



PAGOSA SPRINGS, ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO 81147

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VOLUME 116 — NO. 34, THURSDAY, MAY 23, 2024



## 'Dancin' Through the Decades'

SUN photos/Randi Pierce

Dozens of Pagosa Springs Dance Academy students take to the stage at Pagosa Springs High School on Saturday, May 18, for their annual recital. Two recitals were held on the day, with dancers performing a total of 51 routines with the theme "Dancin' Through the Decades."



## Memorial Day remembrance services planned

By Randi Pierce  
Staff Writer

A trio of area Memorial Day ceremonies will honor citizens who died defending American freedom on Monday, May 27.

The first of the events will begin at 10 a.m. at Hilltop Cemetery.

That ceremony, conducted by the American Legion Post 108 Honor Guard, will include a flyover by the San Juan Flyers, a flag ceremony, prayers and the playing of taps.

At 11 a.m., a service will be held at the Allison/Tiffany Cemetery, located

at 807 County Road 329.

The service will be followed by a potluck dinner at the Allison Grange Hall located at 2622 County Road 329.

Then, at 7 p.m., there will be another observance of Memorial Day at Veterans Memorial Park on Vista Drive.

That event, put on by the Archuleta County Veterans for Veterans and the American Legion, will feature a flag ceremony, rifle salute and prayers.

It will also feature a luminaria display.

All are welcome at the events.  
randi@pagosasun.com

## Sinkhole caused by damaged manhole appears on North Pagosa Boulevard

### Road to close May 23 for repairs

By Josh Pike  
Staff Writer

North Pagosa Boulevard between Lakeside Drive and Glen Eaton Drive will close for approximately one week beginning Thursday, May 23, to allow for repairs after a sinkhole opened.

A sinkhole was identified on North Pagosa Boulevard between Lakeside Drive and the bridge over the outlet of Village Lake in the late afternoon of May 21, Archuleta County Communications Specialist Ashley Springer explains in a communication to The SUN.

She states that the hole was initially identified by Road and Bridge Manager Eric McRae as he was driving through the area and that he

stopped his vehicle and began diverting traffic around the hole as soon as he identified it.

As discussed at the May 21 work session of the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC), Commissioner Ronnie Maez, County Attorney Todd Weaver and Interim County Manager Jack Harper arrived later to view the hole.

Following an investigation, Springer explained at the work session, the cause was determined to be a compromised Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD) sewer manhole.

In an interview, PAWSD District Engineer/Manager Justin Ramsey explained that the manhole was

## Charter school approves agreement for new director

By Clayton Chaney  
Staff Writer

Pagosa Peak Open School (PPOS) is set to have a new school director for next school year.

At its regular meeting on Wednesday, May 15, the school's board of directors unanimously voted to approve the first reading of the new school director employment agreement with Emily Murphy, who is currently serving as assistant school director.

According to the agreement, for the 2024-2025 school year the school director position is offered a total compensation of \$100,000. This includes a salary of \$70,000 and a \$10,000 benefits package. Also included in the agreement is a \$20,000

administrative stipend fund.

During the meeting, PPOS treasurer Pamela Meade explained the reasoning for including the administrative stipend fund. The employment agreement contains an appendix that outlines all of the roles and responsibilities associated with the stipend fund. These include school safety work, substitute management, transportation management, school assessment coordinator, events and fundraising coordinator, intensives coordinator, gifted team leader (Destination Imagination) and secondary food program manager.

Meade explained that all of those roles are already included in the duties of the school director, but with the stipend fund the director will be

## School board discusses student behavior matrix, threat assessments

By Clayton Chaney  
Staff Writer

At its regular meeting held on Tuesday, May 14 the Archuleta School District Board of Education (BOE) heard from Superintendent Rick Holt in regard to the district's student behavior matrix that is used to help identify disruptive behaviors and the suggested response.

"One thing that became apparent in my first year here is I was getting phone calls from principals and assistant principals asking, 'How do we handle a particular situation? And how's that been handled in the past? And what do we want to do about

that?," Holt said. "So, it wasn't long into that first year where we sat down with principals and started to look at a behavior-response matrix."

Holt explained that, "based on that collective work, we have a systemic, and I would say systematic, behavior response that creates consistency, equity, alignment, reliability and predictability across the schools."

He mentioned the district has been doing a lot of "norming" over the past two years around specific situations, indicating that the student behavior matrix allows staff to identify certain behaviors which can then be addressed with appropriate responses from school staff.

"We're trying to build in safety for all of the people in our organization, students and adults alike, protecting the rights of all of those people, responding to behaviors as communication," he said, explaining that students, specifically younger students, may not know how to express themselves appropriately and that the district needs to view those situations as the student asking for help.


He added that some students may need to be explicitly coached on expected behaviors, while others may need to be removed from a situation.

The student behavior matrix includes five levels of behaviors and the responses associated with those


behaviors.

According to the student behavior matrix level-one behaviors consist of classroom-managed responses, level-two behaviors include office-supported responses, level-three behaviors include office-directed responses, level-four behaviors consist of office responses for definitive safety concerns and level-five behaviors elicit mandatory responses.

Holt explained that classroom teachers take care of level-one behaviors on a regular basis within their room and that level-two behaviors are considered disruptive and responses include recommended



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# Opinion

## The Pagosa Springs SUN

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## OUR VIEW

### 'For love of country they accepted death'

Memorial Day is, for many, the unofficial start to summer. Temperatures are rising, students are close to or beginning their summer break, flowers and green are taking over the landscape, and people are planning outdoor fun and adventures. It's a testament to the fact that winter is (hopefully) done for the year.

But it's also a testament to something more.

It's a testament to all who have died in service to the United States of America — those who died because they wanted to fight for the rights and freedoms we hold dear and those who didn't have a choice in the matter, but gave their lives regardless.

The first official Decoration Day, the precursor to Memorial Day, was established on May 5, 1868, three years after the Civil War ended, according to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

On that day, the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) set the day as a time for the nation to decorate the graves of its war dead with flowers, with it determined the day would be held on May 30, with a document

from the VA further stating, "It is believed the date was chosen because flowers would be in bloom all over the country."

On May 30, 1868, more than 5,000 gathered at Arlington National Cemetery.

"After speeches, children from the Soldiers' and Sailors' Orphan Home and members of the GAR made their way through the cemetery, strewing flowers on both Union and Confederate graves, reciting prayers and singing hymns," the VA document states.

One speech was made by James A. Garfield, then a congressman from Ohio.

In his speech, which is available to read on the National Parks Service website, Garfield discussed the meaning of the day, as well as the difficulty in doing it justice with words.

"I am oppressed with a sense of the impropriety of uttering words on this occasion," he stated in part. "If silence is ever golden, it must be here, beside the graves of fifteen thousand men, whose lives were more significant than speech, and whose death was a poem, the music of which

can never be sung. With words we make promises, plight faith, praise virtue. Promises may not be kept; plighted faith may be broken; and vaunted virtue be only the cunning mask of vice. We do not know one promise these men made, one pledge they gave, one word they spoke; but we do know they summed up and perfected, by one supreme act, the highest virtues of men and citizens. For love of country they accepted death, and thus resolved all doubts, and made immortal their patriotism and their virtue."

