and feedback from the interviews had been collected and given to the board about an hour prior.

He added he was impressed with the restorative practices board's interview skills and feedback.

He later noted each candidate, in addition to taking part in interviews, did a teaching activity with the fourth-grade class.

He further explained the three finalists came from a variety of sources, with one internal, one being a referral from a parent and the other coming through Indeed.

Board member Elly Osmera then explained the strategic planning committee took in about 20 applications for the job.

White told the board two candidates were invited to ask questions about the school before the job opened because they'd expressed interest in the job prior to it opening.

He added that six were invited to the first round of interviews, with five being interviewed.

Hudson offered a thanks for the compilation of the feedback, stating he had already received the parent and staff comments, and that he enjoyed reading the student input.

He added that he was pleased that three generations of his family were able to participate in the process, but noted there was not feedback from all board members.

He continued that it looked like there was a choice preferred strongly by the community, which the board could support, or it could assert it's the board and it knows better who the right candidate is and choose someone different.

He suggested if the board liked the first option, it could move forward.

"I don't know that it's quite as simple as that," Rugar said.

He added the board is charged with making decisions and not everyone has a vote.

"Everyone should have a voice," he said, adding not everyone has a vote and that is left up to the board.

Board member Pamela Meade then noted she appreciated the process and having so many people interacting with the candidates.

She suggested the board is tasked with picking not only a person, but with picking a skill set to bring forward into the role.

She added that no candidate had all the things the board was looking for, and that there is a question of what direction the board wants and if the board is willing to step up with to support skill development for the chosen person.

Rugar agreed and added it's rare to find the perfect candidate.

He noted the board would need to provide mentorship and opportunities, with it being a "duty" of the board to turn weaknesses into strengths.

Multiple board members suggested an executive session before making a decision.

Hudson agreed with Meade that the board was entering the conversation with thoughts of where PPOS is now and where it is heading with a new school director — either someone with a new outlook who will shake things up or someone to keep the board going in the current direction.

"I'm feeling that we're going in the

right direction right now thanks to the staff... and the board, of course. I feel like we're going in the right direction, and I'd like to pick a candidate who's going to continue taking us in that same direction," he said, adding, "And I think there's one candidate here that struck me as not the right candidate to take us in the direction we've been trying to go."

Hudson offered to mention the name of the candidate who he felt should be removed from consideration, with Rugar stating names were not needed.

Osmera suggested it would take time to digest the information on each candidate and the board should hold a special meeting.

Rugar also noted the board could desire to call a candidate back for another interview or for more information.

The board then opted to hold a special meeting on Friday evening, March 22.

At the March 22 special meeting, Hudson again stated he felt there was no need for the board to enter into executive session and that he'd had a good chance to read the collective feedback.

Rugar noted he'd also read the feedback and that he appreciated the time everyone put in.

He also reiterated it is a board decision and there were three very good candidates with various levels of experience and leadership.

He added that none of the three had been disqualified by him, noting they were all "excellent candidates."

He later added that PPOS has a "tremendous" foundation to build off of and that Reali-Crossland is a great leader and he wants to continue the current momentum.

Meade noted that the interview process was great and suggested the new person will need support from everybody in the community.

White then made a motion to enter into executive session, noting the board had a lot to discuss.

His motion passed with a 4-1 vote, with Hudson voting against it.

Following the executive session, Rugar made a motion in favor of Clyné, which failed for lack of a second.

He then made a motion in favor of Kaiser, which was seconded by White, but failed 4-1, with White the only vote in favor of Kaiser.

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March 31 at 9:30 am
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HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

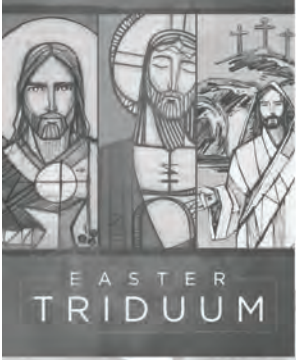
Lenten Penance Service
March 26, Tuesday
5:00 p.m. at JP II

March 28, Holy Thursday
7:00 p.m. Mass at Pope John Paul II

March 29, Good Friday
Good Friday Pilgrimage from IHM to JP II
We'll gather at IHM at 2:00 p.m.
4:00 p.m. Divine Mercy Chaplet at JP II Sanctuary
4:30 p.m. Stations of the Cross at JP II
5:30 p.m. Good Friday Liturgy at JP II

March 30, Holy Saturday
12:00 Noon Blessing of Easter Baskets at JP II
8:00 p.m. Easter Vigil at JP II

March 31, Easter Sunday
9:00 a.m. Mass at JP II
11:15 a.m. Mass at IHM



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Holy Thursday
March 28
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Good Friday
March 29
12:00 pm & 6:30 pm

Easter Sunday
March 31
7:00 am & 10:00 am



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5:30 PM - March 29th
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6:45 AM - March 31st
Sunrise Service

THREE MAIN EASTER CELEBRATION SERVICES

8:00 AM 9:30 AM 11:00 AM

(Kids Easter Egg Hunt directly following each service)

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Property

■ **Continued from front**
which currently has a balance of approximately \$3,000,000. This is the simplest and least expensive option," states the agenda document.

Town staff determined that the asking price for the land is a good deal. According to the town's contracted real estate agent CBRE, the value of the property lies between about \$3 million and \$4 million, with the town possibly acquiring it for only the \$850,000 asking price.

At the meeting, the council considered if it wanted town staff to bring back an ordinance to purchase the property outright, enter into a lease-purchase agreement or abandon the idea of acquiring the property altogether.

Community Development Director James Dickhoff explained that town staff had already conducted "a due diligence for the property, which included ... a phase I environmental site assessment," as well as a title report, survey, and a recording "of all the platted easements."

He said, "that all came out clear," adding that town staff has a good understanding of the "developability of the property."

He added that the seller's asking price of \$850,000, for an outright purchase is "probably less than half" of the current market rate for land in the area.

Council member Gary Williams commented, "The price is very good."

He added that the seller had "the best interest of the town in mind" when he offered the land at that price, adding that the land has potential for a number of recreational activities, as well as East End parking.

Council member Brooks Lindner agreed, saying that acquiring the property would align with "at least four or five of" the council's top priorities.

He called the offer "an incredible, outstanding deal," and noted that town ownership of the property would have "a positive economic impact on our community in the future in a number of ways. I'm very much in support of purchasing this property."

When asked to elaborate on the potential economic impacts of acquiring the property, he said that "the enhancement of parks and open spaces have been shown to have substantial economic impacts in rural communities with tourism-based economies."

He added, "When we have those amenities in our communities, it attracts visitors. And then there's all of the secondary economic impacts that we get from that, from our hotels, our transportation, all of our service businesses, and then all the multipliers that happen after that."

But Mayor Shari Pierce suggested that she is opposed to purchasing the property at this point in time.

She expressed worry about spending too much money and then not having it for some of the other issues coming down the pike.

"We don't have as much money as we think we do," she said.

In particular, she expressed worry about the potential high costs that the town will be required to spend on upgrading the Vista Wastewater Treatment Plant, run by the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District.

The town will be responsible for 25 percent of the upgrades required to bring the plant into compliance

with state environmental regulations, costing potentially millions of dollars.

"That's gonna move our sanitation district budget very low, and, so, basically, any thing that's gonna be done with the sanitation improvements — that we've been discussing as our No. 1 goal — we may be needing to loan money to the sanitation district out of our capital reserves, which is the same money we would be using to purchase this land," she said.

Because of this, she suggested that it is "not the best time to make a [land] purchase. Those are my thoughts."

She recommended waiting to purchase the property at a later date.

Council member Leonard Martinez also expressed that he was opposed to an outright purchase of the property.

He explained that since no concrete plans had been identified for the use of the property, he didn't see the "strategic alignment" for purchasing it outright.

However, he noted that he would be open to the lease-purchase option while the town works out a specific strategy for the property.

"I would not be in favor of purchasing it outright at this time," he said, adding, "I would recommend that we look at a lease until we can get the strategic alignment in a way that is more robust ... I'm not as interested in buying it without a good strategic alignment."

But the majority on the council leaned toward an outright purchase.

Council member Matt DeGuise stated he thinks the town should purchase the property outright and not do a lease-purchase agreement.

He said that the council shouldn't "saddle future councils with debt that

we've decided to take on," adding that in the long run it would save the town money.

Council member Madeline Bergon agreed with DeGuise about the outright purchase, but added she also wanted to be upfront about the council's outlook for the property being rooted in the idea of expanding parks and recreational opportunities, as well as East End parking, and not so much with the development of workforce housing.

"I just don't want to be not forthright in saying we have an intention for this property that might not be fully there," she said.

Williams agreed, saying that it "doesn't excite me to build workforce housing there."

He suggested, "Let us see what our constituents want to do with the property."

Lindner said, "It's my understanding" that the seller is only offering the land "to us at that value," emphasizing the tremendous opportunity that could be lost if the town didn't act soon.

Ultimately, Williams motioned to bring an ordinance back before council to purchase the property outright at the offered price, using the town's General Fund capital reserves.

The motion was seconded and carried 4-2, with a roll call vote showing that DeGuise, Williams, Lindner and Bergon favored the motion, with Pierce and Martinez voting "Nay."

Council member Mat deGraaf was absent from the meeting, but Williams stated earlier in the meeting that deGraaf was "very much in favor" of purchasing the property.
derek@pagosasun.com

Districts

■ **Continued from front**

Additionally, there remains serious concern about the long-term viability of this system, which has significant problems with root intrusions, pipe deterioration and clogging that result in significant inflow and infiltration (I and I) of water into the system, the MOU states.

The new agreement comes on the heels of a town-commissioned 2023 study by Roaring Fork Engineering that examined the town's options, including consolidation with PAWSD.

The study concludes that, if a merger occurred, the community might be better served by a single wastewater treatment plant, which would likely be located in the southern portion of Yamaguchi Park, than by the current pumping arrangement, the MOU states.

The MOU specifies that, prior to any decision on consolidation, the PSSGID will conduct an inventory of its current collection system and provide PAWSD with a list of repairs and replacements that will be needed to raise the conditions of the system to PAWSD's standards.

The agreement adds that the town will commit to appropriating the funds and resources necessary to complete these repairs to the satisfaction of PAWSD.

If and when a decision is ultimately made to merge the two districts, the town will move forward with securing funding and completing the repairs necessary to make its system's condition acceptable to PAWSD and will continue to maintain its system during the consolidation process, according to the MOU.

For its part, PAWSD will conduct an analysis of if the flow through the present pipeline from Yamaguchi Park to the Vista plant could be reversed, enabling the option for PAWSD's waste to be shuttled from Vista to a new plant near Yamaguchi Park, the MOU states.

Another major concern, for both entities, is that PAWSD will be required to comply with Colorado Regulation 85 and federal Regulation 31 — environmental regulations that have to do with nitrogen and phosphorus outflows from wastewater treatment plants.

Meeting these regulations will require costly upgrades to the Vista plant, and per the current agreements between the two entities that date back to 2012, the PSSGID would be responsible for 25 percent of the upgrade costs at the PAWSD-owned facility.

Town Public Works Director Karl Johnson told the PSSGID board that costs for the engineering services to bring the Vista plant into compliance stands at \$763,743, and that the PSSGID's share of this cost stands at \$184,185. Plummer Associates is listed as the contractor for the engineering portion of the project to bring the Vista plant in compliance with Regulation 85.

"Not knowing" what the exact dollar amount would be when the district was in the middle of its budgeting process, "we did not put anything in the budget for this," Onsager said.

The PSSGID board ultimately approved the funds, paying for its share of the engineering costs out of its Capital Reserves Fund at the meeting.

It was noted, however, that this amount would only cover the engineering costs, not the cost of the

entire project.

Onsager explained that the total cost for the Vista plant upgrades, which would include both engineering and construction, is estimated to come in around \$8 million, which would put the town's sanitation district on the hook for about \$2 million in the future.

Such future obligated costs of maintaining the current system is what led Roaring Fork's analysis to suggest that the two entities explore the possibility of consolidation.

Later in the PSSGID meeting, a motion to approve the new MOU was carried unanimously by the PSSGID board.

Harris explained that new MOU also creates a "working group, made up mostly of staff," but that the PSSGID board would need to appoint a board representative to the group, noting that the PAWSD board already appointed one of its members to serve.

The PSSGID appointed board member Leonard Martinez. The PAWSD board chose Gene Tautges to serve as its representative for the group.

Colorado schools to receive \$11.4 million to combat youth vaping crisis

Colorado Attorney General's Office

On Wednesday, Colorado Attorney General Phil Weiser announced that the Colorado Department of Law will collaborate with the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) to allocate \$11.4 million in grants to schools to combat the youth vaping crisis.

This funding stems from the attorney general's multimillion-dollar settlement with e-cigarette manufacturer Juul Labs Inc., ending a lawsuit against the company for targeting young people in its marketing and misrepresenting the health risks of its products.

"Colorado has a youth mental health crisis that has fueled a vaping epidemic. These funds will support solutions and preventive measures that will help our children to make informed and better decisions about their health and well-being," said Weiser. "We are excited about our partnership with the Colorado Department of Education, which will help ensure that all Colorado schools have the opportunity to access and invest these funds."

The Vaping Prevention Education Grant aims to bolster Colorado schools' capacity to tackle youth vaping through a comprehensive strategy that encompasses education,

prevention and treatment, which may include mental and behavioral health services.

Up to \$3.8 million in grants will be disbursed annually to local education providers serving K-12 for three consecutive years, starting in the 2024-2025 school year.

"The new Vaping Education Prevention Grant provides much-needed resources for our school districts and boards of cooperative educational services to support students in learning about making healthy and responsible choices," said Colorado Education Commissioner Susana Córdova.

Building on the foundation laid by the School Health Professional Grant offered by the CDE, programs receiving the Vaping Prevention Education Grant will incorporate all or some of the following priority criteria:

- Address the youth vaping crisis through education, prevention, or

treatment;

- Provide professional development opportunities for school staff;
- Increase family and community involvement in promoting healthy lifestyles and choices for students;
- Include activities and programming that incorporate youth voices and are culturally responsive; and
- Adopt or enhance comprehensive vaping and drug prevention policies that include electronic nicotine delivery systems and move toward student-centered alternatives to suspension approaches.

In the 2023 Juul settlement, Colorado received \$31.7 million. The CDE partnership is one part of a comprehensive, multifaceted approach to address the immediate and long-lasting health implications of underage vaping use that the Department of Law is pursuing.

Earlier this year, the department issued a request for proposals to nonprofit organizations, providing \$6 million in funding opportunities to advance the same goals of this process, with grant awards set to be announced in July.

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County selects strategic planning consultant

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

At its March 19 meeting, the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) selected Civic Possible as the consultant to create the county's strategic plan.

The selection followed presentations by five finalists at the March 12 BoCC work session.

The first presentation at the work session was by Civic Possible, represented by Jason Schneider.

Schneider highlighted Civic Possible's experience working in rural communities and focus on the qualitative elements of strategic planning.

He stated that the company understands the mechanics behind developing community agreement.

The planning process, Schneider explained, would begin with work to understand the county's position in the community before working on co-designing the plan with county staff and performing outreach in the community.

He indicated that, once the plan is completed, Civic Possible will put in place monitoring and coach staff on implementing the plan.

He commented that the company works to avoid plans "sitting on shelves" and puts in place metrics for plan performance, as well as providing assistance and annual reviews.

Commissioner Ronnie Maez noted that the county is aware of its lack of funds for projects and asked Schneider, "How can you guys tell us what we don't already know?"

He answered that Civic Possible focuses on uncovering insights from experts in the community, noting that many communities assume what people know and that residents may have greater knowledge than expected.

He acknowledged that power dynamics and the political landscape can limit what solutions are available and commented that Civic Possible sees itself as a facilitator for community-based solutions and not as the primary planners responsible for devising the plan.

Commissioner Warren Brown commented that community engagement is important to the strategic planning process and asked how much of the engagement would be in-person and online.

Schneider explained that the planning process would include three weeks of in-person work by the company, one-on-one interviews and community listening sessions primarily conducted in person.

He added that, following these community engagement events, there would be follow-up planning sessions with county leadership and then public listening sessions to review the draft plan.

Brown asked if Civic Possible has staff that speak Spanish.

Schneider commented that the company does not and typically uses local consultants who can speak Spanish and broaden the team's language proficiencies.

Brown then asked how long the strategic plan would be for.

Schneider explained that this would be determined by the county commissioners and staff, but that he would recommend three years for a plan with specific steps and five years for a vision document.

Maez asked how the company will manage its community outreach plan.

Schneider stated that the company will use county leadership to find community leaders to conduct interviews with in addition to finding other viewpoints in the community.

County Manager Derek Woodman asked Schneider about Civic Possible's success in working with other stakeholders and local governments to develop and implement strategic plans.

Schneider explained that the company focuses on getting stakeholders from multiple organizations to work together and builds its planning around the multiple organizations, including attempting to build buy-in from these organizations early in the process.

Schneider then asked why the county is working on creating a strategic plan now.

Commissioner Veronica Medina stated that the county previously had a strategic plan, but it was not used, and that the county is trying to update it due the number of events occurring in the community.

Brown asked how often the company comes in at budget for its projects.

Schneider stated that the company charges a flat fee and does not charge extra for additional work, although the contract and costs could be altered if the scope of work is changed.