The day began to be called Memorial Day over the following decades, and grew to encompass veterans who died in all wars following World War I. In 1971, Congress declared Memorial Day to be a national holiday.

We encourage everyone to make time as they kick off summer to attend one or all of the local ceremonies set for Monday to join us in honoring and remembering those who gave all.

Randi Pierce

## LOOKING BACK



From the May 28, 2009, Pagosa SUN — Roy Vega commands the American Legion rifle squad for a 21-gun salute at Hill Top Cemetery on Memorial Day. The ceremony at the site included a raising of the colors, speakers, prayers and a reading of the names of Archuleta County warriors who gave their lives in service to their country.

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## LEGACIES

By Shari Pierce

### 100 years ago

Taken from SUN files of  
 May 23, 1924

Grant Shields last Saturday commenced the removal of the buildings purchased by him from the school board and which have occupied the new school site, using his ten-ton caterpillar tractor for that purpose. Mr. Shields purchased the three W.R. Colton lots on east Pagosa street between the Walter Himes and Ralph Flaugh residences, and thereon has moved the Boone, Mack and Putnam dwellings. He also bought the W.C. Hyler lot, which joins the above lots on the rear but faces Lewis street, and has moved the Parmenter building there. He is now engaged in moving the J.W. McGee residence to the latter's newly purchased property east of the livery barn on San Juan street. There only remain to be removed the Hollowell barn, which will be taken to the Bloom lot on Lewis street, recently purchased by Mr. Hollowell, and the Dr. Mary Fisher office building, which will be moved two lots south of its present location.

Miss Ila Reynolds, primary teacher in the Pagosa Springs school the past term, will on Monday commence the West Fork summer school, which is in Mineral county.

### 75 years ago

Taken from SUN files of  
 May 20, 1949

The Most Reverend Joseph C. Willging, Bishop of Pueblo, will be in Pagosa Springs on Sunday, May 22, to dedicate the new Catholic Church. The Dedication will take place in the afternoon and Confirmation will also be held that afternoon.

The new Catholic Church was started this last fall and is now complete and it is truly an excellent piece of work. It has been constructed of cement bricks with pressed brick trim. The building is an imposing structure and is a good two stories high. It is complete with steeple, bell and rooms for the priest. The inside is finished and has a large arched ceiling.

The residents of this area can be justly proud of this fine building which will stand for many years.

The certificate of incorporation of the Red Ryder Round-Up was received by the board of directors from the Secretary of State last week. This means the group is now legally incorporated as a non-profit group under the laws of the State of Colorado and may issue certificates of shares for membership in the corporation.

### 50 years ago

Taken from SUN files of  
 May 23, 1974

The weather remains dry here, fire danger is high in much of the county, and there have been some pretty stiff winds and breezes the past week. The San Juan River has not been very high and indications are that it won't. Fishing — when the wind isn't blowing — is good and tourists are starting to be numerous.

Mr. and Mrs. Gary Lucas announced this week that they have purchased the Wayside Grocery and Texaco Station from Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Belmeier.

They will continue to operate a grocery and market there, along with the service station. They also handle fishing equipment and picnic supplies and plan to expand the stocks of merchandise in all departments.

The establishment will be open from early in the morning until late in the evening for the convenience of their customers and the traveling public.

The family has been in the community the past year or so and has teen-age children in the local school.

### 25 years ago

Taken from SUN files of  
 May 20, 1999

A telephone poll could start today designed to evaluate the attitudes of Archuleta County residents concerning growth and the quality of life within the county.

The poll is the outgrowth of pressure applied to the county commissioners by segments of the population asking for development and implementation of measures to direct and control growth.

Hired by the commissioners to conduct the poll is the Durango firm of Tosch and Associates.

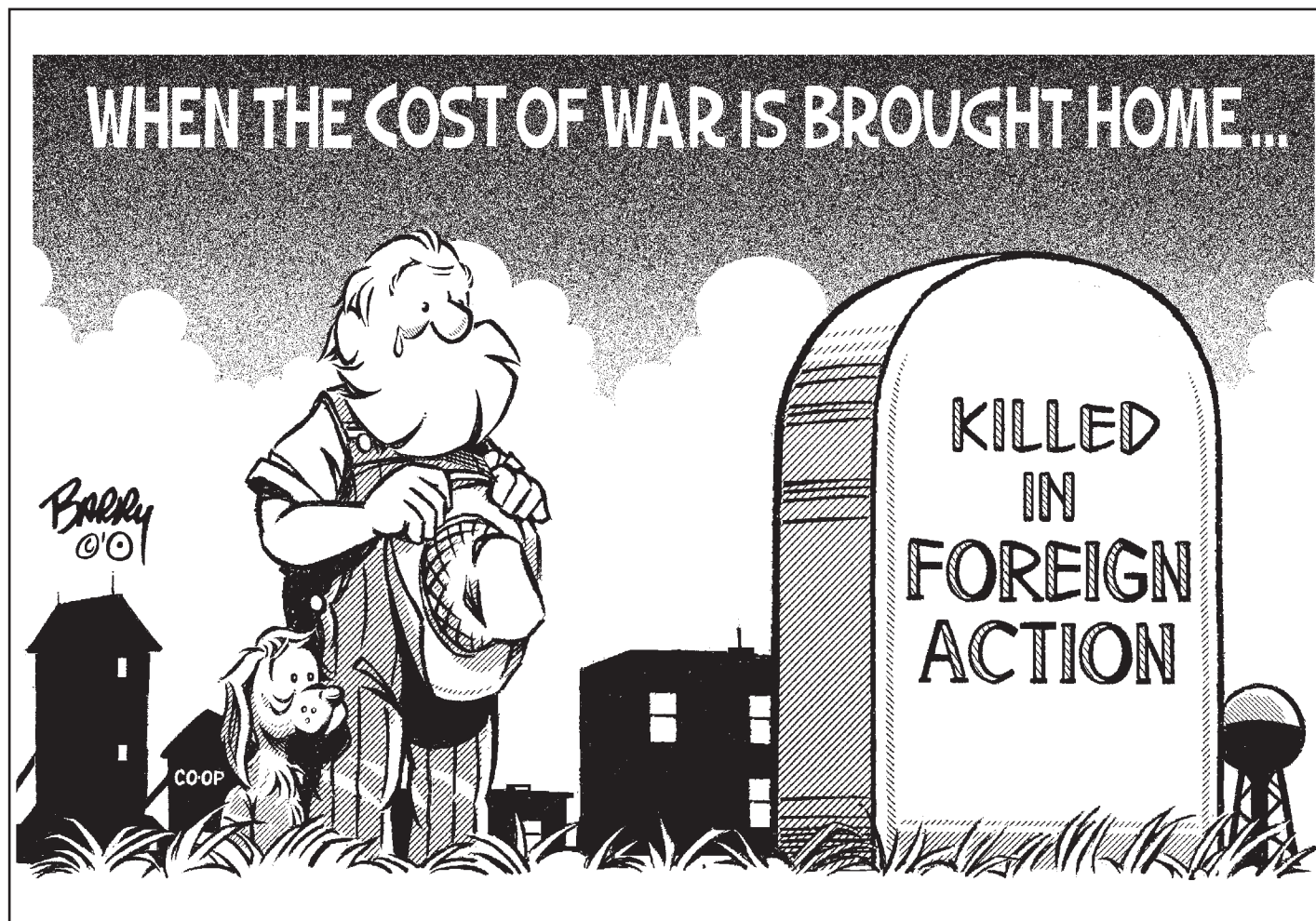
"Each of us has to make decisions," said Commissioner Ken Fox, the chairman of the board of county commissioners. "I can make a decision, but I want all of the information I can get to help make the decisions. This survey provides an opportunity to see what the desires of the community are relevant to land use issues. This will give us a community-wide vantage point instead of relying on more vocal, special interest groups."