The second presentation was from

Future iQ, represented by David Buerle.

Buerle commented that the county is in a "fascinating point of change" and that Future iQ would work with the county to determine potential future trajectories for the county and an ideal future path for the county, as well as what steps will be needed to achieve it.

He added that the company would also work to facilitate deeper conversations about change in the community.

Medina asked where an online project portal containing information on the plan's development that was referenced in Future iQ's proposal would be located.

Buerle indicated that there are several options for how this portal could be managed, including the portal being managed by the company with links to it on the county website.

He added that the portal helps community members follow the planning process and engage with it and, following Medina voicing concerns about the amount of time county staff are currently investing in addressing American Disabilities Act accessibility on the county website, stated that Future iQ could run the portal, which would be branded similarly to the county website.

Medina asked what the timeline for a community survey proposed by Future iQ would be, what questions would be included and what the return rate would likely be.

Buerle explained that the formatting of the survey could be determined early in the planning process, but the company often uses longer surveys that take 10 to 15 minutes to complete and ask "quite thoughtful questions" about change and the trajectory of the community.

He commented that these surveys typically have a 75 to 80 percent rate of completion among those who begin the survey and often garner 700 to 1,000 responses in communities of 10,000 to 20,000 people.

Buerle added that these surveys typically run for about a month and that the company attempts to leverage survey participants to spread word about the survey.

He also stated that the company attempts to get enough survey responses to have statistically representative and defensible results.

Maez asked if the survey could determine whether respondents are full- or part-time residents, with Buerle indicating it could include profiling questions and be filtered based on them.

Maez commented that people moving into the community change the community, and Buerle added that the county might want to understand the nature and forces driving these changes.

Brown asked if the stakeholder interviews that the company plans to conduct would be conducted in person.

Buerle explained that the company prefers to do as much of the strategic planning process as possible in person, including interviews.

Brown also asked what length of strategic plan the company would aim to create and if anyone in the company speaks Spanish.

Buerle responded that the county would set the timeframe for the plan, but he would recommend a longer planning period.

He added that the company does not have any Spanish speakers, but does have translation capabilities and would work with interpreters and local community organizations who can assist with translation.

Brown also asked if the rate quoted by Future iQ would be a flat rate if no change orders are made, which Buerle confirmed.

Maez inquired how Future iQ could tell the county information it does not already know.

Buerle commented that the commissioners already understand the community, but that outside voices can help facilitate deeper conversations and uncover local needs.

He also stated that Future iQ has experience managing community dialogues, developing ways to understand future trends and community perspectives, and experience building alignment between organizations and stakeholders.

Woodman asked Buerle about the company's ability to collaborate with a variety of community stakeholders.

Buerle responded that Future iQ has succeeded in doing this, and that early outreach and community interviews are key for building support.

The board then heard a presentation from Stratallysts, represented by Shannon Flowers.

Flowers highlighted her and her staff's background in local government and their desire to create strategic plans that lead to actionable results.

She explained that the first phase of the proposed planning process would involve creating a work plan and a six-month timeline, while phase two would include distributing surveys to county staff and community members and creating a report on the current environment and desires for the future.

She added that there would also be an orientation session for county staff to help set expectations for the plan.

A fourth phase would follow, Flowers explained, involving the creation of a strategic plan facilitated through a three-day planning event involving county staff, commissioners and community members.

She explained that the final stage of the planning process would be identifying obstacles to the plans and strategies to address them, as well as providing implementation support and assistance.

In response to questions from the commissioners, Flowers stated that the company could use surveys to distinguish between short-term and long-term residents, that she would recommend a five-year strategic plan, and that the company prefers to conduct interviews and events in person but also has virtual capabilities.

She also indicated that she speaks fluent Spanish and that the company has experience contacting minority populations.

Woodman then asked about the company's success in working with a range of stakeholders, which Flowers responded the company is very successful at doing.

Woodman also asked about the costs of creating and implementing the plan.

Flowers stated that the cost for creating the plan would be \$55,000, which would include six to eight weeks of implementation support.

Next, the commissioners heard a presentation from Better City, represented by Eric Gibson and Trina Kittleson.

Kittleson explained that the strategic planning process would involve identifying needs and objectives for the project; conducting research and analysis of previous data; performing stakeholder engagement activities like interviews, focus groups and public surveys; and building a strategic plan based on this information, including clear implementation steps.

Maez asked how the company would help the county learn things it does not already know.

Gibson highlighted the company's collaborative approach and ability to ask questions that may not be obvious to local organizations as key assets in providing valuable insights for the plan.

He also noted the company's experience with implementation and the variety of approaches to planning it could take.

Brown asked how stakeholder engagement would be conducted.

Kittleson stated that community engagement would be mostly done digitally, although the company will do some in-person focus groups.

Brown asked if company staff speak Spanish, which Kittleson and Gibson indicated they do and that they can do focus groups and outreach in Spanish.

Medina asked if the company could include more in-person meetings.

Kittleson stated that this could be done, but that might require additional travel fees.

Maez asked if the surveys the company would conduct could differentiate between full- and part-time residents.

Gibson indicated that they could and that there are a variety of ways that this could be done.

Medina also asked how the company determines survey questions, with Gibson explaining they are determined through collaboration with the county and meetings with the commissioners.

Woodman then asked about the company's experience working with a variety of stakeholders.

Gibson explained that the company has prior experience working on plans with a wide variety of stakeholders and tries to involve stakeholders in key questions and tasks.

He concluded by highlighting the data dashboard that Better City would create as part of the planning process, which he stated presents data to the community and helps further understanding of the planning project.

The BoCC then heard a final presentation from Steady State Impact Strategies, represented by Garrett Landry.

Landry explained that the company has a range of experience and focuses on building "pragmatic" plans that can be easily implemented

and include clear metrics and targets.

He stated that the planning process would be data-driven and would involve looking at real-time community and economic data, conducting stakeholder interviews, and surveying the community with a range of questions to better understand community sentiments.

In response to questions from the BoCC, Landry explained that these surveys could differentiate between residents and nonresidents, that the company prefers to conduct community meetings and stakeholder interviews in person, and that it has the capacity to communicate in Spanish through hired contractors.

In response to a question from Woodman concerning the company's capacity to work with varied stakeholders, Landry stated that the company has wide experience with such work and considers it a core part of the planning process.

He also stated Steady State aims to create plans that can be implemented without further support from the company.

Following the presentations, Maez commented that all the presentations were high-quality, but that he

■ See Consultant A11


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Sports



Results released for ski area's St. Patrick's Day, fifth fun races

By Shelley Raymond
Wolf Creek Ski Area

Wolf Creek Ski Area hosted its St. Patrick's Day Fun race on Saturday, March 16.

This modified giant slalom was held on Lower Charisma and, with a nearly 100-inch base, was enjoyed by all. The skies were cloudy with light snow and the temperatures hovered around 20 degrees, which made for fun and soft conditions for the race.

There was a nice turnout of 43 racers from Texas, Kansas and Colorado — many of whom were visiting for spring break.

The three fastest times of the day were from the men's group, and all three racers hailed from Pagosa Springs. Two of the top three racers, Cameron Parker and Casey Bristow, were in the men's 41-50 group, with Parker taking the top spot with a time of 30.13. Cedar Liverett, in our boys' 15-17 age group, came in second with a time of 30.35, just two-tenths of a second behind Parker. Bristow's third-place time of 30.90 was within seven-tenths of a second from the top spot, making for a truly exciting race in the men's category.

The ladies' race proved just as exciting as the men's, with less than two seconds separating the first- and third-place finishers of the day.

Amarillo, Texas, resident Meredith Jameson of our 41-50 group came in first with an amazing time of 33.69. Tarrie Burnett, of Pagosa Springs, came in just behind Jameson with a time of 34.52; and Indie Howe, from Monte Vista, rounded out the top three with another great time of 35.59.

Overall, the race was a huge suc-



Photo courtesy Kevin Bruce, Wolf Creek Ski Area

Snowboarders take part in a recent fun race at Wolf Creek Ski Area. The end of this year's Fun Race Series will be the Easter Bunny Fun Race on Saturday, March 30.

cess and let the spring break crowd let loose and enjoy the great snow conditions.

The next fun race in the fun race series was held on Saturday, March 23, and again brought out a very competitive racer pool with an astonishing 72 racers from around the Colorado area, as well as Oklahoma, New Mexico and North Carolina.

The fifth fun race of the series proved to be a very exciting race and the top three finishers were from three different age divisions in the men's group.

The overall first-place finisher was David Kelly, of Littleton, from the men's 41-50 group, who finished with a time of 26.61. Our second-place finisher was in our men's 26-30 age group: Forrest Czarneck, of Evergreen, came in with a time of 27.56. Finally, finishing out the top three was from our boys 12-14 group, Isaac Honto, of Pagosa Springs. Honto had a very impressive finish with a time of 27.66.

Our ladies' group also proved to

be on top of its game with another close race.

The top two showings of the ladies came from the girls' 12-14 age group. Maxine Long, of South Fork, and Alex Pearson, of Henderson, N.C., came in first and second with times of 28.95 and 32.07, respectively. Our third-place finisher in the fun race was another South Fork resident, Maddie Averette, with a very impressive time of 32.32. Great job, ladies.

The end of the Fun Race Series is quickly approaching with our Easter Bunny Fun Race this Saturday, March 30. This will be the final fun race of the season and should not be missed — remember, medals are given to the top three finishers in each age division.

In addition to the fun race on Saturday, the Easter Bunny will be hopping on up to visit the kiddos on Sunday and holding his annual Easter egg hunt, bringing cheer and joy to both the young and young at heart. We look forward to seeing you on the mountain.

SOCCER

Lady Pirates set to return to action April 3

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Lady Pirate soccer team will continue its season following spring break with games against Telluride in Telluride on April 3 and Alamosa at home on April 5.

Both games will take place at 4 p.m.

Coach Trevor Gian explained that the team worked on refining its formation and cohesion following its victory over Lake County on March 19 and will continue to do so when practices resume after spring break.

He stated that he is also considering shifting the team's formation to a more defensive arrangement for the beginning of the matches against Telluride and Alamosa to give the Lady Pirates a chance to assess the opposing team and improve their opportunities to defend against the pressure these teams may exert.

He commented that both of these matches will likely be "very tough, very competitive" games against strong opposing teams.

Gian added that he does not have an expectation of if the team will win or lose these matches and is focused on the team improving and continuing to make adjustments.

"My expectation is to go out there and play with some effort and some heart, kind of like we've been doing," he said. "There might be stuff we still have to work on, and we'll definitely see that in the game, talk about it and try to adjust for the next one."

The coach commented that the team's schedule will pick up in the number of weekly games in April compared to March.

However, he noted that the slower start was "pretty nice" and gave the team time to practice and refine its skills as well as make adjustments following matches.

"I'm excited to gear up and get into it because that will just kind of show us where we're at and what we need to work on a little more than the spread out games and practices," Gian said, referring to the busier portion of the schedule.

He also highlighted that both the

matches against Telluride and Alamosa will be accompanied by junior varsity (JV) matches.

Gian added that he is "excited" about these JV matches as they will give the team's younger players additional opportunities to play against opponents closer to their skill level.

The team's roster contains 26 players, 10 of whom are freshman and seven of whom are sophomores.

"It's kind of nice to have that option and be able to have those games as well," he said. "With the numbers, it's nice to kind of designate some of more experienced players as varsity, some of the players that are developing but show that effort and attitude, they're going to place in varsity, but also, because of how many young players we have, it's nice to get them experience as a group on the JV games as well 'cause then they'll develop and grow together."

The results of the varsity matches against Telluride and Alamosa will be reported in the April 11 issue of The SUN.

josh@pagosasun.com

Consultant

Continued from A10

preferred Steady State and Stratallysts. Brown commented that he preferred Civic Possible and Steady State.

Medina commented that she felt Civic Possible was the correct choice, pointing out its implementation assistance.

Maez stated that he liked Stratallysts for its experience in local governments, involvement in the area and Spanish-speaking capability.

Medina then directed staff to put Steady State, Stratallysts and Civic Possible on the agenda of the next BoCC meeting for the board to pick a strategic consulting contractor.

At the March 19 meeting, the commissioners voted to select a consultant.

Brown expressed a preference for Civic Possible due to its implementation support.

Finance Director Chad Eaton stated that Civic Possible's bid was at \$74,250, Stratallysts' bid was at \$55,864 but an additional year of followup would cost \$19,348 for a total cost of \$75,213, and Steady State's bid was \$62,500 but a year of implementation follow up would range from \$36,000 to \$46,000.

Medina commented that the cost of Steady State would eliminate it from contention.

Maez stated that he preferred Stratallysts due to the company "sharing a lot more common interest with this board" than Civic Possible.

"I think they expressed to me a better understanding of Archuleta County than what Civic did," Maez said. "That's my reasoning for it."

Medina commented that she was concerned that Stratallysts appeared to be focused on creating a plan that the county could implement without assistance and that she was unsure what form its additional assistance would take.

She added that she wondered if Stratallysts might not be strong at assisting with implementation.

Maez commented that the company has a "proven record" with other

counties.

Brown stated that all of the companies could have done a suitable job, but that he felt Civic Possible "seemed to have the whole package planned out and it was a shovel-ready program from beginning to end."

He added that also felt Civic Possible had a superior presentation.

Medina commented that Civic Possible was her No. 1 choice and "I didn't really have a No. 2."

Brown then moved to select Civic Possible as the consultant to create the county strategic plan, which Medina seconded.

The motion then passed with Medina and Brown voting in support and Maez voting against.

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Outdoors



SUN photo/Randi Pierce

Elk take advantage of the lack of snow between recent snowstorms. Motorists are reminded to watch for elk, as well as other critters, looking to cross roads.

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 conditions. 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 condi-

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

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 assessing roads in April and opening ■ See Impassible A16

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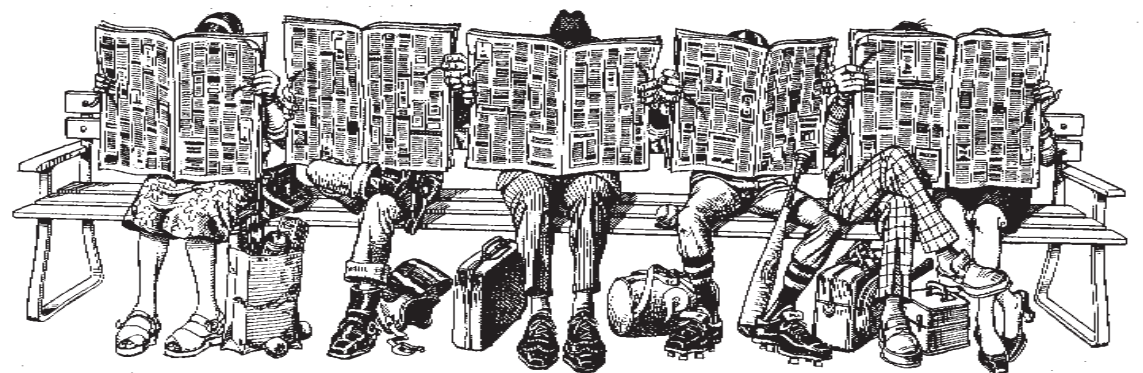
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Photos courtesy Charles Martinez and Kieth Bruno

Fifth-graders from Pagosa Springs Middle School participate in a field science day downtown on Friday, March 22. Students spend the day rotating through activities representative of different natural resource careers.

Eighth annual field science day for held for fifth-graders

By Keith Bruno
Audubon Rockies

Last Friday, fifth-grade students from Pagosa Springs Middle School (PSMS) gathered at Mary Fisher Park at the base of Reservoir Hill to spend a day in the field rotating through activities representative of different natural resource careers.

What has historically been scheduled for the Great Backyard Bird Count in February, when snow is typically readily abundant (even at lower elevations), was postponed due to scheduling complications.

Thus, this year's "Science on Snow" was a late March reframe and featured new station activities in addition to the tradition of birding along the San Juan Riverwalk.

Thanks to U.S. Forest Service personnel Adam Tlachac, Hannah Friedrichsen, Adriana Palomar, Smokey Bear and others, the students were able to become familiar with forester's tools, measuring tree diameters and heights, and discuss

wildfire ecology and the associated tools and actions required to manage a forest.

Further, PSMS Principal Chris Hinger was delighted to trade his administrative cap and get back into the field with students, teaching a lesson on the geology of downtown Pagosa Springs.

And volunteers from the Weminuche Audubon Society (WAS) led students on birding routes along the downtown river and wetlands, effectively creating a snapshot of bird species found between 1st Street on the northeast end all the way down to Apache Bridge on the southwest end. WAS volunteers included Ben Bailey, Kay Kaylor, Charles Martinez, Josh Pike and Jean Zirnheld. The students were also delighted to bird with their science teacher, Chris Couch.

Collectively, students identified and logged 33 species of birds along the Riverwalk and adjacent neighborhoods.

This species list has been uploaded to eBird, a global community

science platform, which helps to inform scientists on bird populations.

Some exciting sights from the day included a female red crossbill (females exhibit near-yellow coloration) extracting seeds from spruce cones next to Hot Spring Boulevard bridge, a sharp-shinned hawk, a couple of Lincoln's sparrows noted near the Geothermal Greenhouse Partnership site, a number of cinnamon teal stopping over at the Ross Aragon Community Center ponds en route to breeding grounds north, and other early migrants such as mountain bluebirds, a Say's phoebe and a turkey vulture, indicating that spring is indeed here.

One group even got to witness a sly fox working the perimeter of the wetland ponds, looking to investigate already-active goose nests.

It is by exposing students to these salient, observational experiences in nature that can light sparks of interest for the future, and open a door into different career opportunities in the natural resources field.

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Good luck, Pirates!



Pagosa Springs Elementary School invites you to

Kindergarten Orientation Family Night

Mrs. Vining and the PSES Kindergarten teachers invite all preschool families entering Kindergarten (age 5 by October 1st, 2024) for the 2024-25 school year to drop-in orientation. Come meet our Kindergarten teachers, who can't wait to meet their future students.

4-6 pm Tuesday, April 9th

- Participate in fun activities
- Meet our amazing teachers
- Meet our Area Preschool Directors & Principal Vining
- Explore the classrooms
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Check us out on our Facebook page to see what a school year looks like for our students:
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Weekly camp fee \$110 per child, \$80 per each additional child in the same household
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The Blotter

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

Archuleta County Sheriff's Office

Calls for service for week: 216.

March 17 — No offense listed, Harman Park Drive.
 March 18 — Speeding 25-39 mph over prima facie limit, passed on left when prohibited by signs and/or markers, drove vehicle without valid driver's license, U.S. 160/County Road 700.
 March 18 — Warrant arrest, North Pagosa Boulevard.

March 18 — Violation of restraining order, obstructing peace officer/police animal/fireman, obstructing governmental operations, bias-motivated crimes intimidation, resisting arrest, North Pagosa Boulevard.
 March 18 — Obstructing governmental operations, resisting arrest, North Pagosa Boulevard.

March 19 — Drove vehicle while under the influence of alcohol, careless driving, Meadows Drive.
 March 20 — Menacing-felony-aggravated-weapon, criminal mischief, domestic violence, USFS 029.
 March 20 — Fraud by check-other method, County Road 119.

March 22 — Abandonment of motor vehicle, East U.S. 160.
 March 22 — Criminal mischief, information only, Spruce Circle.
 March 23 — Agency assist, North 2nd Street.

March 23 — Warrant arrest, first-degree criminal trespass other intent, second-degree criminal trespass, Bonanza Avenue.

March 23 — Violation of restraining order, U.S. 160.

March 23 — Drove vehicle while under the influence of alcohol, failed to dim lights, drove vehicle without valid driver's license, open container in a motor vehicle, County Road 600/ Back Swing Drive.

March 24 — Theft-shoplifting, trespass warning, North Pagosa Boulevard.

March 24 — Death investigation, no location listed.

March 24 — Violation of restraining order.

Town of Pagosa Springs Police Department

Calls for service for week: 146.

March 9 — Criminal mischief, San Juan Street.

March 9 — Found property, Pagosa Street.

March 10 — Shoplifting, U.S. 84.

March 11 — Sex assault of child, Hot Springs Boulevard.

March 11 — Harassment, East Pagosa Street.

March 13 — Drove vehicle when license suspended, U.S. 160/Boulder Drive.

March 13 — Failed to give information/aid in accident, East Pagosa Street.

March 13 — Warrant arrest, North Pagosa Boulevard, U.S. 160.

March 14 — Warrant arrest, Eagle Drive.

March 15 — Found property, East Pagosa Street.

March 15 — DUI, speeding, failed to drive in single lane, expired plates, drove vehicle with expired license, San Juan Street/7th Street.

March 15 — Missing property, Tallisman Drive.

Pagosa Springs Municipal Court: Judge Anthony D. Edwards

March 18 — Alexandra Moore, unsafe backing, two points off, fine and surcharge — \$37.

March 18 — Jeff Harding, improper use of disabled parking privileges, fine — \$100.

Archuleta County Court: Judge Justin P. Fay

March 19 — Rusty L. Russell, license plates-expired, fines and costs — \$120.50.

March 22 — Ernest J. Romero, speeding 5-9 over, fines and costs — \$125.

Archuleta County Court: Judge Douglas S. Walker

March 20 — Julia Kristen Boerne, speeding 20-24 over, fines and costs — \$290.

March 20 — Jeremy Ray Bell, driving under restraint, fines and costs — \$177.50.

March 20 — Sonya Pardo, resisting arrest, 10 days jail, fines and costs — \$219.50.

March 20 — Matthew R. Prather, assault 3-know/reckless cause injury, 20 hours community service, 60 days jail suspended imposition, fines and costs — \$199.50.

March 20 — Elijah James Lucero, speeding 10-19 over limit, fines and costs — \$210.50.

March 20 — Case M. Wilder, speeding 10-19 over, fines and costs — \$225.

March 20 — Amy Nicole Sykes, failed to stop at stop sign, fines and costs — \$140.

March 20 — Lando Seth Scroggins, license plates-expired, fines and costs — \$155.50.

March 20 — Briana Ann Pacheco, failed to use turn signal, fines and costs — \$105.

March 20 — Christopher Ryan Moody, obedience to official traffic control device, fines and costs — \$170.

March 22 — Mark Elgin Robison, registration-unregistered vehicle, driver's license-driving outside class, fines and costs — \$207.50.

6th Judicial District Court: Judge Justin P. Fay

No report.

6th Judicial District Court: Judge Jeffrey R. Wilson

No report.

Impassible

Continued from A14

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 impassable 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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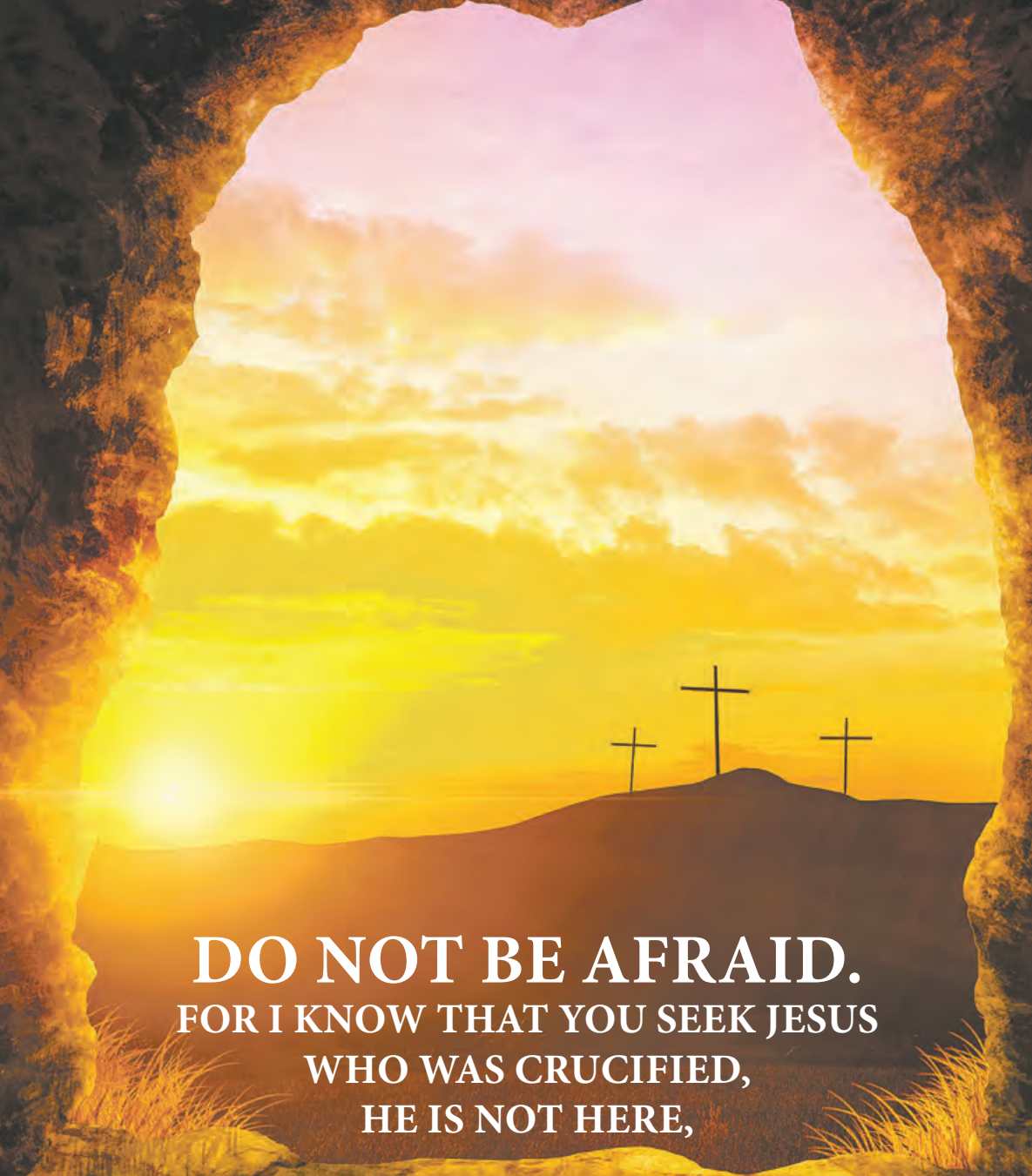
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preview

ARTS & LIFE

Animal Shelter Baby Shower

10 a.m. to noon • Saturday, April 6 • PLPOA Clubhouse



Photo courtesy Humane Society of Pagosa Springs

Third Animal Shelter Baby Shower event set for April 6

By Kate Simmons

Humane Society of Pagosa Springs

Please join us for our third Animal Shelter Baby Shower event, aimed at supporting the upcoming puppy and kitten season and your local Humane Society of Pagosa Springs.

The event will take place on Saturday, April 6, at the Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Association Clubhouse from 10 a.m. to noon.

Every year, during the spring season, our animal shelter is overwhelmed with kittens and puppies that are in need of care until they are ready for adoption. We provide a thorough examination of each of our precious little ones, including weighing them, scanning them for ringworm, testing them for FELV, vaccinating them and deworming them. We also keep a careful record of their weight progress and re-vaccinate them as they grow to ensure they are healthy and ready to go home with their forever family.

We have seen firsthand the heartbreak of puppies who lose their lives to parvo by not being properly vaccinated. Therefore, we conduct a test on each puppy before admitting them into the shelter and then quarantine them until a second test is performed. Once cleared, they follow the same routine as kittens with a series of three DA2PP vaccinations to protect them from distemper and parvo, as well as deworming.

Newborns usually spend about three months in the shelter under constant monitoring and care, including bottle feeding when a foster home is not available.

If you are interested in fostering these tender charges, please contact the shelter to apply at (970) 731-4771.

It costs a substantial amount to provide this care, which is far from offset by our low adoption fees.

This is where you can help.

We need your support to provide the critical funding that pays for medical services, food and shelter for these babies in need.

Our Animal Shelter Baby Shower is a fun-filled event that you can enjoy with your friends and family. We have mystery boxes up for sale, and in homage to our chocolate auction from prior years, we will be including exquisite and delicious dessert along with many other fun and incredible prizes. Visit our website, pagosahumane.org, for more details.

You can purchase a ticket to attend the event, buy shower gifts online through the Amazon link on our site, buy from our registry at our local Chow Down, or make a monetary donation to help cover veterinary costs.

Light brunch refreshments will be served at the event, and each ticket grants the attendee one free drink from our bar, which will host mimosas and other beverages available for purchase as well.

Share in the magic of springtime among fellow animal lovers, bring your friends and enjoy a morning of relaxing fun.

The Humane Society of Pagosa Springs is a local private nonprofit organization that operates the only animal shelter in Archuleta County. Your local humane society does not receive funding from national animal welfare organizations like the Humane Society of the United States, American Humane, ASPCA or any others. Private donations, grants, and thrift store revenues cover only a portion of animal shelter operating expenses. The remainder of the shelter costs must be met through fundraising events.

Funds raised through our events directly benefit the homeless dogs and cats in our community. Board members and volunteers donate their time and talents to handle fundraising efforts by the organization, and new volunteers are always welcome.

For more information about donating, please contact the Humane Society of Pagosa Springs administration office at (970) 264- 5549 or email us at hsadmin@pagosahumane.org.

The Humane Society of Pagosa Springs is a 501(c) (3) charitable organization and all donations are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law.

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Saturday

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Tuesday

The Springs Resort lodge atrium: Jason Rose, 5 p.m.

Wednesday

The Den: Karaoke, 8 p.m.

The PREVIEW is a publication of

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SUN

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Contribution marks significant step toward building Aspen House

By **Pattie Copenhaver**
A Safe Place in Pagosa Inc.

PS FroYo has announced a remarkable contribution of \$75,000 to the Aspen House nonprofit organization.

This serves as a significant milestone in A Safe Place in Pagosa Inc.'s journey toward realizing the construction of Aspen House — a much-needed residential facility for adults with developmental disabilities in Pagosa Springs.

As a revenue-generating business, PS FroYo was initially created as a “classroom” for children in the special education program at the middle school and high school. This initial concept grew into providing vocational support to adults with developmental disabilities and functioning as a local café.

PS FroYo financially supports the Aspen House cause through its operations. The \$75,000 contribution, earmarked for the building fund, represents a tangible demonstration of PS FroYo's commitment to creating a more inclusive and supportive community for individuals with developmental disabilities.

With this latest contribution, Aspen House is one step closer to achieving its goal of raising \$2.5 million to construct a nine-apartment facility tailored to the needs of adults with developmental disabilities.

Currently, Aspen House has accumulated \$213,000 in its construction reserve account — a testament to the dedication and perseverance of its supporters.

“We are incredibly grateful to PS FroYo for their generous contribution to Aspen House,” said Carolyn Paschal, president of A Safe Place in Pagosa Inc. board of directors. “Their support brings us closer to breaking ground on this much-needed residential facility, which will provide a safe and secure home for adults with developmental disabilities in our community and give their families the peace of mind that they have a safe and supportive place to call home, even when we can no longer be there to provide care for them.”

The vision of Aspen House goes beyond providing shelter — it aims to create a nurturing environment where individuals with developmental disabilities can live independently while remaining close to their families, friends and support networks. By offering a sense of stability and belonging, Aspen House seeks to empower its residents to live independently and actively participate in the community.

“We believe in the mission of Aspen House and are honored to play a

part in making it a reality,” said June Landgraf, PS FroYo manager. “Our hope is that this contribution will inspire others to join us in supporting this vital initiative.”

As Aspen House looks ahead to breaking ground in 2024, it relies on the continued generosity of donors and community partners to turn its vision into reality. Every contribu-

tion, no matter the size, brings Aspen House closer to providing a permanent home for adults with developmental disabilities in Pagosa Springs.

For more information on how to support Aspen House and help make a difference in the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities, please visit www.aspenhousepagosa.org.



END-OF-SEASON INFO

OUR LAST DAY of the season is March 31.

SEASONAL RENTAL RETURNS
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Photo courtesy Randall Wood and Colorado Environmental Film Festival

Eight global migration routes are explored in the breath-taking cinematography of "Flyways," part of the Geothermal Greenhouse Partnership's (GGP's) Environmental Film Festival. The Australian-produced film traces the travels of Earth's birds, and their breeding and feeding in the face of a changing climate. Seating is limited. Support the GGP and buy your tickets at www.pagosagreen.org/environmentalfilmfestival.

GGP's 2024 Environmental Film Festival will present award-winning films

By Sally High
Geothermal Greenhouse Partnership

The Geothermal Greenhouse Partnership's (GGP's) Environmental Film Festival will be April 19 and 20 at the Tennyson Building Event Center.

The GGP began the Pagosa Environmental Film Festival (Colorado Environmental Film Festival Caravans) in 2013. The 2024 film festival continues to benefit nonprofit GGP's educational and operational expenses.

"Flyways: The Untold Journey of Migratory Shorebirds" will be shown at the Friday evening Premiere Gala at 6:30 p.m. and again Saturday at 1 p.m.

"Flyways" won Best of Fest at the 2024 Colorado Environmental Film Festival. The feature-length Australian film, produced by pianist and cinematographer Randall Wood,

describes largely unknown ancient global migration routes. It documents the reality that climate change is affecting birds' breeding and feeding sites. The film's soundtrack, by the acclaimed Cezary Skubiszewski, is based on the composer's experience with bird song.

Keith Bruno, of Audubon Rockies, Weminuche Audubon and the GGP, will introduce "Flyways" and introduce us to a migratory shore birds study in our region of Colorado. Local Audubon enthusiasts are deeply involved in protecting wetland habitats for our year-round and migrating birds.

Friday evening is the upscale Premiere Gala that begins at 5 p.m. Guests enjoy two films, a catered gourmet dinner and live music by local favorite guitarist Steve Blechschmidt. A Premiere Gala wristband is \$60 and also entitles each guest to see all nine films on Saturday.

The Saturday film session will begin at 10 a.m. The last film of the day will begin at 7 p.m. All nine films will be shown and a schedule will be published soon. Saturday general admission wristbands are only \$10. Purchase tickets at <http://www.pagosagreen.org/environmentalfilmfestival>.

The GGP manages three dome greenhouses in Centennial Park on the Riverwalk. The Rotary Garden features xeric plantings that demonstrate how to conserve water in ornamental landscaping. The stacked sandstone beds are fully planted, so this year community volunteers will nurture the maturing plants.

The Audubon Native Plants Garden is expected to burst with new growth this spring.