The following weather information is brought to you as a public service by



Date	High	Low	Precipitation		
			Depth	Type	Moisture
5/14	69	36	NA	NA	T
5/15	69	36	NA	NA	-
5/16	64	39	NA	NA	.34
5/17	73	35	NA	NA	.14
5/18	74	36	NA	NA	-
5/19	72	42	NA	NA	-
5/20	72	31	NA	NA	-

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# Letters

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

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

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

## Intermaggio

Dear Editor:  
 Re: "Intermaggio sentenced to 24 years in prison." I am disappointed the Sun spent so much ink about how much he will be missed during his time incarcerated. This individual is not fit to walk free in our community.  
 On January 4, 2023, he pointed a handgun and pulled the trigger multiple times in an attempt to murder an on-duty Sheriff's Deputy that had been dispatched to a call for service involving Intermaggio. He was stopped by the courageous action of Deputy Brown, who fired at Intermaggio, stopping his aggressive deadly behavior. Deputy Brown and Deputy Lucero (whom Intermaggio had just attempted to kill), then engaged in saving the life of Intermaggio. Deputy Lucero even used his own jacket to

provide comfort to Intermaggio. According to the article, Intermaggio had a blood alcohol content of .134. He also had cannabis, cocaine, and methamphetamine in his system at the time he committed this act of violence towards law enforcement.

On January 1, 2024, while in custody at the Archuleta County jail awaiting trial on the aforementioned attempted murder, Intermaggio brutally attacked a detention deputy, inflicting great bodily injury. This violent assault occurred when Intermaggio was not under the influence of controlled substances as he was during the attempted murder.

On March 11, 2024, rather than risk an even lengthier sentence, Intermaggio pled guilty to these extreme acts of violence. During the sentencing hearing, Intermaggio's father and friends/neighbors spoke on his behalf, describing what a great person he was. Great people do not commit the level of violence he pled guilty to... Intermaggio's father expressed doubt about the description of what occurred (even though it was captured on the deputies' body-worn cameras), and even though he acknowledged Intermaggio's issues with alcohol, drugs, and likely mental health. According to the article, "Another friend suggested if the officer hadn't gotten out of his car and shot at a dog, the incident wouldn't have happened." Really? Following that line of reasoning, law enforcement would always be responsible for their own injuries and deaths merely for showing up to a call they were sent to because a CITIZEN CALLED AND ASKED THEM TO.

Our community is safer without Intermaggio's presence. It is safer with the presence of Deputy Brown and other members of law enforcement that protect the community from people like Intermaggio.

Sadly, Deputy Lucero passed away on January 9, 2024. This was one year and five days after Intermaggio attempted to murder him and just eight days after Intermaggio brutally attacked a detention deputy. It is strongly believed the stress of both events were contributing factors in Deputy Lucero's passing.

Not only did Deputy Brown lose her friend and partner when Deputy Lucero passed; the community of Pagosa Springs lost a protector and hero. We are worse off for his absence, but significantly better off without the presence of Intermaggio, who is a demonstrated danger to society. Thank you, Judge Jeffrey Wilson, for your appropriate sentencing of this violent predator.

Chris Boyd

## Electronic voting machines

Dear Editor:  
 Why do we think that electronic voting machines help us in our elections? Do we think as citizens that machines help our elections to be more honest? Or maybe to have faster results? Or is it that it costs less? Maybe it was because it was new technology, and the old way is

just old!

Let's see if we can break it down. Are our elections trustworthy and honest? We need honest results, right? Let's start with this information. Did you know that the software that runs our voting systems is "proprietary" which means we cannot review its content. This proprietary software is owned by foreign entities. Any of these foreign entities could in-bed a code into the software to control the outcome of our elections.

Does that make you feel like our elections can be trusted and are secure? Are we expected to trust the results of a foreign nation's software? This is our most sacred right of selecting who serves on our behalf, as leaders of our country. Seems we might want to reconsider the path we have taken. Many other countries have taken the step to better the honesty of their elections. England, Germany, Italy, and other countries have banned electronic voting machines.

I am writing this letter in the hopes that it will invoke more careful thought, about technology and the potential for manipulation.

Debbie Copple

## Commentary

Dear Editor:  
 Commenting on the latest SUN articles of 5/16/24, Intermaggio, from Aspen Springs, sentenced to 24 years, for Menacing?! With family and neighbors who spoke highly at his behalf's deposition, gets shot in the back by backup saying (problem solved and propitious), is seriously injured but gets downplayed by deputy back-up as neutralized that then states that she and the menaced, now deceased, for the last year and a half, had been stressing about the sentence Intermaggio should receive for murder of the menaced. O OH Huh?? Presenting pre-hand plan evidence, prevails, getting the fellow charged of murder instead of menacing-of the previously healthy officer who died later likely from other causes and more likely the back-up officer's rash actions. OMG, where are that still there woman's superiors? A deliberate act or spoken plan to carry out vengeance against someone for anyone else is called pre-meditated so who's the real criminal?

Across the page; Commissioners select an interim manager; (that in a matter of one week goes from un-

known to friend status) yet no one there, principally (the county's lawyer?) deeming to first check the man's credentials like is rudimentarily done thru resume then it turns out after being hired that the selected comes with a background of being ousted of other previous posts elsewhere, no one having the forethought to check that first before hiring him for the management of all ours county?!

Go Pg. A6, Colorado attorney general meets with community; where PCI Snow completely and single-handedly accuses all who live out at Aspen Springs of futility living, drug abuse, being un-washed therefore

■ See Letters A4

# A1 Taxi Service

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## Letters

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All letters must:

- be 500 words or less
- include the actual first and last name of the author
- include the author's address and daytime phone number
- be received by The SUN by noon on Tuesday (deadline may move up due to a holiday)

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

Letters quoting other people must contain proper attribution.

There is no guarantee letters will be published.

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

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

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



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# Letters

■ Continued from A3

bleak un-watered and un-electrified causing mental illness of any youth residing out there. OMG!