Weminuche Audubon volunteers groom the Native Plants Garden and educate folks on the Riverwalk about

■ See Festival on next page

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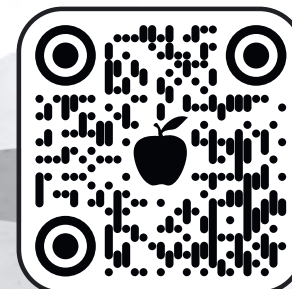
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Gardening classes to be offered in Spanish this spring

Healthy Archuleta

It may still be a bit chilly right now, but it's the perfect time to start thinking and learning about starting your own vegetable garden.

This spring, Healthy Archuleta is sponsoring vegetable and fruit gardening classes in Spanish for our Spanish-speaking community.

Beginning April 1, this five-week course will cover the basics of gardening, such as soil health, seed starting, maintaining your garden and harvesting your bounty.

Classes will be held at the Community United Methodist Church on Lewis Street each Monday evening in April from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. The classes are free to attend, and refreshments will be offered.

Spots are filling quickly. To reserve your spot, please register at <https://forms.gle/v52d2v7kBbMmSEKN6>.

There will also be other upcoming garden education events this summer, including landowner basics offered by CSU Extension, the Healthy Archuleta Growers and Producers Forum, Mountain High Garden Club meetings, and activities hosted by the Vista Lake Community Garden. To learn more about each of these upcoming activities, please visit <https://www.foodcoalition4archuleta.org/garden-education.html>.

Archuleta Food Summit

We are looking forward to connecting with you at the Archuleta Food Summit on May 11 at Pagosa Springs High School.

This fun-filled and informative half-day event will connect community members with local growers and producers, offer gardening and growing educational opportunities, and feature a farm-to-table lunch. Participants can also enjoy a tour of the high school grow dome and composting system at the end of the event.

To learn more, please visit <https://www.foodcoalition4archuleta.org/archuleta-food-summit.html>. Registration information will be shared in the coming weeks.

Healthy School Meals for All

Archuleta School District (ASD) families: Did you know all students can eat breakfast and lunch at school at no cost to families?

Thanks to the Healthy School Meals for All program, this is a great benefit to our local families.

However, it is still critically important that all families fill out the Free and Reduced Lunch application to ensure that there is funding to pay for these nutritious meals.

If you have not yet filled out your application this school year, you can do it today by following these simple steps:

1. Visit the ASD website at <https://www.mypagosaschools.com/>.
2. Click on the popup "Free and Reduced Lunch Application" in the upper right-hand corner.
3. Complete the application and submit it.

Follow these steps to complete your application and support our youth.

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



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Festival

continued from previous page the importance of bird-friendly landscapes. Additional GGP landscaping projects will continue in 2024. Volunteer gardeners should contact ggp@pagosagreen.org to learn about several opportunities to help beautify the Riverwalk in the coming growing season.

Tickets for the GGP's Environmental Film Festival are selling now at www.pagosagreen.org/environmentalfilmfestival. The Premiere Gala on April 19 is \$60. April 20

general admission tickets is only \$10 each.

Support the GGP's dynamic operations by purchasing your tickets to the 2024 Environmental Film Festival. Visit <https://www.pagosagreen.org/environmentalfilmfestival> and encourage your friends to join you in supporting GGP.

Pagosa's Earth Day celebration is Sunday, April 21, centered at the GGP site where GGP is "growing food and community with local energy." See you soon on the Riverwalk.



EASTER Egg Hunt EGGG

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Bring your own Easter basket!

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Rise Above Violence to host 11th annual Push-Up Challenge in April

By Annie Gian
Rise Above Violence

You can make a difference this April.

Rise Above Violence is hosting its 11th annual Push-Up Challenge during the month of April, which is Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

This 30-day challenge allows people to participate from wherever they are, on their own time.

Registration for the event is \$25, which covers your swag gear and access to the challenge with some amazing prizes. For those that would like to fundraise to support victims and survivors in our community, we have a great platform that you can utilize to share out with friends and family.

Our goal this year is for our community to complete 38,130 total push-ups in the month of April. Why 38,130? That seems like a lot. Every 68 seconds someone is sexually assaulted in the U.S., which equals 1,271 every day, and 38,130 represents the number of victims in the 30 days of April.

That statistic from the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network (RAINN) also elaborates that in that total, every nine minutes that victim is a child — that is 160 children everyday that will experience sexual violence.

“Females ages 16-19 are 4 times more likely than the general population to be victims of rape, attempted rape, or sexual assault,” according to RAINN.

You can be part of the solution. Community is powerful. Too often, victims feel isolated, alone and overwhelmed, and the push-up challenge signifies the power we as a community have to overcome violence and together push up victims who need extra strength to lift them above the trauma. As a participant, you can commit to any number of push-ups or follow

one of our plans to build up your strength. We have created a beginner, intermediate and advanced month-long challenge that will push you to increase your level of fitness.

You can register and find more information at www.riseaboveviolence.org/push-up-challenge.

Through the challenge we are hoping to raise \$15,000 that will go directly toward supporting victims of sexual assault in our community with resources and support to help with their healing.

There is a Facebook event and group page to increase community around the challenge and where you can post all of your pictures for the prize categories we have, like the person who does push-ups in the most unusual place. Other prize categories include: for the person who recruits the most people to participate in the challenge, for the person who does the most regular push-ups in the month and for the person who raises the most money during the month.

We will also have a push-up challenge blitz — as many people as possible will come together to complete as many push-ups as possible in 30 minutes. The blitz will be held at CrossFit Pagosa on April 27. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram for more details. We have a sponsor that will be supporting the challenge and donate extra money for toe push-ups completed.

This will be a great way to wrap up the month-long challenge and bring together our community.

Join us for the month of April to support victims and survivors in our community. Challenge someone to do the push-up challenge with you as a team or compete with someone to keep you motivated. If 40 challengers register and commit to 35 push-ups

per day, we will hit the goal of 38,130.

Upcoming dates to remember

- April 2: Wear Teal Day.
- April 10: Sexual Assault Response Webinar at 4 p.m.
- April 24: Denim Day Walk at noon at the bell tower.
- April 27: Push-Up Challenge Blitz Party at CrossFit Pagosa.

About Rise

Rise is a nonprofit organization that promotes the belief that all people have the right to live free from violence.

Rise provides 24-hour support and advocacy services for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault or other forms of violence, serving more than 350 victims each year.

Rise also works to eliminate violence through education for youth and our community.

All programs and services are free and confidential, including emergency prevention education and empowerment programs.

Visit www.riseaboveviolence.org for more information or call (970) 264-9075 to talk to an advocate today. If you want to be part of the team to help those in our community, volunteers for advocacy are always needed and welcomed.

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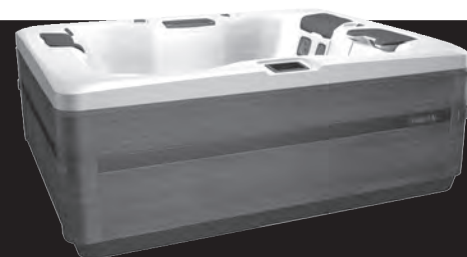
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Dignifying Death group to meet again April 23

By Joan Mieritz
Special to The PREVIEW

Interested people will be meeting for a second time on Tuesday, April 23, at 1 p.m., in the Ruby M. Sisson Memorial Library meeting room.

There will be a wonderful, informative guest speaker, Connie Cook who is an advanced emergency medical technician with Pagosa Springs Medical Center.

She said, "I have attended to many sick patients during my career that have resulted in positive outcomes, and I have also had the distinct honor of being there for a patients' last moments of life doing my best to preserve their dignity and support their families and friends during emotional and difficult times."

She will use her incredible background to provide us with information and then will allow us to ask questions.

To briefly summarize what happened on March 20 at the library, the first gathering of some of the most amazing people in Pagosa who are exploring issues related to the practical side of death was wonderfully successful. There was a total of about 30 people. Many future outcomes are

already in the works.

There were many topics that were touched on and discussed. People shared many thoughts and ideas. A group member said that there is a man in Pagosa who may be willing to donate land for a green burial site.

An informal subcommittee immediately formed to research terms and gather relevant information, and possibly meet with the man. Both Mancos and Crestone have green burial sites and someone will contact both locations to get information. We are hoping that the man with the land will come to a future meeting.

Another man who recently lost his wife shared with the group the fulfilling experience of having her body picked up at the hospital, transported, used for medical science and then having her ashes returned in an urn with absolutely no cost to the family. This man will bring specific information on April 24 to share so that more people will be able to use such a program. More research is being done about other possible programs.

As far as the Colorado End-Of-Life Options Act that passed in 2016, there seems to be much confusion

as to what has happened and what can happen in Archuleta County. We are working to get several medical practitioners to factually speak to our group on this subject as soon as possible.

The last major topic of concern that was mentioned is the paperwork that needs to be filled out related to death, such as do-not-resuscitate, do-not-transport and advance directives. We do not know if a lawyer is the best resource, but we are working on finding a future speaker on "the paperwork of dying."

If you have information that may be of value to our group, please feel welcome to come to our next meeting. There is so much potential in this gathering.

Please note that we are not a club or formal group at this time, but independent people who plan on meeting, finding speakers and asking questions until all our questions have been answered. If this interests you, feel welcome to join us.

We are not encouraging sales representatives of any kind to attend. Please be respectful of this topic regardless how valuable you feel your product might be or we may have to formally handle this situation.

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New Thought Center to meet Sunday

By Shayla McClure
New Thought Center for Inspirational Living

The Sunday service on March 31 at 11 a.m. will be with Shayla White Eagle on "Celebrating Regeneration, Rebirth, and Ascending on the Path of Love as taught by Christ, Dr. Ernest Holmes, Buddha, Louise Haye, Martin Luther King and more."

There will be an Easter dinner potluck after.

Upcoming events

March 28, 6 p.m.: Illuminations free lecture 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 4, 6 p.m.: Illuminations free lecture with Julie Loar.

April 18, 6 p.m.: Illuminations free lecture with Susanne Bryant on "Lavender, The Versarality of its Benefits and Uses."

April 26-28 weekend: Mayhill, N.M., spiritual retreat with Janie and George Garms.

May 12, 11 a.m.: Mothers Day Wolfwood Refuge tour and picnic in Ignacio.

June 15: Blessing of the Animals Celebration.

June 21: Celebrating the summer solstice with Maggie Red Eagle and Shayla White Eagle.

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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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.

Thursday, March 28

Potluck Soup Supper. 5 p.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd.
Maundy Thursday Liturgy with the Stripping of the Altar. 6 p.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd.
Maundy Thursday Service. 6 p.m., Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St.
Holy Thursday Service. 6:30 p.m., Our Savior Lutheran Church, 56 Meadows Drive.
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 Service. Noon, Our Savior Lutheran Church, 56 Meadows Drive.
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.
Good Friday Service. 6 p.m., Pagosa Bible Church, 209 Harman Park Drive.
Good Friday Service. 6 p.m., Centerpoint Church.
Good Friday Service. 6:30 p.m., Our Savior Lutheran Church, 56 Meadows Drive.

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.
Easter Sunday Service. 7 a.m., Our Savior Lutheran Church, 56 Meadows Drive.
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.
Easter Sunday Service. 9:30 a.m., Pagosa Bible Church, 209 Harman Park Drive. Refreshments will be available at 9 a.m.
Easter Sunday Service. 10 a.m., Our Savior Lutheran Church, 56 Meadows Drive.
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 Celebration Service. 10:10 a.m., Centerpoint Church.
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.

Centerpoint Church announces Easter services

By Jon Duncan
Centerpoint Church

Please join us at Centerpoint Church for our Good Friday Service on March 29 beginning at 6 p.m.

It will include music, scripture and family-style communion. We will reflect on the crucifixion story through videos that tell that story, and time together in God's word considering the unimaginable sacrifice of Jesus for us.

Please join us for this hour of remembering, reflecting, and honoring Christ for His great love and sacrifice for us.

The Easter Celebration Service will be Easter morning, March 31, at 10:10 a.m.

Come join us as we celebrate the resurrection of our Savior, Jesus Christ, His ongoing intercession for us and His return to gather His family together for eternity.

We will worship, be moved through video clips relating to the resurrection and spend time together in God's word reveling in God's good-

ness to us.

Please plan to be part of our special Easter service this Sunday at 10:10 a.m.

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The burial wrappings

By Gregg Heid
PREVIEW Columnist

“Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came early to the tomb, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. So she ran and found Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved. She said to them, ‘They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don’t know where they have laid him.’ So Peter went out with the other disciple and they ran to the tomb. Both of them were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He stooped and looked in and saw the burial cloths lying there, but he didn’t go in.” — John 20:1-5 (ESV).

John tells us that the napkin or face cloth, which was placed over the face of Jesus, was not lying with the grave clothes, but set aside by itself. The Bible takes an entire verse to tell us that the napkin was neatly folded and placed separate from the grave clothes.

“Then Simon Peter arrived and went into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there, and the face cloth (napkin) which had covered Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen cloths, but folded up in a place by itself. —

A Matter of Faith

John 20:6-7 (ESV).

To understand the significance of the folded napkin or face cloth (soudarion), one has to understand the Hebrew tradition of that day. This face cloth would have been tied, rolled like a triangular bandage, under the chin and over the top of the head to secure the mouth in a closed position. The folded napkin was not with the burial cloths, but rolled up in a separate place.

The folded cloth indicates that the scene in the empty tomb was evidence of a very calm and orderly process, rather than that of a burglarized tomb, from which the body of Jesus was clandestinely stolen — from a sealed tomb, guarded by soldiers.

The significance of the linen wrappings lying there shows there was no struggle or no hurried unwrapping of the body by grave robbers. More likely, if the body was stolen, the linen wrappings would have gone with

the body. Jesus must have passed through them as He rose from the dead, leaving them where His body had been.

The Greek participle (keimai) translated here seems to indicate that the wrappings were flattened, deflated, as if they were emptied when the body of Jesus rose and disappeared — as if it had come out of the wrappings without their being undone, passing right through them (just as He later entered the Upper Room when the doors were shut).

One can easily understand how seeing the empty tomb would amaze a witness, something one could never forget.

I’m amazed and I wasn’t even there. Are 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.

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New Alzheimer's Association report reveals top stressors for caregivers, lack of care navigation support and resources

By Jim Herlihy
Alzheimer's Association of Colorado

The Alzheimer's Association "2024 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures" report reveals that both dementia caregivers and health care workers report difficulties in navigating dementia care within the U.S. health care system.

The report provides an in-depth look at the latest national and state-level statistics on Alzheimer's disease prevalence, mortality, caregiving, dementia care workforce and costs of care.

The new report estimates that 90,800 Coloradans are among 6.9 million people ages 65 and older in the U.S. living with Alzheimer's dementia. Approximately another 200,000 people across the country under the age of 65 are living with younger-onset Alzheimer's.

This year the cost of caring for people living with Alzheimer's and other dementias in the U.S. is projected to reach \$360 billion — a \$15 billion increase from a year ago. This does not include unpaid care provided by family caregivers and friends.

Last year in Colorado, 177,000 dementia family caregivers provided 307 million hours of unpaid care valued at more than \$7.2 billion.

The impact of caregiving on family caregivers

Colorado caregivers and those across the country face significant emotional, physical and health related challenges as result of caregiving.

According to the 2024 facts and figures:

- Dementia caregivers report higher rates of chronic conditions, including stroke, heart disease, diabetes and cancer compared to caregivers of people without dementia or non-caregivers. In Colorado, 58 percent of caregivers disclosed at least one chronic condition.

- The prevalence of depression is higher among dementia caregivers when compared to caregivers for other conditions. In Colorado, nearly 37 percent of caregivers reported depression.

- A total of 74 percent of dementia caregivers state they are "somewhat concerned" to "very concerned" about maintaining their own health since becoming a caregiver. In Colorado, more than 15 percent cite frequent poor physical health.

- Across the country, 59 percent of dementia caregivers described high to very high emotional stress due to caregiving and 38 percent report high to very high physical stress.

"The 2024 Facts and Figures report sheds light on the continued pressures and challenges facing many Colorado families as a result of Alzheimer's and other dementias," said

Jim Herlihy, spokesperson for the Alzheimer's Association of Colorado. "As the number of individuals living with Alzheimer's continues to grow, ensuring patients, their caregivers and families have a clear understanding of how to navigate dementia care resources is critical to improving health outcomes."

Special report on dementia care navigation

An accompanying special report, "Mapping a Better Future for Dementia Care Navigation," provides a comprehensive look into dementia care navigation by surveying dementia caregivers and health care workers on their experiences, challenges, awareness and perceptions of care navigation in dementia care.

Dementia care navigation provides clinical and nonclinical support to people living with dementia and their caregivers to overcome barriers that compromise care and health outcomes.

Key findings

- In 2023, 11.5 million family members and other caregivers of people living with Alzheimer's or other dementias across the U.S. provided an estimated 18.4 billion hours of unpaid help. On average, this represents nearly 31 hours of care per caregiver per week or 1,612 hours per caregiver per year.

- A majority of caregivers (70 percent) report that coordination of care is stressful. More than half of the caregivers surveyed (53 percent) said that navigating health care was difficult. Two in three caregivers (66 percent) also have difficulty finding resources and support for their needs.

- The top five stressors for caregivers are: cost (reported by 42 percent of caregivers), coordinating with multiple doctors (36 percent), securing appointments (35 percent), getting help taking a break (35 percent) and finding appropriate doctors (32 percent).

- Care navigation facilitates medical and social support to alleviate patient and caregiver stress. Despite coordinating care and scheduling being top stressors for caregivers, only half of the caregivers surveyed (51 percent) have ever talked with a

health care professional about challenges finding their way through the health care system or asked for help with dementia care.

- The vast majority of dementia caregivers (97 percent) say that they would find navigation services helpful. Services cited most often as helpful by caregivers include: a 24/7 helpline (36 percent), help with coordinating care and communication between different specialists (34 percent), and getting help in understanding their care recipient's condition (34 percent).

One significant finding of the survey was that 60 percent of health care workers surveyed believe that the U.S. health care system is not effectively helping patients and their families navigate dementia care.

Nearly half (46 percent) say that their organizations do not have a clearly defined process for care coordination and clinical pathways for patients with mild cognitive impairment, Alzheimer's disease or other dementia.

"The big takeaway from this year's special report is that dementia caregivers want and need help navigating the complex health care system and accessing community-based services," said Herlihy. "Given the added complexities of dementia care, we hope our report will encourage health systems and practices to think more intentionally about the challenges facing dementia caregivers and formalize dementia care navigation programs to help them."

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

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centerpointpagosa.com

Join us for Easter Services

Palm Sunday
March 24
9:00 am

Holy Thursday
March 28
6:30 pm

Good Friday
March 29
12:00 pm & 6:30 pm

Easter Sunday
March 31
7:00 am & 10:00 am

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Preview Calendar

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

Thursday, March 28

Ruby's Writers Guild. 9-11 a.m., Sisson Library. Ruby's Writers Guild welcomes writers who are looking for opportunities, support and camaraderie with other writers. Members will provide support, resources and guidance for each other.

T'ai Chi Chih. 1:30-2:30, Senior Center. Free for those 60 and better.

Tech Time. 2-4 p.m., Sisson Library. Basic questions related to computers, smartphones, tablets, etc. Bring your device charger. We provide assistance with accessing any of the library's online resources. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information.

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

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

Friday, March 29

Pickleball. 8-11:30 a.m., Community Center. Loaner paddles are available.

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

Saturday, March 30

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.

DivorceCare. 4-5:30 p.m., Centerpoint Church, 2750 Cornerstone Drive. DivorceCare is a program that provides a safe environment for persons who have gone through, are going through or are considering going through a divorce. You may begin classes at any time throughout the session. For more information, please contact Lorena Medina at loremedina0817@gmail.com or the church at admin@centerpointpagosa.com. You can also

register online at www.divorcecare.org. Click on "find a group" and follow the prompts or register at any of the meetings. There is a \$20 fee for the cost of your workbook. Scholarships are available.

Monday, April 1

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 meet at 9:30 a.m. and the advance group meets at 10:15 a.m. If you haven't attended before, please call Beverly at (970) 264-2064 for more information.

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

Learn to Knit or Crochet. 2-3:15 p.m., Sisson Library. Come learn to knit or crochet. For ages 8 and up.

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

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

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, April 2

Pagosa Springs Stitchers. 10 a.m.-noon, Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St. Bring your current stitching project and a snack/drink if you wish, and enjoy the fellowship of other stitchers. All are welcome.

Tech Time. 10 a.m.-noon, Sisson Library. Basic questions related to computers, smartphones, tablets, etc. Bring your device charger. We provide assistance with accessing any of the library's online resources. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information.

Virtual Author Talk: Paula J. Johnson. noon, virtual. Listen live or recorded. "The Foods, People, and Innovations That Feed Us - A Sweeping History of Food and Culture" with Smithsonian curator Paula J. Johnson. For details and to register, go to <https://library.org/pagosalibrary/upcoming>.

Tax Time Enrollment for Health Insurance. 1-4 p.m., Sisson Library. Opening a special enrollment pe-

riod for Connect for Health. Come find out how this works

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

Hand and Foot Card Game. 1:15 p.m., Senior Center. No experience is necessary, so come willing to learn.

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

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

Conversational Spanish. 4:30-5:30 p.m., Sisson Library. Practice your Spanish conversation skills in a group setting. There is 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

■ See Calendar on next page

Trinity Anglican Church



invites you to join us for Good Friday service (7 PM) and Easter Holy Communion (10 AM).

246 Harman Park Dr.
trinityanglicanchurch.org



Pagosa Bible Church

209 Harman Park Dr. (behind Wells Fargo)

Join us for our
Good Friday Service
March 29 at 6pm

Our service will include a time of singing, scripture reading, communion and a short message.

Come and celebrate our
Risen Savior!
Easter Sunday

March 31 at 9:30 am
(Come at 9:00am for some refreshments before the service.)
970-731-3120
www.pagosabiblechurch.org

Come Celebrate Easter

5:30 PM - March 29th
Good Friday Service

6:45 AM - March 31st
Sunrise Service

THREE MAIN EASTER CELEBRATION SERVICES

8:00 AM 9:30 AM 11:00 AM

(Kids Easter Egg Hunt directly following each service)

Kids Coloring Contest!

Download coloring page at
graceinpagosa.org/EasterKids

Turn in completed coloring page
before any main service

Winners recognized & prizes awarded
during 11:00 AM service

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Preview Calendar

■ **continued from previous page**
your education goals. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information.

Wednesday, April 3

Pickleball. 8-11:30 a.m., Community Center. Loaner paddles are available.

Pickleball Beginner Lessons. 8:30-10:30 a.m., Community Center. Loaner paddles are available. Reservations are required and can be made at pagosapickleball.org under the "Play" tab.

Pagosa Catholic Quilters. 9 a.m.-2 p.m., John Paul II Catholic Church classrooms. For more information, contact Maxine Everaert at quilters@ihmjp2.org.

Family Storytime. 10-11 a.m., Sisson Library. Join us for an educational 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.

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.

Archuleta County Public Health Department Open House. 4:30-6:30 p.m., 502 S. 8th St. See the department's new offices, clinic and a showcase of the programs currently being offered by the department.

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.

Thursday, April 4

Ruby's Writers Guild Anthology Sessions. 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Sisson Library. Local writers are invited to contribute to the Ruby's Writer's Guild Anthology. Submissions should be sent in by Thursday, April 4, when there will be open readings of submissions. Blind reviews will be April 18, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

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.

San Juan Outdoor Club Monthly Meeting. 6-8 p.m., PLPOA Clubhouse, 230 Port Ave. A group of club members will present an informative and entertaining look at

their travels to the Dolomites and several other locations in Europe during the summer of 2023. Three separate groups from the Outdoor Club planned hiking and biking trips to the Dolomites in northeast Italy. The presentation will highlight their planning process and show the beautiful landscapes they experienced. Their trips took them to some other beautiful locations either en route to the Dolomites or

■ See Calendar on page 14

HUD Publisher's Notice



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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.

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

SUDOKU

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		2				1		

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

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

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THE DEVIL LOST HIS GRIP ON ME



An Addict's Prayer

Dear Father-God, creator of heaven and earth, author of light, goodness, mercy and justice. I come to You exhausted, defeated and full of pain. I am a prisoner of my own foolishness, selfishness and disobedience to Your precious Word.

Father, I have defiled my body which is the temple of Your Holy Spirit. I am now wearing the graveclothes of death woven by my own hands one cigarette, one pack, one carton at a time. I have exchanged my beauty for ashes, my health for sickness, my freedom for chains.

Father, I have tried to quit and throw off this filthy habit. I have tried to do this in my own strength and each time I have failed. And each time I have fallen deeper and deeper into the pit of my addiction. I have not only violated my own body You so lovingly created for me, but have also created a cloud of filth for others to breathe. Debts have gone unpaid to satisfy this endless craving for another cigarette. Your sweet, gentle, loving voice has been drowned out by the clamoring voice of my addiction. Self and self-indulgence have been on the throne of my life while my imprisoned soul is weeping for freedom.

Father, I have rationalized for years that smoking was a trivial sin and would not separate us. How wrong I was. How I have deceived myself. Your Word says that "The wages of sin is death". There are no trivial sins. I have had

to learn the hard way that "The wages of sin is death" and does separate us from You. And Father, by my example I have led many others down the road to death and destruction. Do not lay these many children of my foul habit to my account, but be merciful to them and me.

Father, have mercy upon me. Your Word says that Your mercy is greater than Your judgment. Send Your laborers, Your ministering angels and Your Holy Spirit to unwrap the graveclothes of my addiction. Lazarus could not loosen his own graveclothes and neither can I. I need Your help to live and be free.

I confess my sin, my selfishness and disobedience to You now. I ask You to forgive me and to heal me. I bring my petitions to Your Throne of Grace in the name of Your Son Jesus. You have said that the Blood of Your Son Jesus cleanses us from all unrighteousness. And that if we confess our sins, You will cleanse us. Father, cleanse me, heal me, set me free from this filthy, selfish habit; and I will praise Your name forever with these lips and lungs that have served Satan and self.

Father, I thank You for hearing my prayer and setting me free.

Amen



Preview Calendar

■ continued from page 12

on the way back to Pagosa. Come join us and get inspiration for your trip to Europe. The meeting starts with a social half-hour at 6 p.m. with light refreshments, and the meeting gets started at 6:30 p.m.. For more information, email sanjuanoutdoorclub@gmail.com.

Friday, April 5

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 AARP. 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.

Tween/Teen Art Takeover. 2-3 p.m., Sisson Library. We are setting aside the large meeting room and some of the computers for tweens/teens to use and spend time with friends.

All Ages Gaming. 3-4 p.m., Sisson Library. Play Xbox games on the big screen.

Pagosa Springs Varsity Girls' Soccer. 4 p.m., Golden Peaks Stadium. Pagosa Springs High School vs. Alamosa.

Habitat for Humanity Informational Session. 5-6 p.m., Sisson Library. Come learn how to apply, donate and volunteer with Habitat for Humanity of Pagosa Springs.

Saturday, April 6

GriefShare. 10-11:30 a.m., Center-

point 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.

Animal Shelter Baby Shower. 10 a.m.-noon, PLPOA Clubhouse, 230 Port Ave. Help the Humane Society of Pagosa Springs prepare for the spring influx of kittens and puppies. For tickets and more information, visit www.pagosahumane.org.

LEGO Club. 11 a.m.-noon, Sisson Library. For kids 6-12 years old. We have the LEGO bricks, all you need to bring is your imagination. Contact the library at (970) 264-2209 for further information.

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 fol-

low the prompts or register at any of the meetings. There is a \$20 fee for the cost of your workbook. Scholarships are available.

Monday, April 8

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 meet at 9:30 a.m. and the advance group meets at 10:15 a.m. If you haven't attended before, please call Beverly at (970) 264-2064 for more information.

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

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

Deepening the Faith Classes. 6-8 p.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church classrooms.

Submit your calendar items to editor@pagosasan.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.

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10 ag-themed books for your Easter basket

By Robin Young
PREVIEW Columnist

The Easter Bunny will soon be visiting boys and girls coast-to-coast with goodies, games and more.

What better way to celebrate spring than a book filled with farm animals, tractors and springtime wonders? Let your little ones peek into the world of agriculture this spring with one (or two) of these engaging, educational books.

Here are our picks for the 10 best ag-themed books for your Easter basket:

1. "Little Blue Truck's Springtime" by Alice Schertle (author) and Jill McElmurry (illustrator). "Beep! Beep!" Little Blue Truck is out for a ride with his good friend Toad. The sun is shining and the flowers are blooming — it's a beautiful spring day. Who will they see along the way? Open the flaps to meet all of the sweet baby animals just born on the farm. "Peep! Peep!"

2. "Click, Clack, Moo Cows That Type" by Doreen Cronin (author) and Betsy Lewin (illustrator). Farmer Brown has a problem. His cows like to type. All day long he hears, "Click, clack, moo. Click, clack, moo. Click, clack, moo." But Farmer Brown's problems get bigger when his cows start leaving him notes. Listen in on the fun as a bunch of literate cows turn Farmer Brown's farm upside down.

3. "I Love Strawberries" by Shannon Anderson (author), Emma D. Dryden (editor) and Jaclyn Sinquett (illustrator). Jolie loves strawberries — and she's on an unstoppable (and hilarious) mission to grow her own food from seedling to table in this colorful introduction to the joy of growing the popular perennial. "I Love Strawberries" is published by Feeding Minds Press, a project of the American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture, whose mission is to build awareness and understanding

Extension Viewpoints

of agriculture through education.

4. "Driving My Tractor" by Jan Dobbins (author), David Sim (illustrator), and SteveSongs (performer). Chug along with a farmer and his tractor on this multi-season animal adventure. A busy farmer picks up 15 animals along his route, but when his trailer hits a stone, chaos ensues. This colorful book combines simple counting instruction with humor, repetition and rhythm to encourage learning fun. The book with CD edition includes song sung by acclaimed children's performer SteveSongs.

5. "Tales of the Dairy Godmother: Chuck's Ice Cream Wish" by Viola Butler (author), Emma D. Dryden (editor) and Ward Jenkins (illustrator). What happens when you wish for all the ice cream you can eat? The Dairy Godmother appears to make your dairy dreams come true and to highlight dairy farming and the hard work it takes to make the popular treat. "Tales of the Dairy Godmother: Chuck's Ice Cream Wish" is published by Feeding Minds Press.

6. "Brock the Rooster — Big John's Barnyard Talent Show" by Adam Brockway (author) and Amy Eckler (illustrator). It's finally fall on Big John's farm, and that can only mean one thing. It's time for Big John's Barnyard Talent Show. Join Brock the Rooster as he sets off on an optimistic endeavor in hopes to discover a talent of his own.

7. "The Barnyard Dance" by Sandra Boynton. Everybody sing along — because it's time to do-si-do in the barnyard with a high-spirited animal crew. From Boynton on Board, the bestselling series of board

books, here is "Barnyard Dance," with Boynton's twirling pigs, fiddle-playing cows and other unforgettable animals.

8. "Tractor Mac Worth the Wait" by Billy Steers (author). The pigs, Pete and Paul, are eager to help Farmer Bill grow the best and big-

■ See Viewpoints on next page

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Viewpoints

■ continued from previous page

gest watermelons so he'll win at the annual Fruit and Vegetable Show, but their overzealous efforts to help the melons grow faster end up destroying the entire melon patch. Tractor Mac and friends teach Pete and Paul that with patience and care, they too can grow a prize melon.

9. "Farm Boots" by Lisl H. Detlefsen (author), Renee Kurilla (illustrator). Grab your boots; it's time to explore life on a farm. In joyful verse, follow a diverse cast of families as they work together to care for crops and animals on their farms through spring, summer, fall and winter. Farm Boots is published by Feeding Minds Press.

10. "Springtime Babies" (Little Golden Book) by Danna Smith (author) and Takako Fisher (Illustrator). It's springtime on the farm — and that means adorable piglets, lambs and ducklings are waiting to be discovered. This is the perfect Easter or baby shower gift, and fun to read all year long.

This article was originally published on March 27, 2023, in the Morning Ag Clips, <https://www.morningagclips.com/10-ag-themed-books-for-your-easter-basket/>.

Landowner Stewardship Series

Save the dates for Tuesday evenings 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.

Lifelong Learning Lecture Series

On April 18 from 6 to 7:15 p.m., the Ruby Sisson Library's Lifelong Learning Lecture Series will present "Water, our Most Precious Resource."

What can we do as individuals and a community to preserve what we have?

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.

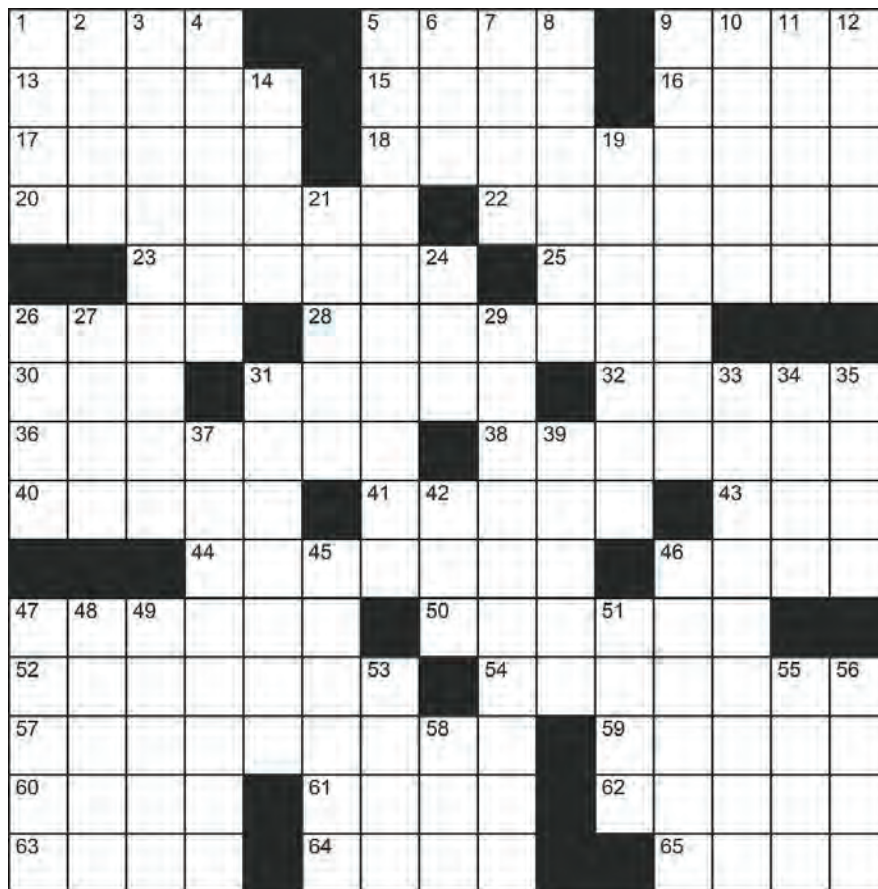
Check out the online option on our website, <https://archuleta.extension.colostate.edu/>.