Now, from last week's article titled; town planning commission seeks more involvement in main street reconstruction project, third column over enter Dickhoff who said, 'we can certainly bring forward updates if for example you want to be a party to for example the consideration of the parking areas in town' -but not anything else? Then later in the same article 'Pitcher suggested that town council rather than the planning commission... are the ones who are gonna make the decisions and they're the ones that need to hear it.'" Mr. Kickoff owes this community open public dialogue with clarity and transparency. We shouldn't have to sift thru concrete for hidden agenda that will further bottle neck downtown main street by expanding to double-width the downtown riverside corridor sidewalk, (further compromising parking there) nor countenancing nor encouraging CDOT to construct along main street raised concrete apparatuses (with pretty flower planters!) that would take up one entire precious lane, leaving main street to one lane each way!! That all-purpose highway section already works as efficiently as it's supposed to. Arm chair personnel nonsense will smote and saddle us with that additional albatross around all our necks. Now when we've been granted a precious reprieve is the time we should nix and abandon that faulty plan while we still can!

Carmen Ferguson

## Election lie

Dear Editor:

Years ago, one of my husband's clients was running for public office. On election day he called and asked my husband to go to a victory party. My husband asked him why he thought he had won since the votes had not been counted yet. The candidate replied that everyone he knew had voted for him. This must be the

reason that so many people believe that the former president won in 2020. They are only talking to like minded people, listening to radio stations that repeat that lie, and watch only TV stations that they agree with. Everyone who has seriously studied the election, all the judges that heard election fraud cases, Trump's own cyper-security expert all agree that there was not enough fraud to change the outcome. In fact, there was very little fraud at all. Experts agree that the 2020 election was the most secure in our history.

I am sure that Trump supporters wish he had won. That doesn't make it so. In fact, those that deny election results are treading a dangerous path toward autocracy. The very basis of our democracy is that those who win a majority (or a plurality) of votes are declared winners.

Anything else will undermine the very concept of the democracy that our founders envisioned.

Anyone who is ignoring the facts and perpetrating the election lie has no right running for or holding office in our country.

Lynn Frederick

## Little courtesies

Dear Editor:

As a speech teacher I told my students about a boss who was hiring new employees. He deliberately left a book on the floor not far from the door and his desk. He waited to see who would stop to pick up the book. Then he planned to hire that candidate.

Recently, Donald Trump was about to board the helicopter named, "Marine 1." One of the Marines standing at attention had his cover (hat) blown off by the strong wind. According to Marine protocol, the young man did not move. Trump kindly picked up the hat and placed it on the head of the Marine. Once again the wind blew his cover off. Trump attempted to catch it. He bent over again, picked up the hat, and gave it to the Marine.

Often the true character of a person is illustrated by little courtesies

like this.

Dan Manka  
Fairmont, W.Va.

## Fellowship at the Senior Center

Dear Editor:

Spring brings our "summer people" back to our community. We have survived the cold winter snows, etc. We enjoy the beauty, of course, but like all things good, there comes responsibility. Those of us who have been here many years accept the "norm". We take care and enjoy our warm fire places.

Like many, I lost my dear husband six years ago and had to adjust to living alone with beautiful memories. Cooking for one is not fun but we manage. However, I am thankful for our Senior Center. So much fellowship in enjoying a wholesome meal there sometime between 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. I don't go every day as I have several food allergies. When I get my copy of the Pagosa SUN every Thursday, I look for the "Senior Center" article. In that article, they list the menus for the following week's meals, Monday through Friday. They only ask that you call before 9AM and let them know you will be there. For a contribution of \$6, you can enjoy a home-cooked meal prepared by professional cooks that even includes dessert. Then, if you desire to hang around until 4:00 PM for table games, you are welcome.

Love is "in the air",

Patty Tillerson

## Roman Empire

Dear Editor:

I am by far nothing close to anything that anyone would call a historian. However, I highly recommend everyone take the time to read of the history of the decline and fall of the Roman Empire. There are lessons and warnings within some of these readings that the citizens of the United States (Rome?) should make themselves aware.

The United States of America, once a proud and fruitful nation, is waning, as did the Roman Empire. Many historians believe many factors existed to cause the Roman Empire to fail. Here is a breakdown of some of these issues. Read them and see if anything rings a bell as you watch the daily news.

Political instability with frequent power struggles and internal conflicts, many petty, and self-serving in nature, weakened the government's ability and desire to use its authority appropriately. These also put the military on a path of deteriorating weakness.

A general economic decline created by inappropriate and overspending strained the economy and became a financial burden for many of its citizens.

There was an ever-widening gap between the rich and poor helping to lead to unrest from within and a lack of civic pride and participation in governing.

Cultural identity as once a proud nation became diluted as a result of integrating other cultures as they became part of the nation's populace. I have believed for years, even decades, that the United States of America is heading in a very similar direction. Someone once said, "Those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it."

Should you have any pride at all in the United States of America, please read about the failings of the Roman Empire. Then use your power of the vote to place politicians in positions of authority to govern who want to help

the country rather than themselves. Currently, our Congress appears as 3rd graders playing in the school courtyard during recess and no one wants to "play" with each other. Instead, they want to take their ball and go home if they cannot have things their way. The past media had reporters such as Walter Cronkite and Dan Rather who reported national and world events as they occurred. Now multiple media outlets "read"... not "report" these events for ratings and from the "right" and "left" rather from the center.

Now ask yourself the following question: Am I a 3rd grader on an unruly playground or an adult who wants to see the United States regain the pride and status it once held in the world?

Russell Widener

## Dilemma

Dear Editor:

May I share with you a dilemma and responsibility along with good intentions, mistakes, while taking steps to make things right for the land, neighbors, the county and me!

In 2014 the neighborhood children were old enough (75-6) to ride motorized 4-wheelers. I could hear and see them zooming around 81 Pineridge Trail, which was not their property. One day they fell and were crying. When no adult came to tend them I decided to contact the owner in Texas so that I could purchase it and have the right to ask them to ride elsewhere. When the owner phoned me he said "Yes...I am SO glad to get rid of this"!!! For a very reasonable price the 2 acres became mine, along with the dumped tires and the remnants of a gravel pit.

Shortly after, I was told to clean up the tires. Because it would cost \$5,000 I learned how to apply for a grant and was happily partially helped. What I did not foresee was that people started dumping town -dump items there. At first cars appeared, but they were also miraculously stolen!

I was given help to put up 'NO DUMPING' signs, which were disregarded. Then 2 metal gates were installed to block vehicles, but someone stole them out of the ground!

Two years later a couple built a lovely chalet on the hill overlooking Pineridge. I did not blame them for not wanting to look at the trash and we talked about options for the clean up...until one day the trash was moved. When I talked to the chalet owner saying that the trash was now in the most difficult place to remove, he told me that he did not move it. This was true!!! because his worker told me that he had been paid \$30.00/hr. buy the owner to move it.

This year the tax value went from \$2,300 to \$63,000! Through arbitration it became \$53,000. :(

The dump fees now are \$250/ container, which will be x20-30. The machinery, (a grabber costs \$250/hr.) Then there is travel time and machine operator's time \$\$\$ There are no grants available and the 2 lots can not be consolidated until they are cleaned-up.