The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

- 1 Much-used pencil
- 5 Drive off
- 9 Contemplate
- 13 Polk's predecessor
- 15 Lowly laborer
- 16 Himalayas' home
- 17 Pontificate
- 18 What moms-to-be are
- 20 Famed Ottawa chief
- 22 To some, it's golden
- 23 Beautiful, in Barcelona
- 25 ___-than-life
- 26 Blacken a bit
- 28 Weepily sentimental
- 30 Granola grain
- 31 An "M" in MGM
- 32 Photo finish
- 36 Burger topping
- 38 Good for nothing
- 40 Big name in copiers
- 41 Like some fans
- 43 Motorist's aid
- 44 It may be guided
- 46 Light-footed
- 47 Spot
- 50 Verbally abuse
- 52 Uniform shoulder piece
- 54 Fresh start
- 57 Rejected
- 59 Coeur d'Alene locale
- 60 Tooth trouble
- 61 Natural emollient
- 62 Establish
- 63 Part of YTD
- 64 Make (one's way)
- 65 1990 World Series champs



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- 2 Beginner
- 3 Mongolia's capital, formerly
- 4 Wager maker
- 5 Grandstand group
- 6 Curse
- 7 "My bad"
- 8 Former House Speaker Tip
- 9 Kind of instinct
- 10 With the help of
- 11 "___ when?"
- 12 Thirsty
- 14 Pull (in)
- 19 Had rights to
- 21 Prepared to shoot
- 24 Lord's Prayer starter
- 26 Gently urge
- 27 Suffer from
- 29 Oboe, e.g.
- 31 Upper jaw
- 33 Mild, weather-wise
- 34 Old autocrat
- 35 Take notice of
- 37 Dell product
- 39 Colander kin
- 42 2023 Matt Damon movie
- 45 Plaything for two
- 46 Patio door
- 47 Dental woe
- 48 Speedily
- 49 Bygone Turkish title
- 51 Heron's cousin
- 53 Flooring choice
- 55 Impact sound
- 56 Brewers' needs
- 58 Slip on

Answers to Previous Crossword:

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

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Spanish Fiesta royalty competition set for April 13

By Rose Chavez
PREVIEW Columnist

Please join us on April 13 at the Archuleta County Extension building as we bring back the timeless tradition of Spanish Fiesta royalty.

Archuleta County's Hispanic and Latino youth will compete for the coveted positions of king/queen to junior prince/junior princess.

Let's support our youth in keeping the traditions of our Hispanic, Latino and Archuleta County heritage alive.

Purchase tickets from any of the 15 contestants at <https://givebutter.com/SFRoyaltyCompetition>.

Join us for an enchilada dinner and the Spanish Fiesta royalty competition from 5 to 7 p.m.

There will be live music featuring Los Mitotitos starting at 7:30 p.m. Crowning of our 2024 royalty will take place between 9 and 10 p.m.

The proceeds will benefit the Spanish Fiesta royalty youth. The Spanish Fiesta royalty committee seeks to provide our Hispanic and Latino youth in Archuleta County the opportunity of representing their community and celebrating their cultural heritage as well as providing them with numerous learning opportunities and valuable leadership skills.

For more information, contact Archuleta Seniors Inc. (ASI) at (970) 264-2167.

Fresh local produce for older adults to be available this summer

This 2024 growing season, 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: being a new or current client of ASI through our congregate, Meals on Wheels, or pickup/Grab-N-Go meal program, or 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 on the weekends. Details are still being finalized and subscribers will be notified.

Senior News

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 the other in September.
- Attend monthly recipe tastings during ASI's upcoming Fresh Conversations nutrition education and healthy aging circles from 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 us 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.

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 manage-

ment, 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, occasion-

■ See Senior on page 19

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

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

WORDS

- CASHIER
- CONSUMER
- CONTRACT
- CUSTOMER SERVICE
- DEMAND
- EXCHANGE
- IMPULSE
- LINE
- LIST
- NECESSITY
- ORGANIZATION
- PAYMENT
- PURCHASE
- RETAIL
- SALESPERSON
- STOCK
- STORE
- SUPPLIES
- WARES
- WARRANTY
- WHOLESALE

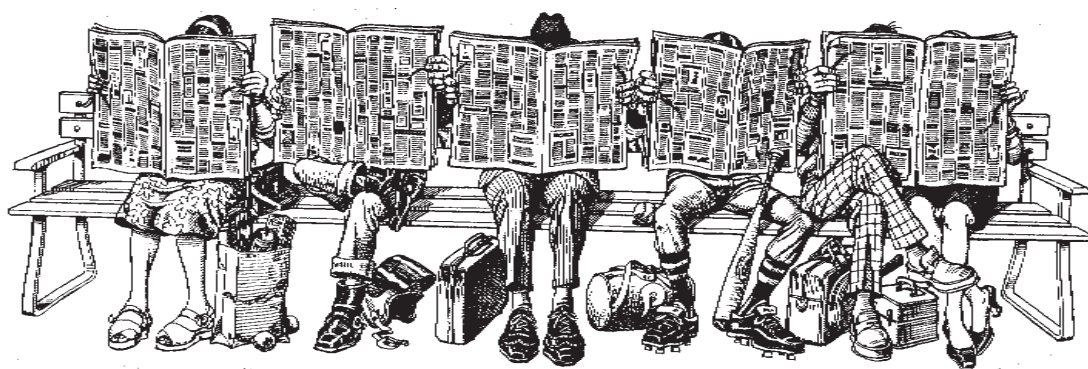
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Senior

■ continued from page 17

ally, 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 April 5 and April 19.

Participation is free, and we ask you bring yourself and a friend for joyful fellowship. We will provide prizes from local businesses for all winners, and snacks will also be provided.

No RSVP is required; just show up. All ages are welcome, but we ask those 18 and younger to come with an adult chaperone.

For more information, contact us at (970) 264-2167.

T'ai Chi Chih

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

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

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

No special clothing or equipment is required.

For more information, call (970) 264-2167.

Senior Conversations

Join us Mondays at 1:15 p.m. for a

series of "Senior Conversations" with local Bill Salmansohn.

He will lead the group through mindfulness exercises and discussion of various topics pertaining to aging in Archuleta County. Explore and discover for yourself answers to your questions and concerns.

The meeting will be held in the Senior Center in the dining hall. Snacks will be provided.

Pagosa Springs Scrapbooking Club

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

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

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

Share lunch Monday through Friday

Join us at the Silver Fox's Den, aka the Community Cafe, in person for daily hot/cold meals Mondays through Thursdays at the Community Center between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. It is open to all. Pickup is available all week, including Fridays.

Our dining hall is open to all ages and welcomes you all with kindness and warmth. We provide hot/cold meals for anyone in the community interested in a nutritious and delicious meal. For those 60 or older we request a suggested donation of \$6, but no one will be turned away. There is a \$10.50 charge for guests under the age of 60.

Meals include a main course, side dish, fruit/dessert, garden salad plus beverage. Some popular menu items include Frito chili pie, pork tenderloin with harvest chutney, Singaporean pork ribs, vegetarian

lasagna, Hawaiian shrimp with coconut rice and always a beautiful green salad. Many of our items are locally sourced and organic.

Our chef works with a team of local food professionals to hand-prepare your meal for dine-in service in our cozy dining room (with an amazing view of the San Juans) or for takeout (via our convenient drive-through). Our menu changes daily.

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

Community Cafe menu

Thursday, March 28 — Pork ziti pasta with marinara sauce, broccoli, focaccia bread, garden salad, fruit, carrot cake and milk.

Friday, March 29 — Crispy codfish with tartar sauce, glazed carrots, garden salad, strawberry rhubarb crisp and milk.

Monday, April 1 — Baked herb chicken, couscous, glazed carrots, garden salad, fruit and milk.

Tuesday, April 2 — Broccoli-cheddar soup, focaccia bread, beet salad with walnuts and goat cheese, fruit and milk.

Wednesday, April 3 — Ham steak with apricot glaze, rosemary roasted potatoes, dinner roll, garden salad, fruit and milk.

Thursday, April 4 — Beef spaghetti, garlic bread, broccoli, garden salad, fruit and milk.

Friday, April 5 — Baked Codfish, orzo pasta, zucchini medley, garden salad, fruit and milk.

Grab-N-Go meals

Dine-in and Grab-N-Go meal

■ See Senior on next page

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Pagosa Springs Elementary School invites you to

Kindergarten Orientation Family Night

Mrs. Vining and the PSES Kindergarten teachers invite all preschool families entering Kindergarten (age 5 by October 1st, 2024) for the 2024-25 school year to drop-in orientation.

Come meet our Kindergarten teachers, who can't wait to meet their future students.

4-6 pm Tuesday, April 9th

- Participate in fun activities
- Meet our amazing teachers
- Meet our Area Preschool Directors & Principal Vining
- Explore the classrooms
- Ask questions

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Do you have the blahs? Try free online learning resources

By Carole Howard
PREVIEW Columnist, and the library staff

Now that spring is here, you may be looking for something to chase away the winter blahs. If so, we suggest you take advantage of our many free online learning resources that can be accessed from your home with your library card. Here are some examples:

Academic Search Premier is a collection of full-text articles and journals offering information in nearly



every area of academic study. Auto Repair Source provides repair information on 34,000 U.S. and imported vehicles. Britannica for Kids has research materials for elementary, middle and high school students.

Business Source Premier provides access to more than 1,000 business publications. Consumer Health Complete contains consumer-oriented health content.

Driving Tests includes practice tests for car, motorcycle and commercial driver's licenses. Environment Complete and GreenFile cover all aspects of human impact on the environment. History Reference Center offers thousands of historical documents and maps. Legal Infor-
■ See Library on next page

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Senior

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

Meals on Wheels

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

Mobile food pantry service discontinued

The Mobile Food Pantry Service has been discontinued due to funding shortages. Older adults needing a ride to a local food pantry should contact the MET to schedule a ride with its paratransit service. For more information, contact Lavonne at (970) 264-2250.

Text reservations

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

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

COVID-19 test kits available

Stop by the Senior Center to pick up a pack of six free COVID-19 tests kits for your personal use. These kits are available to anyone in the public who needs affordable access for health promotion and disease prevention.

Mahjong

Mahjong is a 19th century Chinese tile-based game that is commonly played with four players. Each player receives 13 tiles with a goal to make matching sets and pairs (like poker). To win, a player must form four sets and one pair.

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

Medicare call by appointment

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

Mindful drawing

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

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

Bridge

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

Bridge is a four-player card game with partners sitting opposite each other around a table. It is a trick-taking card game using a standard 52-card deck. Come alone or bring a partner.

Hand and foot card game

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

This card game involves four rounds of playing until the final

round is reached — some two to three hours later. Plan to stay and meet some new friends or catch up with those you have missed over the last couple of years.

No experience is necessary, so come willing to learn.

Supporting ASI

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

You may mail your donation to P.O. Box 3444, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147 or please visit our website, <http://www.psseniors.org/> (donation button). Donation checks can be written to: Archuleta Seniors Inc. We are located at 451 Hot Springs Blvd. For more information about Archuleta Seniors Inc., please visit <http://www.psseniors.org/>.

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Library

■ continued from previous page

mation Reference Center helps you address a wide range of legal issues.

MyHeritage helps you create your family tree and discover your family history. Transparent Language Learning offers nearly 100 languages to learn. TumbleBook Library has books, e-books and videos for children in English and Spanish. Universal Class has intellectually stimulating courses for people interested in the lifelong pursuit of knowledge.

To access these and more, go to our website at pagosalibrary.org and select the gray tab toward the top of the page that says "Online Resources."

Tax help session

If you would like help with your taxes, please call Kathy at (970) 553-9150 or email her at kathy.taxhelp@gmail.com for an appointment for the third and final free session at your library.

A representative of VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) will meet with those who have signed up in individual session on Tuesday, April 9, between 9 a.m. and 8 p.m. Registration is required in advance.

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.

Health insurance help

Drop in on Tuesday, April 2, when we'll have experts available from 1 to 4 p.m. to help you sign up for health insurance and answer your questions during a special free Connect for Health session taking place during Colorado's open enrollment period.

Special writers' guild anthology

Local writers — both guild members are those who are not — are invited to contribute to a Ruby's Writers Guild anthology collection that will be donated to the library.

Submissions should be sent to Judy by email at judy@pagosalibrary.org by Thursday, April 4, when there will be open readings of submissions from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Then blind reviews will take place April 18 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

For more information, please contact Judy at the library at (970) 264-2209.

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.

Virtual author talks

Our highly popular free online

author talks continue with three opportunities in April for you to interact with New York Times bestselling authors and ask questions in April.

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

Tuesday, April 2, at noon we'll interact with Smithsonian curator Paula J. Johnson, author of "The Foods, People and Innovations That Feed Us," a sweeping history of food and culture.

Tuesday, April 9, at noon will showcase Diane Foley and National Book Award-winner Colum McCann about "From Murder to Atonement: Confronting My Son's Killer."

On Wednesday, April 17, at 6 p.m. we'll focus on a literary examination of power, love and art with Xochitl Gonzalez, author of "Anita de Monte Laughs Last."

Last chance for cardboard construction contest

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 Friday, March 29, at 5 p.m. 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.

Knitting and crochet lessons

Learn to knit or crochet on Monday, April 1, at our free gathering from 2 to 3:15 p.m. for ages 8 and up. Supplies will be provided.

Teen/tween art camp

Each month we explore a different style or medium at this free event. In April it's watercolor art. Join us Mondays, April 1, 15, 22 and 29, from 4 to 5:30 p.m. Preregistration is required.

Music fun Monday

Pagosa Unplugged is free from 4 to 6 p.m. Monday, April 1, for amateur musicians who would like a safe, supportive, non-bar setting to play, sing or both with other people. For program information contact Susan at (970) 946-3396.

Spanish conversation

Practice your Spanish in a free group setting on Tuesday, April 2, from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. No minimum skill level is needed. This group meets twice a month, on the first and third Tuesdays.

Dungeons and Dragons

Next Thursday, April 4, from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m., join our Dungeons and Dragons game free for teens and

■ See Library on next page



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Library

■ continued from previous page

young adults. Preregistration is required because space is limited. Contact Josie@pagosalibrary.org to join.

Elementary tutoring sessions

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Family storytimes

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

Writers' guild

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

ESL classes

Free in-person evening classes take place on Tuesdays and 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.

Downloadable books

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Local author

"FrontRunner" by Reynard Faber, the honorary and traditional chief of the Jicarilla Apache people, is an inspirational autobiography of an Apache Indian whose spiritual conversion to Christianity brings both challenges and empowerment. His devotion to Jesus Christ enables others to view Christianity from a new perspective and helps them discover how to humbly embrace a more powerful walk

with God.

The book contains a foreword by the Rev. Jerry Fallwell Sr. The author continues to live with his young son, Trevor, on the Jicarilla Apache Reservation in Dulce, N.M.

Nonfiction

"My Dad Had That Car" by Tad Burness is a nostalgic look at the U.S. automobile from 1920-1990. "Road Trip USA" by Jamie Jensen is a Moon guide to adventures on two-lane highways. "Mind Your Gut" by Kate Scartlata and Megan Riehl describes a science-based holistic approach to living well with irritable bowel syndrome. "Slow Productivity" by Cal Newport offers advice about the lost art of accomplishment without burnout. "Scientist" by Pulitzer Prize-winner Richard Rhodes is a biography of Harvard biologist and naturalist Edward O. Wilson, known as "Darwin's successor."

Local history

"My Pioneer Life: The Memories of Abner E. Sprague" is a collection of writings and photographs by this Colorado pioneer. He came with his family from the Midwest in a covered wagon to settle in Estes Park and then played a role in America's railway expansion and operated two successful ranch resorts. You'll find his autobiography in the Hershey Collection section of your library along with other local history books.

Novels

"Community 215" by Dr. M.K. Black focuses on the relationship of a boy and girl to whom he exposes the truth of the harsh controls of her life in a walled community. "All of Our Yesterdays" by Joel H. Morris is a fictional look at the life of Lady Macbeth, one of literature's most notorious figures.

Books on CD

"The Hunter" by Tana French tells of a family in rural Ireland upended when a long-absent father appears. "Watch Where They Hide" by Tameron Hall is book two of the Jordan Manning series, this one about a missing mother in danger. "Wandering Stars" by Tommy Orange is a fictional look at the Sand Creek Massacre of 1864 and an industrial school of Indians, a sequel to "There There."

DVDs

"Poor Things" won several Academy Awards including best actress for Emma Stone. "Ferrari" was called "the best car movie ever made" by The Wall Street Journal. "All Creatures Great and Small" is season four.