Can anyone be of assistance? Perhaps someone could remove metal to be recycled and others to burn wood or for dumps fees or for bright ideas? I have cleaned this up once and am now overwhelmed and older. A wonderful neighbor installed surveillance :) and any help you could offer would be so appreciated. Also, I am not the only one who is getting dumped on here in Pagosa!

You can phone me at (970) 731-5098.

Thank you,

Zhena

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## Obituary

### Margaret Madrid

On Nov. 19, 2023, heaven gained a new angel. Her name is Margaret Madrid. She was an amazing,



godly person who made the biggest impact on her family's lives. She was a mother, grandmother and a great-grandmother who anyone would and could look up to and come to for guidance, comfort and, of course, love and understanding. While she may be gone, the memories and the life of Margaret will forever live on in the hearts and thoughts of everybody who she could call her family and friends. That is what we wish to accomplish, to honor

her memory the proper way with a memorial. Her memorial will be located at 3505 W. U.S. 160 in Pagosa Springs, Colo., 81147. It will be open to the family and friends — whoever wants to come and celebrate the life of Margaret Madrid on June 8 from 2 to 6 p.m.

## Services

### Maggie Carpenter Chavez

A celebration of life for Maggie Carpenter Chavez, who left us on April 29, 2024, will be held Saturday, May 25, at 1341 County Road 500 from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Please join us and share her memories. Drinks and snacks will be provided.

Thank you,  
Fred Chavez and family

## Sinkhole

■ Continued from front

buried under the roadway due to the roadway being built up without the manhole being raised, meaning that PAWSD "had never actually been in it."

Ramsey stated that a hole in the side of the manhole allowed runoff-saturated soil under the roadway to move into the PAWSD sewer system and be washed away, thus creating an approximately 3-foot-by-3-foot void under the road.

He commented that, due to the manhole being buried, PAWSD was unaware of this until the void became large enough and the asphalt surface of the road collapsed into it, forming the sinkhole that McRae initially detected.

North Pagosa Boulevard was re-opened the next morning, Ramsey stated Tuesday, adding that the hole is filled with a temporary material while PAWSD works on the design and purchase of a new manhole to replace the buried one.

The road will have to be closed again when the installation occurs, Ramsey indicated.

He added that the installation will also require PAWSD to put in place a "pump around" involving placing a temporary sewer pipe above ground to divert sewage while the manhole is replaced.

In a May 22 communication, county Public Works Director Mike Torres explained that PAWSD staff indicated to him that it would begin the repair process on May 23.

According to Aaron Burns and Andy Conner, of PAWSD, the closure will be to place a concrete pad, and will involve the closure of North Pagosa Boulevard between Lakeside Drive and Glen Eaton Drive for approximately one week to allow the concrete to cure.

Burns and Conner added that later repairs will involve relocating the manhole outside of the roadway, which will involve another, brief closure.

Ramsey indicated that issues such as deteriorated manholes, line breaks or water leaks within the PAWSD system can be reported by calling the PAWSD offices at (970) 731-2691. [josh@pagosasun.com](mailto:josh@pagosasun.com)



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# Business

## Lewis Street will close June 7 and 8

By Mary Jo Coulehan  
Pagosa Springs Area Chamber of Commerce

The 400 block of Lewis Street will close June 7 and 8 for multiple events.

The first event will be the 15th annual Pagosa Springs Car Show. The street will close at 10 a.m. on June 7 to prepare for the car show.

Businesses should alert their customers and staff to use the alleyway between Lewis Street and U.S. 160 or park on U.S. 160 or South 5th Street.

The street will remain closed overnight on the June 7 and remain closed on June 8. Car show attendees will start arriving early on the June 8, and the car show will be in full swing from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m.

The street will reopen briefly to allow the show vehicles to exit the street after the awards ceremony. The street will then remain closed for the next event, which is a dinner and street dance celebrating the Immaculate

Heart of Mary Church's 75th anniversary. These festivities will start at 5 p.m. with Mass and then dinner, dancing and a beer garden until 10 p.m.

Both of these festive occasions will bring a plethora of activity to Lewis Street, including live music, food vendors and catered food, and lots of foot traffic.

The car show on Friday evening highlights the start of the arrival of dozens of classic and more modern cars. The big attraction that night will be a free concert with Austin musician and a regular to Pagosa, Garrett LeBeau. There will be delicious food vendors, some retail vendors and a beverage garden with alcoholic and nonalcoholic beverages.

While on Lewis Street, get a peek at and see the progress of the stunning, new Tennyson Sculpture Garden, which will open at the end of the month.

Admission to the car show and concert are free on Friday evening.

Admission to the car show on Saturday is also free. Enjoy even more cars, a demonstration on protecting your vehicle investment with paint protection, food and retail vendors, the beverage garden and more.

The Pin Up Girl awards ceremony takes place at 2:15 p.m., and the car awards take place at 2:30 p.m. Make sure while there you vote for your favorite car for the People's Choice award.

The Immaculate Heart of Mary anniversary party will begin at 5 p.m. and continue until 10 p.m. Tickets are \$15 per person or \$40 for a family. Ages 80 and over and 15 and under are free. You can prepurchase tickets by calling Kindy Martinez at (505) 328-7645 or Leonard Martinez at (505) 506-7649. Enjoy dinner, live music and a beverage garden and celebrate this iconic community organization.

We appreciate the surrounding businesses adhering to the street closure and notifying their clients.

## Town's planning commission recommends against permanent parking area at Town Park

By Derek Kutzer  
Staff Writer

On May 14, the Pagosa Springs Planning Commission voiced opposition to the idea of installing a new permanent parking lot in a section of Town Park.

Town staff has floated the idea for a potential parking lot, near the athletic field, to accommodate for the loss of parking downtown during Colorado Department of Transportation's (CDOT's) main street reconstruction project.

At the meeting, Community Development Director James Dickhoff explained that there are currently about 288 parking spaces between 1st and 8th streets, adding that "we don't know how many are gonna be impacted" by CDOT's construction project.

He stated that the town's search for alternative parking spaces — including the idea of installing a parking lot at Town Park — is part and parcel of the town planning for "a worst-case scenario," in which most, or all, of the downtown parking is eliminated during construction.

At several public information sessions, CDOT representatives have warned that they cannot promise that parking will be preserved in the downtown area during the construction, with business owners expressing concern that a lack of downtown parking will negatively impact their businesses, especially during the busy tourist season.

At the April 23 meeting, the planning commission expressed its desire to be more involved with the parking issue during the CDOT construction, with Dickhoff bringing, to the most recent meeting, a prepared list of potential parking lots for the commissioners to consider.

Ultimately, the Pagosa Springs Town Council will decide which parking areas to pursue, while also providing the funding to install the lots, but the planning commission's role would be to make a formal recommendation to the council on what parking areas it prefers.

Dickhoff explained to the planning commission that a parking agreement between the town and the library board has already been approved to use the vacant property west of the library to accommodate approximately 50 to 60 public parking spaces.

This lot is estimated to cost the town \$12,000 for additional gravel and signage, and it "has an existing vehicular access from Hwy 160 and is easily accessible for pedestrians with the adjacent trail and sidewalk connectivity," an agenda document on the matter states.

Dickhoff explained that he thinks that the library lot would best be utilized by downtown businesses for "remote" employee parking during the CDOT construction project.

The library and the proposed Town Park lots were the largest and most convenient of the 10 parking areas being considered by town staff, and would make up for almost half of the total spaces that would be lost in the worst-case-scenario situation, Dickhoff explained.

Another large lot being considered, which could accommodate up to 120 parking spaces "easily," Dickhoff explained, would be the newly

acquired town-owned property near Tractor Supply, the Goodman property, but this site is not ideal because of its inconvenient location.

This left the Town Park location — as well as a few smaller locations, such as an idea to restripe Hot Springs Boulevard to create up to 15 spaces of on-street parking — as the most convenient spot to make up for the lost parking during the CDOT construction, according to Dickhoff.

He noted that the lot being considered would be placed in the "unused," western corner of the Town Park athletic field and could accommodate 60 to 70 parking spaces.

He explained it would be a "permanent" parking lot, rather than a temporary one, because of the heavy investment from the town to install the lot.

*"Pagosa Springs Middle School Principal Chris Hinger voiced his opposition to the idea, saying, 'I'm here to have a voice for the 500 students that are on the corner of main street, right there, that don't really have a voice and aren't' going to attend meetings like this."*

He added that a gravel lot would cost the town approximately \$100,000 and a fully developed lot might cost upward of \$200,000.

However, comments from both the planning commissioners and the public signaled that installing a permanent parking lot at Town Park is an unpopular idea.

Pagosa Springs Middle School Principal Chris Hinger voiced his opposition to the idea, saying, "I'm here to have a voice for the 500 students that are on the corner of main street, right there, that don't really have a voice and aren't" going to attend meetings like this.

"We use that Town Park field for our field space," he said, adding that the middle school has "very limited space" on the school's property.

"Once you pave it and make it parking, you don't get that back," he said, adding, "Ideas like this might need to just pause ... Let's not take what I consider to be one of the best centerpieces of our town and pave it. If for no other reason, for the kids," he said.

Dickhoff explained that the school's use of the field would not be impinged if the parking lot were installed, again describing the area where the parking lot would go as an "unused" corner of the park and explaining that the town has long contemplated a parking area there.

Planning commissioner Chris Pitcher said, "I don't think we should take the park for parking," adding that preserving "open space" is a major priority of the town.

Planning commissioner Chad Hodges suggested that putting "a parking lot in a green space is never a good idea."

Planning commissioners Julie Gurule and Kristen McCollam wondered if the lot could be scaled down to preserve more of the green space of the park.

Dickhoff passed the question on to Mike Davis of Davis Engineering, who designed a sketch plan for the parking area.

Davis said, "We can do whatever the town wants," but added that a smaller lot might require a "dead-end parking lot" and he would not recommend that.

If the town wants to do that, "that's fine, but it's just not gonna be too fun during some really busy time when additional cars are coming in and other cars are trying to back out because there's no place to park," he said.

He then explained the need for it to be a loop.

"To make it a true two-way parking lot, we need the ability to make that a loop," he said, later adding that there's a way to keep it a loop while preserving more green space, but "you'd probably lose 10 or so spaces ... if you did something like that."

Gurule asked why the town is so focused on Town Park, asking if that is the "priority" lot "that the town was looking at."

Dickhoff answered that staff just wanted "to bring forward some concepts" to see "if there's even an appetite for this."

He explained that the Town Park lot "is the closest one to main street. All of the other ones are gonna be a little bit of a walk, adding that "it would have quite a bit of parking capability" compared to some of the others on the list of potential spots.

Pitcher later said, "We should hold our open space and our parks to a higher level than allowing for parking lots," recommending alternative sites for parking, such as the lot by the old courthouse and the vacant property at U.S. 160 and 1st Street.

Dickhoff explained that the property owners of these locations were going to charge the town way too much, with the offer for parking at the old courthouse lot costing \$200,000 a year for the town to lease that particular lot.

"The ... lot at 1st and the highway would be a similar story," he said, and the investors who own the property want to charge "a market rate," which is \$10 per space per day.

However, later in the meeting, during public comment, Rosanna Dufour, who sits on the Main Street Advisory Board and the task force committee formed to solve the parking issue, suggested that the planning commissioners had not heard the full picture of the parking situation.

She explained that the parking task force was tasked with finding "temporary, alternative parking," during the main street reconstruction project, adding that at a joint town/county work session she got the impression that the most "viable opinion was to find remote parking."

"One thing I'd like to be clear on is that we were tasked with temporary parking, and so the Town Park to be included under the heading of [the main street] reconstruction is not relevant."  
■ See Parking A6



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# Education

## School board hears financial, budget updates

By Clayton Chaney  
Staff Writer

At its regular meeting held on May 14, the Archuleta School District Board of Education (BOE) heard an update on its finances and upcoming budget, in addition to approving the renewal of the district's health insurance plan, among other things.

Finance Director Mike Hodgson provided a third-quarter financial and investment report for the district, along with a budget update for the upcoming year.

The third-quarter financial report looks at spending and revenues beginning in January lasting through the end of March, along with year-to-date totals, Hodgson noted.

He explained that the district has received approximately 60 percent of its revenues for the year, with a large portion of the remaining 40 percent being property taxes.

Hodgson indicated that the property taxes were received in April, at about \$3.8 million, but that is not reflected in the third-quarter report.

"So, that brings that number substantially up," he said.

Hodgson explained that the district has received a total of \$13.8 million in revenues year to date, with about \$10.7 million still to be collected.

He also noted that there is approximately 36 percent left available in the general fund to be spent.

Hodgson mentioned that the district has spent approximately \$15.3 million so far this fiscal year.

"So, we're in pretty good shape right now given where we are and the majority of our revenue is still coming in," he said.

BOE president Bob Lynch commented that the district is "tracking as projected."

Hodgson also provided the board with an investment report, highlighting that the district was able to move funds into accounts that offer higher interest rates than what the district was previously receiving.

He explained that the district had six certificates that all had an interest rate under 1 percent, which the district redeemed in February due to delays in getting their first round of property taxes.

He mentioned that "actually was a good thing" because the district was able to make it to mid-March before

receiving its first payment of property taxes.

Hodgson explained the district was able to reinvest those funds into accounts that offer 5.4 and 5.5 percent interest rates.

"It was a fortunate thing," he added. "Well done," said Lynch.

Hodgson noted that the total investment received for the third quarter was approximately \$64,500, with a year-to-date total of \$257,000, and that the district should finish the year with more than \$300,000 in interest revenue.

*"For the first time since I've been in Colorado they did something for the following year — passed legislation for 25-26 and a proposal that extends through a six-year phase in period for a new funding formula."*

Finance Director  
Mike Hodgson

Lynch noted that those figures are "significant compared to all the years of zero interest rates."