Donation guidelines

We are grateful to Joanne Ferko for her materials donations.

When we are open, material donations are accepted for the Friends of the Library at the front desk — not down the outside returns slot at the library or the drop box at City Market, please.

Here are the Friends' new guidelines for donations: Yes to popular fiction books published in 2014 or later,

nonfiction books published 2019 or later, and children's and young adult books — all in excellent condition, please. No to CDs, DVDs, Blu-ray, VHS or cassette tapes; textbooks, outdated travel books or reference books because they do not sell. No more than two boxes at a time because of space constraints.

Quotable quote

"The service we render to others is really the rent we pay for our room on this earth." — Sir Wilfred T. Grenfell (1865-1940), British medical missionary and author.

Website

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In August, 2023 I had a hearing with Judge Justin Fay to defend against frivolous TPO's (temporary protection orders) obtained by neighbors who used false accusations to do so (as contained in cases 2023C75/76). Reluctantly ruling in my favor, Fay also questioned my honesty, made unnecessary personal comments about me, and denied motion for legal fees – actions which call into question his competence and suitability.

More about the judge, court, and my case: archuletacountycourts.com.

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Hit the ball and drag Joe

By Betty J. Slade
PREVIEW Columnist

The search started with a punchline. My daughter said to me, "I was trying to remember the joke we always told in the family: Hit the ball and drag Joe."

She said, "I went to Google search and typed in the punchline and the joke came up."

"You've got to be kidding."

"I'll show you." There it was. The joke. "One Saturday Bob came home tired and disgusted. His wife asked him, 'How was your golf game?'"

"Bob said, 'The worst game of golf ever. We got to the first tee, Joe hit a hole in one and dropped dead of a heart attack.'"

"That's terrible."

Bob said, 'I know. For the rest of the game, it was hit the ball and drag Joe.'

That joke became our family's favorite punchline. When I made plans for my Sweet Al and me to go somewhere, he didn't want to go and I had to drag him, I'd use that punchline. The kids would say, "How was Daddy? Did he go?" I would say, "You know how it is, 'hit the ball and drag Joe.'"

My writer friend and I were talking about timing in our writing. I told her about learning cadence, beats and timing when I studied how to write humor. It's all about cutting out all the fat words.

Timing weaves throughout any kind of writing and requires getting rid of unnecessary words to get the cadence right. I told her about Googling punchlines and bringing back old, forgotten jokes and teaching a writers' class on writing humor.

I offered to teach another class in humor and then pow, I remembered my last experience.

I said, "Absolutely not, I still have the bruises."

That Monday morning when I taught about writing humor, it was disastrous. I titled the class, "Bring in the clowns."

I told them to bring a short article they had written. They were going learn how to turn any kind of writing into humor. Wrong. They kicked and screamed.

I thought I was doing something clever and that the writers would all turn into Erma Bombecks.

Wrong. No clowns in the room. Just blank faces and a few critical looks. They couldn't do it.

I told them humor is a powerful tool in writing. I've written some really passionate articles with strong messages. Some were almost too strong to write about. By using humor, I was able to make my point without offending or accusing anyone.

Like writing about the "turnabouts" at the hospital in Durango. At the time, I was enraged by the ridiculousness of the idea. Sick, in a hurry,

Artist's Lane

and needing a doctor, I went round and round on that turnabout, trying to figure out which lane to stay in. I almost got hit, but one good thing — I was close to the hospital.

I also showed the writers the advantage of timing in their other writings. Sometimes the cadence is off in a sentence and one more word makes the sentence flow.

One writer, an ex-pastor who wrote stories about parables, wrote an article about "Love your neighbor." It was a sermon. I told him, "No one will remember that sermon and no one wants to read a sermon and be preached to."

I told him to give me his story and I'd show him how to turn it into a humorous piece. I rewrote his article. I used my Sweet Al as the neighbor. Another family joke.

Al stands at the living room window with his binoculars. He's not on neighborhood watch, but curious. He has too much time on his hands.

When the kids called and asked about their daddy, I'd tell them, "Alice is watching the neighborhood." We all laughed. They remember "Bewitched" and Alice Ghostly, the gossipy neighbor, Gladys Kravitz with her binoculars. Humor works best when you can turn it on yourself.

I turned the ex-pastor's article into a funny story about loving your neighbors. I told him his sermons could be remembered if he used humor. The writer thought I was making fun of the parables and he discarded it. That's too bad. It was a great article. He could've learned something for his other writing.

Humor has saved my marriage for 64 years. When I came unglued at some of Al's nonsense, I've turned my angst into humor and wrote about him.

I told the writers that many of my readers read "Artist's Lane" for the humor. I've learned that writers can write about anything if they use humor. As much as we need to laugh today, it doesn't work for some writers. It could.

Final brushstroke: That Monday morning only one caught the fever to write humor. You'll see it in some of his writings. And I told my writer friend, "The more I think about it, forget it; don't put me on the schedule. I'm not up to teaching a class on how to write humor. It will only be like hitting the ball and dragging Joe."

Readers' comments

"Good morning Betty,

"Since we live in the neighboring state of Kansas, we often get the SUN about a week later in the mail. Loved your bold and brilliant January 25th article 'Should I stop breathing for them?' It's keeping a smile on my face today. Yes, they are expecting us to stop breathing, and may likely invent ways to do so. What an amazing God! - that we continually have opportunities to humbly shine His light, joy and truth, for as long as we have breath! Joan Kelley"

"Write it! I had lost your address my dear dear friend! Then another dear friend of mine just gave me a year's subscription to the Sun! What a blessing to see and read about old home! WHAT A CHANGE THO! In just two short years \$\$\$! My first copy, Feb. 1st and I get to read from the AUTHOR! WRITE IT! From your heart I dare say there will not be any dross for HIM to burn away, WRITE IT my dear sister. The ink is wet in the pen. Miss you and look eagerly to see more from you in the paper! Love, Mr. Mark Crain."

Views expressed do not necessarily represent those of The SUN.



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Culture wars and an embattled Utah monument

By Stephen Trimble
PREVIEW Columnist

Opinion: Writers on the Range

Utah's Bears Ears National Monument rarely leaves the news. The political tussle over this stunning expanse of red rock canyons exemplifies all the cultural dissonance in the rural West.

Three presidents have signed Bears Ears proclamations. Barack Obama established Bears Ears National Monument in 2016, but supporters were devastated when Donald Trump eviscerated the monument the following year, reducing its area by 85 percent. In 2021, President Joe Biden restored the original boundaries and then some.

What's clear is that Bears Ears remains reviled by Republican officials, and cherished by Indigenous tribes and conservationists.

The monument, 1.36 million acres in southeast Utah, lies within San Juan County. The Navajo Nation covers 25 percent of the county, and Native people account for more than half of the 14,200-person population. Just 8 percent of the county is private land, while another 5 percent is state trust land.

The rest — 62 percent of the county — is federal land owned by the people of the United States and administered by the departments of Agriculture and Interior. This immense commons testifies to the sublime difficulty of the place — beautiful enough to warrant preservation as national parks, monuments and forests. But it's also arid enough to attract only a few 19th century settlers to what had been Indigenous homeland for millennia.

I think it's fair to say that San Juan County's white residents never envisioned challenges to their political power. But in 2009, the feds came down hard on generations of casual pothunting by local white families.

Then, after a century of oppressing their Indigenous neighbors, lawsuits strengthened Native voting rights. The county commission became majority Navajo from 2018 to 2022.

Native influence keeps expanding. The five tribes of the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition first envisioned a national monument and became co-stewards for these 1.36 million acres. They have a champion in Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland, an enrolled member of the Laguna Pueblo tribe, but such historic changes make the dominant culture uneasy.

In February, Utah Gov. Spencer Cox dramatically withdrew from a Bears Ears land exchange poised for completion. This swap of state trust lands for Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands would hugely benefit the state. Details were already negotiated; each side compromised; the stakeholders were largely content.

But in 2024, Utah politics are stark, compounded by distrust and

disinformation.

At statehood in 1896, Utah received four sections per township to support public schools and universities. The Utah Trust Lands Administration manages these scattered lands — blue squares on ownership maps — but blocking up these blue squares into manageable parcels means trading land with federal agencies.

Such trades aren't rare and can be grand in scale. A 1998 negotiation between Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt and Utah Gov. Mike Leavitt traded Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument's 176,000 acres of school sections for BLM land elsewhere — along with a hefty \$50 million payment to Utah from the U.S. Treasury. Utah Trust Lands still brags about the deal on its website.

But the old guard is up in arms about the draft Bears Ears Resource Management Plan released for public comment on March 8. The BLM's preferred alternative emphasizes traditional Indigenous knowledge and land health.

Any such gestures toward conservation elicit local outrage about the feds "destroying" the pioneer way of life. The subtext: The people long in charge don't want to lose power.

Denouncing federal overreach is always a sure win for Utah politicians. In this year's Republican primary, San Juan County-based legislator Phil Lyman is challenging the incumbent governor with fierce anti-public lands rhetoric. Cox will need to protect his right flank.

Meanwhile, school trust lands within Bears Ears remain at risk. The tallest structure in Utah, a 460-foot telecom tower with blinking red lights, could rise on state land in the heart of the monument. It's been approved by county planners, and the Trust Lands Administration could add poison pills on other lands proposed for exchange.

The elected leaders of Utah have decided that the monument's integrity and the needs of the state's children matter less than political gamesmanship.

The five tribes of Bears Ears know better: "It is our obligation to our ancestors ... and to the American people, to protect Bears Ears."

Their big hearts will win in the end.

Stephen Trimble is a contributor to Writers on the Range, writersontherange.org, an independent non-profit dedicated to spurring lively conversation about the West. He lives in Utah. Views expressed do not necessarily represent those of The SUN.



Photo courtesy Stephen Trimble

Rainbows appear over Utah's Cheesebox Butte.

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Answering the test question

By Daris Howard
Special to The PREVIEW

It was finals week. Most students were busy taking tests and trying to do their last clean checks before they left. Others were preparing for graduation and moving on to the next part of their lives. As a professor, I was giving tests, grading them and spending lots of time visiting with students who had been less than diligent but still hoped to pass.

I was busy grading linear algebra tests when my phone rang. I answered it and immediately recognized my niece's voice.

"Uncle Daris," she said, "could you help me and my roommates with something?"

"What?" I asked.

"Well, when we moved in this semester, we all hated the showerhead in our bathroom. So, we bought one that we all liked better. But the apartment managers will expect the original one put back for checkout."

"If the one you bought is better, don't you think they would be OK with it?" I asked.

"I said we liked it better," she replied. "The original one was meant to save water, but it hardly put out anything. It was like showering under a dripping faucet. The one we bought put out a lot more water. I'm sure they would want their water-saving one, but we don't have any wrenches to switch it."

"I'd be happy to help," I said. "I'll bring my wrenches to work tomorrow. I have to give a test at 10, but should be free early in the afternoon."

"That would work perfectly," my niece said. "We will be here packing."

I arrived at their apartment just after noon the next day. My niece invited me in, introduced me to her roommates who were there, then led me past piles of boxes in the living room. When we got to the bathroom, she handed me the shower head they wanted reinstalled.

"How did you install it the first time without any wrenches?" I asked.

"My roommate, Valentina, had her boyfriend do it. But he's not her boyfriend anymore, so she doesn't want to ask him."

"I'm happy to do it," I replied.

While they continued to pack, I changed the shower head. When I returned to the living room, they were hauling boxes to their cars. They had loaded some boxes extra heavy, and they couldn't lift them, so I hauled the heavy ones for them.

As I came in after one trip, another roommate had returned from taking a test. She was crying. Seeing me, my niece, who was trying to comfort the girl, introduced her to me, telling me she was Valentina.

"Valentina just took a test, and she is sure she bombed it," my niece said. She then turned to Valentina and said, "My uncle is a professor. Maybe he'll know."

Valentina nodded and turned to me, speaking with a strong South American accent. "I thought I was doing well on the test, and then I got to the last question. It was so confusing that it made me wonder if I didn't know the answers as well as I thought. I'm afraid I did horribly

on the test."

"Can you tell me the question?" I asked.

"It was something about chucking wood or something," she replied, "and I don't remember ever talking about chucking wood."

"Was it, 'How much wood can a woodchuck chuck if a woodchuck could chuck wood?'" I asked.

She looked shocked. "You know the question?"

"What were the answers?" I asked.

"One said, 'One Log.' Another said, '2 cord.' And the last one just said, 'choose me, choose me,' which I know was a dumb answer."

I laughed. "The phrase is just a common, crazy thing we sometimes say in the United States. I'm sure the professor was using it to give you some free points. He probably expected you to choose the last one, but I'm sure he'll give you points for any of them."

Valentina smiled and dried her tears. Then she asked, "So how much wood can a woodchuck chuck if a woodchuck could chuck wood?"

I smiled. "I'm sure we'll never really know."

Views expressed do not necessarily represent those of The SUN.

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How reading affects children

Special to The PREVIEW

Early childhood is a critical time for personal development. During this period, many intellectual, physical and emotional changes are taking place in a child's body at a rapid pace. Parents want to give their children the best opportunities for success in life, and encouraging children to read is one of the ways they can help youngsters develop intellectual and emotional maturity.

Data from the Adolescent Brain and Cognitive Development project, an American national cohort study with more than 10,000 participants across different ethnicities and varying socioeconomic statuses, found that reading for pleasure in early childhood was linked with better scores on comprehension cognition assessments and better educational attainment in young adolescence. It also correlated to fewer mental health problems and less time spent on electronic devices.

Reading is a learned activity, and reading early on with a child is a bonding activity between caregiver and child.

The Arnold Palmer Hospital for Children says reading has the potential to increase academic achievement by improving vocabulary and learning comprehension. Interactive reading also helps increase mental imagery and language processing.

It's important to note that reading can positively affect the body physically as well. Children may experience less stress by reading, as reading is thought to be even more calming than listening to music or even taking a walk.

In a study published in the journal of Psychological Medicine, researchers in the UK and China found that 12 hours of reading a week was the optimal time linked to improved brain structure and good brain health.

When researchers examined brain scans from those who had been reading from an early age, the scans showed moderately larger total brain areas and volumes, including in regions of the brain responsible for roles in critical cognitive functions.

"It's widely accepted that [reading] inspires creativity, increases empathy and reduces stress," said professor Barbara Sahakian from the University of Cambridge.

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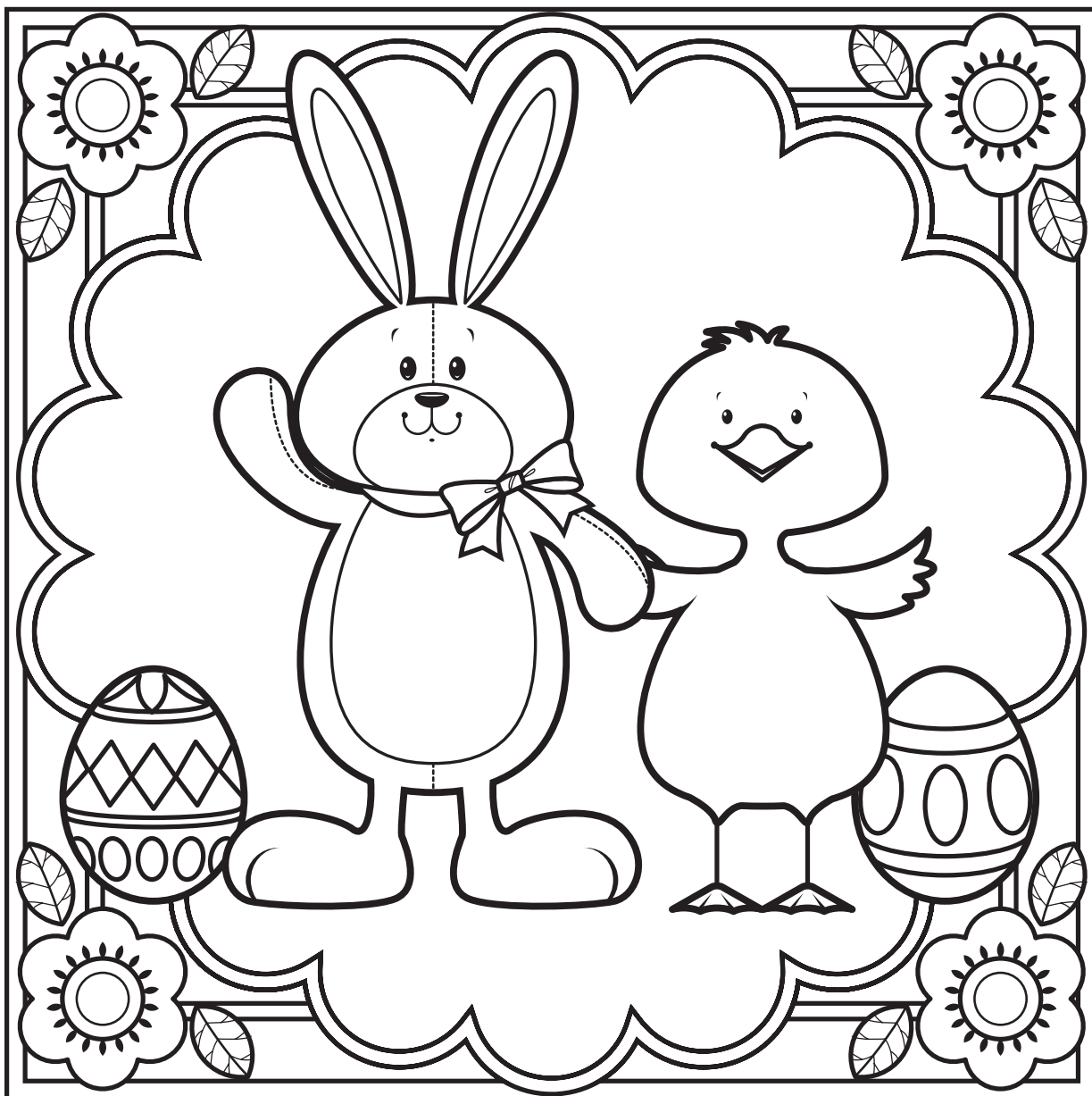
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Tips to avoid the buildup of clutter

Special to The PREVIEW

Clutter has a way of taking over a home. As time goes by, items that are not stored or discarded when they've lost their utility can gradually take over a space, creating a claustrophobic, cluttered feeling that can affect how people feel in their homes.