Hodgson expressed that his only concern with the district's current investment accounts is that the district has about 85 percent of those funds in a COLOTRUST account.

During the meeting, a request was made and approved unanimously by the board to allow the district to invest some of those funds in another institution called the Bank of Oklahoma (BOK).

Hodgson explained that the bank is offering interest rates of 5.37 percent that are locked in, meaning that rate will not go down.

Lynch commented in favor of diversifying the district's investment accounts.

Hodgson noted that BOK has a "long list of clients" throughout the state of Colorado.

He went on to provide a budget update as well, noting that staff is

about halfway through its process of preparing the budget for next fiscal year, and have been working with the schools to see how their requests can be accommodated.

"For the first time since I've been in Colorado they did something for the following year — passed legislation for 25-26 and a proposal that extends through a six-year phase in period for a new funding formula," Hodgson said, adding, "It appears that this year we will have \$925,000 of new money."

On April 29, Gov. Jared Polis signed a bipartisan budget bill to fully fund Colorado schools.

According to a press release from the governor's office, this will invest a total of \$525.8 million "to provide Colorado students of all ages and teachers the tools they need to thrive."

This includes a 6.9 percent increase in per-pupil funding, or approximately \$16,000 more per classroom, the press release notes.

Hodgson also noted that the state is projecting the district to lose 25 students this next year.

The state provides \$10,000 of funding per student, he noted.

He explained that the state will only pay out the first six months initially and then reassess in October once the district has updated enrollment numbers.

Hodgson went on to explain that the district is looking at an upcoming "fiscal cliff" with COVID funds ending in September.

He mentioned the district has about five positions currently being funded through those COVID funds "that we'll have to figure out what to do with."

He noted there are also some other grants expiring in the next two years.

Hodgson explained that he and his staff have been meeting with a teachers committee over a proposed salary increase.

"I think we're all assuming that we're going to do a step increase," he said, but they are currently unsure what to do beyond that as far as adding more positions or introducing more raises.

Hodgson also mentioned the district will be having a facility assessment plan which will likely have an impact on the long-range budget plan, which the district intends to address in the master plan.

### Health insurance

At the same meeting, the BOE voted unanimously to approve a renewal of the district's health insurance plan and for a new ancillary insurance plan.

"Health care cost was a big surprise to us," said Hodgson.

He explained that the initial renewal notice from Cigna included a 26.6 percent increase in costs, and that due to "some delays in getting that info we moved to a new insurance broker."

He mentioned that once the district switched brokers, the district received a new offer from Cigna that included only a 7 percent increase.

Hodgson indicated that left the district with about \$228,000 to "come up with," and his staff "found enough money to absorb this."

"So, we appreciate their hard work," he added.

The renewal is for a six-month plan, which will give the district time to reevaluate its options without causing any significant changes in coverage in the meantime, he explained.

According to Hodgson, none of the district's employees will see a change in their benefits, deductibles or amounts remaining on their cards.

"No one will be out money," he added.

Hodgson also talked about how district staff met with a group of more than 20 district employees in regard to the six-month renewal plan and that "there was not a single person" in objection to the option.

"We will attack with a vengeance come the fall," he said in regard to finding a long-term solution for the district.

Superintendent Rick Holt commented that he is pleased to have "found a safe place to land, with no change in benefits," with the opportunity to find a better plan come this fall.

Hodgson noted that the initial renewal notice with a 26.6 percent increase would have caused at least a \$100 per month increase for six different plan groups.

"We just thought that was too much," he said, explaining that the district did not want to make any major changes in coverage options before getting input from staff. "We need to hear what they say."

Hodgson noted that open enrollment for health insurance begins the last two weeks of the school year.

He further mentioned that the increase is due to "some really higher claims this year" than ever before.

The BOE also approved a new ancillary insurance plan which provides coverage for all other insurance benefits besides health insurance.

According to documentation included in the meeting's agenda, this includes dental, vision, life, EAD and disabilities.

Hodgson explained that the district has "had some problems" in terms of billing and providers that are in town are not accepting the district's current insurance.

The new plan, through a company called Guardian, will bring all the ancillary insurance benefits under one provider, Hodgson explained.

"The cost of the renewal will be at a 6.8 percent increase over the current cost, but will be 1.5 percent lower than the four existing companies proposed for the renewal costs," according to the agenda documentation.

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## Celebration

### Jefferson Pinson

Jefferson Pinson, of Pagosa Springs, has been named to Southern New Hampshire University's winter 2024 Dean's List. The winter terms run from January to May.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum GPA of 3.500 to 3.699 for the reporting term are named to the Dean's List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired eight-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring and summer.

## Parking

Continued from A5

ally accurate or appropriate, because that's a permanent structure," she said.

She added that, as a downtown business owner, she understands the need for parking, but that she did not think that permanent parking was part of the task force's mandate.

She also suggested a very different list of potential parking areas, which included The Springs Resort, the old courthouse and BWD Construction, all of which were not included on the town's list of potential sites presented to the commission at the meeting.

She noted that she's been in contact with the current owner of the lot next to the old courthouse, and "he's

willing to discuss a lease with entities other than the town" about a lower price than the one quoted by Dickhoff earlier in the meeting.

She also added that conversations with The Springs Resort revealed that it is "strongly" against parallel parking on Hot Springs Boulevard, which would reduce the turn lane into the resort for only a few parking spaces.

"There are a lot of options out there," she added.

Resident Bill Hudson said, "I would hate to see the park used forever as parking," adding that not as much parking downtown may be needed as some think during the construction.

When opened back up to the planning commission, Pitcher said, "I'm gonna push back against the Town Park idea... we need to stay away from that as an option."

He added, "This is gonna be going in front of the town council, and we'd like to forward any recommendations in the form of a formal motion."

Ultimately, it was motioned for a recommendation that neither Town Park nor Hot Springs Boulevard (for parallel street parking) should be used for additional parking.

McCollam added to the motion a recommendation that the ideas of the town staff and the parking task force should be combined into one

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Miles Baker



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Jack Hittle



Michelle Ray-Lujan

## Pagosa Springs Rotary Club awards \$24,000 to graduating seniors

By Meg Wempe  
Pagosa Springs Rotary Club

Pagosa Springs Rotary Club is pleased to announce the graduating seniors who will be receiving the 2024 Rotary scholarships. This year, Rotary is awarding \$24,000.

There were amazing applications and tough decisions made by the committee. The scholarship selection committee chose four students to award this year.

Miles Baker will be attending Biola University in Los Angeles County, where he will study cinema and media arts.

Karis Blackman plans to pursue a degree in environmental studies at Colorado State University in Fort Collins.

Jack Hittle will begin his studies of mechanical engineering this fall. He will be attending the Colorado School of Mines, located in Golden.

Michelle Ray-Lujan will be study-

ing nursing at Amarillo College in Amarillo, Texas.

Congratulations to these four scholarship winners.

The Pagosa Springs Rotary Club also congratulates the entire class of 2024 and wishes each of them success in their future endeavors.