Clutter is not something to be taken lightly. A 2010 study published in the journal *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin* found that women who characterized their living spaces as cluttered or marked by unfinished projects were more likely to experience fatigue and depression than women who described their homes as restful and restorative.

Though clutter is often discussed in terms of removing it, there's also many ways to prevent it in the first place:

- Schedule weekly cleaning sessions. Cleaning is a chore few look forward to, and that reluctance may be a byproduct of infrequent cleanings. The less a home is cleaned, the longer cleaning sessions take when individuals get around to it. Weekly cleaning sessions can help prevent items from stockpiling and creating a cluttered look.

- Discard items when they're no longer used. Holding on to items you no longer use will eventually contribute to the buildup of clutter. That's a lesson parents know well, as kids outgrow toys, which can then pile up and contribute to overcrowded toy chests and play rooms. Adults also have a hard time discarding their own toys, including old devices. As

kids outgrow toys, let them choose which ones to discard before they're replaced with new items. The same goes for adults, who can wipe old devices like tablets, smartphones and laptops clean and discard them once they've purchased replacements.

- Make it easy to find stored items. Even the most well-organized person can fall victim to clutter if stored items prove difficult to find. When revamping storage systems, choose clear, stackable drawers so you won't make a mess as you look for stored items you can't find. Clear, stackable plastic bins and drawers make it easier to find what you're looking for, reducing the likelihood that items will end up on the floor or strewn about. If you don't want to replace existing storage bins, label them if they're not clear to make it easier to identify what's inside.

- Donate clothing. Much like kids' toys and adults' devices should be discarded when they're no longer used, old clothes can be donated to create more storage space and prevent the buildup of clutter. Clutter is often described as something visible to the naked eye, but clutter can also build up in dresser drawers and behind closet doors. Periodically go through closets and dressers and remove items you no longer wear, donating them if they're still in good shape and discarding them if they're not.

Clutter can quickly take over a home. A proactive approach that emphasizes clutter prevention can make for a more relaxing and restful home.

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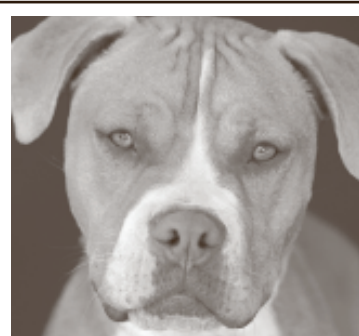
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I'm Ivy, a sweet, playful 3-year-old cat. I have lived with another cat before but it's been a while since I've met any others. I love to play and get attention, so expect me at your feet a lot. Come meet me at the shelter if I sound like a good fit for you! Please come visit me at the Humane Society or call (970) 731-4771.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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).

SERVICES

ASPENGLow LANDSCAPING/ YARD MAINTENANCE/ YARD CLEANUP. Mowing, trimming, raking and tree trimming. Tractor available for planting and landscaping. (970)946-2061.

AUTOMATIC GATE OWNERS. Pagosa has grown. It's time to upgrade your gate to allow first responder access to your property. Special discount for the first 25 people. Pagosa Fence Co (970)731-3177. www.pagosafence.com.

AWARD WINNING LANDSCAPE DESIGNER /installer booking clients for 2024 season. If you want a beautiful yard, patio, Pergolas, Xeriscaping rock work, road work. Call or text (970)946-5206 Stacy.

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

BOOKING NOW FOR SEASONAL CLEANUP and summer installments. If you have been thinking about adding in hardscaping —flagstone, retaining walls, patios, walkways— or would like to add garden beds and other landscaping elements. Call Clarks' Custom Landscaping for a free consultation. (505)709-8579 (Rebekah), clarkscustomlandcape@gmail.com, clarkscustomlandscaping.com. Licensed and insured.

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

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

CONSTRUCTION -GC -Home Repairs, Renovations, Additions, Sheds, Fences, Hardscapes. Licensed & insured. Local references. Call Seaver (303)653-1990.

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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.

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FRONT DESK Part-time, 2-3 days a week. Shifts may include mornings, days, nights, and weekends. If you have a friendly, positive attitude; strong customer service skills; are comfortable with computers; and have a strong work ethic we'd love to talk with you. Healing Waters Resort & Spa, 140 Hot Springs Blvd. Applications can be downloaded at www.pshotsprings.com or stop by to pick one up. Applications can be emailed to: sales@pshotsprings.com, Attention Front Desk Position. We look forward to hearing from you!

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.

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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

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.

GOODMAN'S DEPARTMENT STORE is looking for a part-time sales associate, Saturdays required. Sales associates must be friendly and self-motivated. Ask about our benefits and employee discounts. Come pick up an application at 402 Pagosa Street.

HELP WANTED

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Responsibilities include:

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HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

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MOUNTAIN MAMA MASSAGE is looking for LMTs to join our team! Utilize your healing gifts in our fun, relaxed work environment where you are appreciated! TOP PAY \$50 /hour +tips. Email racheldevloo@gmail.com.

HOUSEKEEPING. Full-time position. MUST be able to work Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays along with holiday shifts. We are looking to add one more team member to our current housekeeping staff. If you have a friendly attitude, an eye for detail, and a strong work ethic, we'd love to hear from you! Healing Waters Resort & Spa, 140 Hot Springs Blvd. Email: sales@pshotsprings.com, Attention Housekeeping, or stop by to fill out an application. Puesto de limpieza a tiempo completo. Debe poder trabajar los Viernes, Sábados, y Domingos. Junto con los turnos de vacaciones. Estamos buscando un miembro mas del equipo a nuestro personal de limpieza actual. Si tienes una actitud amigable, un ojo para los detalles y una fuerte ética de trabajo. Nos encantaría saber de ti en Healing Waters Resort and Spa, 140 Hot Springs Blvd, Email: sales@pshotsprings.com. Atención al Servicio De Limpieza. O pástate por aquí para rellenar una aplicación.

HOMESPUN HOT TUBS is hiring another spa clean tech. We will train. \$20 / hour. 35-40 hours / wk. Text Stuart @ 818-963-0836.

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.

IN NEED OF Maintenance, Kitchen Manager, Cook, Retreat Manager, Store Manager and other roles. Room and board included plus hourly pay. Apply at taramandala.org/connect/employment-opportunities/.

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

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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.

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

ROOF LABORER NEEDED with some construction experience. Will train. \$20-\$25/ hour to start. (970)749-0830.

SEAMLESS FINISH LLC is hiring for concrete work. Pay based on experience. No experience required. (970)903-2252.

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.

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.

SUBWAY IS HIRING. Enjoy working in a fun environment with a great team? Earn a strong hourly wage with tips while serving our wonderful community. Apply online at subway.com, or in person.

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.

THE SANCTUARY is looking for someone to farm. We have irrigation. 25-30 acres. County Road 551. Please call (970)264-2592 or (970)884-3502.

The Town of Pagosa Springs is seeking energetic, fun, responsible team players to serve as Counselors, Assistant Leads, and Leads for the **K.I.D.S. Day Camp**. Staff works collaboratively to implement the program and create a positive learning, exploring, and growing experience for attendees. The K.I.D.S Day Camp program runs from June 3rd through August 2nd, Monday through Friday. Training for staff begins in Mid May. For more information on the position and to apply, go to the Town's website at www.pagosasprings.co.gov and select Employment.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

FOR SALE Classy Downtown retail store. Inventory and LT lease. \$35,000. Email: winterpeak5@pm.me.

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AVON RAFT. \$1,500 OBO. (720)353-6253.

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

FIREWOOD FOR SALE. Split, delivered and stacked. \$200 per cord. (719)937-8707.

FIREWOOD SALE. The end of the season dump truck special is back! Get a HUGE load split and delivered for \$475! This will be the cheapest price of the year. Start getting stocked back up now! Only while supplies last. FIRE&ICE (970)582-0006.

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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.

SCOTCHMAN 65 TON IRONWORKER hole Dies-break, 3 PH converter, Lincoln welders, Plasma Cutter, drill presses, miscellaneous steel working equipment. Call for pricing information (970)507-0475.

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).

THE SANCTUARY. Put your order in for organic baby ducks. Sold in 3s only. \$15 each, \$45 for 3. (970)264-2592 or (970)884-3502.

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.

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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. 3 Male. Ready for new homes 3/28/24. Call (719)641-7617.

DOGGY DAY CARE 81147.COM. Open 365 days of the year! Full day and half day doggy day care and overnight boarding. Conveniently located just 1 mile from downtown Pagosa. Call (970)264-9111.

FOR POOCH SAKES GROOMING. Appointments available with Kelly (303)819-2015. Mobile appointments with Barb (970)903-1290.

LOVING DOG CARE BY LESLIE N. Text Pet Info to (469)667-4480. Boarding, day care, drop ins, house sitting. References and reviews available.

AUTOS

1990 SUBURBAN. 3/4 ton. New motor. Really good shape. (970)442-1363. \$5,700.

2006 AUDI. 4 door. Metallic gray. One Owner. Runs and looks good. Sunroof. All wheel drive. Really clean. \$2,600. 2006 F250 Powerstroke. 4 door. 4 wheel drive. Cover over bed. Body's perfect, needs head gasket. White. \$4,000. (970)264-2592 or (970)585-4508.

BUCKSKIN TOWING & REPAIR, LLC has a 1992 Tan Chevrolet GMT400, VIN#214629 for sale. Please stop by Buckskin Towing & Repair at 1435 E. Hwy 160 to place a bid on this vehicle. (970)264-2500.

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.

YARD SALES

BE SURE TO CHECK for more yard sales in the Too Late To Classify section.

GARAGE SALE. Household items, tools, clothes, toys. 769 N. Pagosa Blvd. 7a.m. -12p.m. Saturday, March 30.

GIANT ESTATE SALE. So. Much. Stuff. Friday and Saturday, March 29 and 30. 8a.m. sharp. Furniture, beds, household decor, jewelry, kitchen items, planting/ yard, fishing, camping, sporting goods, battery lawn mower, lumber, tools, new Dewalt router, portable table saw, chop saw, ladders, antiques, collectibles, shelving, canning jars, Christmas, Hallmark ornaments, Jim Shore, tons of crafts, card making, stamping, scrapbooking and so much more. Hwy 160 West. Right on N. Pagosa, right on Northlake, right on Island Place, house #112. Please do not park crazy and block neighbors' driveways. Rain or Shine. AEHPOS.

TRASH TO TREASURES SALE. Friday and Saturday. 9a.m. to 3p.m. Benchmark Storage. 412 Bastille Drive, Unit 4. on backside of building.

264-2100

Classifieds

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

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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.

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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.

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.

RESIDENTIAL RENTALS

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.

LOVELY FURNISHED single story, 2 bedroom 2.5 bath. 2 car garage townhome. All utilities included. Pet allowed with approval. TP-15. \$2900/month. (970)731-8599 or visit teampagosa.com.

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RESIDENTIAL RENTALS

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.

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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.

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Preview Calendar



Photo courtesy Charles Martinez

This week's Bird of the Week, compliments of the Weminuche Audubon Society and Audubon Rockies, is the black-necked stilt.

This shorebird is not exceptionally tall — in proportion to its body size, its legs are very long and thin, providing the inspiration for the name of this group of birds called stilts. Their deliberate, slow movements on rose-colored legs while wading in wetlands are far from erratic, and rather are described as stately and elegant.

Using excellent vision, the stilt uses its long, needle-like bill to snatch a variety of insects and crustaceans at or near the surface of shallow water. The male's glossy black feathers extend from his head down his neck, back and wings, and contrast with white underparts. The black parts may appear more brownish in females and immatures.

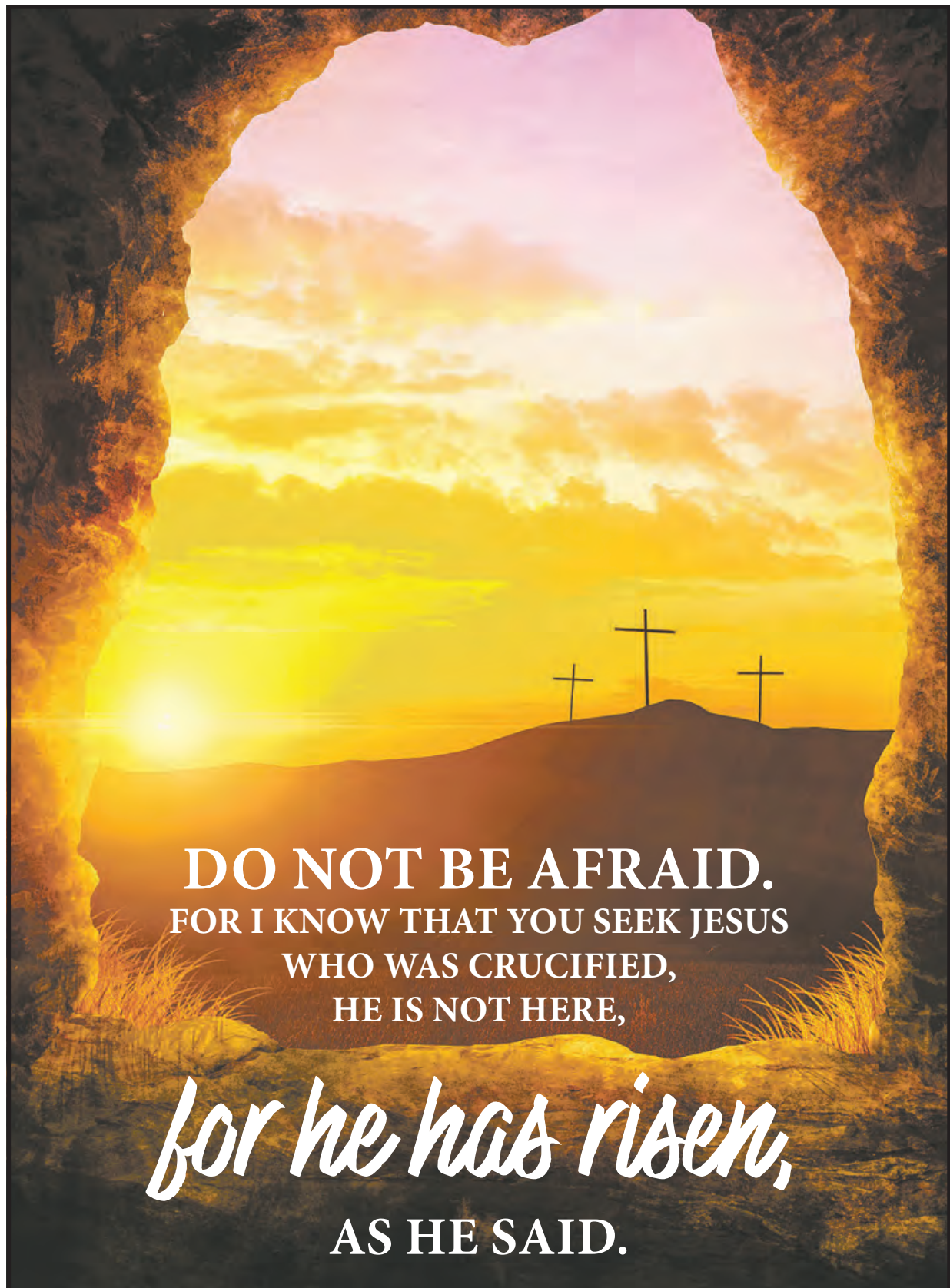
The black-necked stilt is found in both freshwater wetlands and salt marshes, at the edges of shallow water ponds, flooded rice fields and man-made structures like sewage ponds. They build their nests on open ground with short vegetation which is surrounded by or at the edge of water, where they breed in loose colonies.

Forgoing the strategies of many cryptically colored shorebirds which hide their nests from view, black-necked stilts are highly conspicuous when nesting. When disturbed during the breeding season, the flock will yap loudly and incessantly. Aerial predators like the harrier may be mobbed by non-incubating birds.

Ground predators may be lured away from nests when adults feign a broken wing or exhibit "false incubation displays" when they crouch as if on a nest and then display in different locations away from theirs. A snake may be met by a "popcorn display," where adults in the area gather round hopping up and down while flapping their wings and calling loudly.

Shorebirds will soon be stopping in area wetlands to rest and feed during their spring migratory flights to breeding areas. While many can present identification challenges, the distinctive black-necked stilt is one that is easy to pick out.

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



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for he has risen,

AS HE SAID.



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