Since 1983, the Pagosa Springs Rotary Club has awarded \$564,125 to 201 local high school graduates.

The Pagosa Springs Rotary Club would like to thank our event spon-

sors who make these local scholarships possible each year. We truly couldn't do it without you. We would also like to thank members of the community for their continued support of Rotary fundraisers.

Mark your calendars now for Oct. 12, when we will hold our Barn Dance, one such fundraiser.

Rotary's motto is "Service Above Self" and meets at noon each Thursday. Learn more at [pagosapagosa.org](http://pagosapagosa.org).

## Chase Regester Memorial Scholarship recipients announced

By Lisa Scott  
Special to The SUN

Donovan Galabota, Jack Hittle, Kynslie Limebrook, Michelle Ray and Shayda Valdez have each been awarded a \$1,000 Chase Regester Memorial Scholarship for the 2024-2025 academic year.

This scholarship is designed to honor the memory of Charles L. Regester III — "Chase" — (May 29, 1986-Aug. 2, 2006) who was raised on a ranch and spent his childhood and youth involved in 4-H, rodeos and ranch life. He graduated from Pagosa Springs High School in May 2005 and was pursuing ranching as a career.

Chase loved animals, the great outdoors, his friends and family, and had a great sense of humor and a "whipping and spurring" approach to life.

This scholarship was endowed by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Lindner to honor Chase and his family for living and preserving the history and traditions of the American West. Mr. and Mrs. Charles Russell Jr. added to that endowment in 2007, as did Tiger

Regester in 2012.

Each student will graduate from high school next week, have superior grades, are very active in school activities, including leadership positions. Summer work and volunteering is something they each value, and saving money for their education has been a priority. Participation in 4-H, Future Farmers of American (FFA) rodeo or ranching have been a big part of their lives. Each of these scholars are tremendous role models within the 4-H program, especially to the younger 4-H members.

Galabota is at Pagosa Springs High School and participates in numerous school clubs, including student council. His three years in 4-H were in the turkey project, and he excelled at learning various aspects of raising an animal and bringing it to market. Galabota has worked year-round at Alley House Grille, throughout high school, and is headed to Colorado State University, where he will be in the business school.

Jack Hittle has a 4.0 GPA at Pagosa Springs High School, while enrolled

in many Advanced Placement (AP) classes, and he is on the DUST2 mountain biking team. Hittle has been in 4-H for 10 years in various projects. Raising turkeys has garnered him Grand and Reserve Champion prizes, and Hittle has earned the Showmanship Award several times. He plans to attend Colorado School of Mines for a mechanical engineering degree and hopes to design and build new technology.

Limebrook is a volleyball athlete at Pagosa Springs High School, has been very active in other school clubs, and has a 3.9 GPA. During her 10 years in 4-H, she has participated in several projects and has earned state recognition for her veterinary sciences project. Limebrook will attend University of Utah to pursue a nursing degree and would like to work in intensive care.

Ray attends Pagosa Springs High School and participates in several clubs and sports, with volleyball being her favorite. With 11 years in 4-H, Ray has focused on livestock and has won Grand Champion Goat for three years and has earned the Showman-

ship Award for seven years. She will attend Amarillo College for a nursing degree and hopes to become a travel nurse and help people in various communities.

Valdez attends Pagosa Springs High School and has been in FFA for four years and is currently the president. As a 10-year member of 4-H, she participates in the horse program and is active in rodeo, gymkhana and skiing. She will attend a Colorado community college on the eastern slope to get an associate degree in livestock management and a certificate in welding with the intention to establish a career with animals and agriculture.

This scholarship is designed to support a student pursuing post-secondary education of any variety, which can include university, college, community college, technical, business, vocational, agricultural or ranch training program. The basic requirement for any scholarship applicant is that they have participated in Rodeo, 4-H, FFA, or have agriculture or ranching background and upbringing during their high school years.

## Colorado launches Youth Mental Health Corps, joins national initiative to provide mental health support

By Shelby Wieman  
State of Colorado

Serve Colorado is joining forces with 10 other states, the Schultz Family Foundation, Pinterest, AmeriCorps, the Colorado Behavioral Health Administration and the Colorado Community College System to recruit, train and deploy the nation's first Youth Mental Health Corps to help teenagers access critical mental health resources.

Serve Colorado, located within the

Office of the lieutenant governor, manages AmeriCorps programs across the state of Colorado. Colorado programs hosting members for the Youth Mental Health Corps include Alpine Achievers Initiative, City Year, Colorado Youth for Change, Trailhead Institute and United Way Southwest Colorado.

The new Youth Mental Health Corps is an innovative, public-private collaboration that will address the growing needs of young people while creating career pathways to address

the national shortage of mental health professionals. Corps members will be trained as navigators serving middle and high school students in schools and in community-based organizations.

"Colorado's commitment to the mental well-being of our youth is unwavering," said Lt. Governor Dianne Primavera. "By joining this national initiative, we are not only addressing the urgent need for mental health resources, but also creating meaningful pathways for our young adults

to pursue careers in this vital field. Together, we will make a tangible difference in the lives of Colorado youth, empowering them to navigate the challenges they face with resilience and hope while addressing shortages in the behavioral health workforce."

AmeriCorps Youth Mental Health Corps members will gain valuable on-the-job experience, receive a stipend and earn a credential to advance their career. They will also be eligible for education awards to

See Support A8



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SUN photos/Clayton Chaney

Students and staff at Pagosa Springs High School participate in an assembly to help raise funds for Make-A-Wish Colorado's recipient Brielle, a 6-year-old recently diagnosed with Leukemia, whose wish is to go to Hawaii.

## High school students raise funds for Make-a-Wish recipient

By Clayton Chaney  
Staff Writer

Students at Pagosa Springs High School (PSHS) came together earlier this month to help raise money for this year's Make-A-Wish Colorado recipient, 6-year-old Brielle, who was diagnosed with leukemia last year and whose wish is to go to Hawaii.

This is the third year PSHS has partnered with the Make-A-Wish Colorado foundation.

On May 7, PSHS students kicked off the Wish Week fundraiser week by holding an all-school assembly to celebrate Brielle.

Students and staff members had the chance to enter a half-court shot competition and handstand

competition for \$1 dollar per entry, with winners getting recognized on leaderboards.

PSHS student council member Hailey Sams explained in an interview with The SUN that the assembly competitions incorporated Brielle's interests of basketball and gymnastics.

PSHS student council co-president James Jolley also explained in an interview with The SUN that students first got the idea to participate in the Make-A-Wish program after attending a conference in Denver a few years ago where they heard about the success of the program from other high school students around the state.

"Our goal is to boost morale within our school and kind of build that

connection within the community," Jolley said.

One of the fundraiser events included PSHS partnering with local restaurant, Riff Raff, for a night to have a portion of proceeds donated to Make-A-Wish Colorado.

Some of the other fundraiser events for students included singing karaoke and buying 'skip the line' passes during lunch and a field-day carnival for students that took place on Friday, May 10.

Jolley noted that this is one of the more popular spirit weeks for students at PSHS and that it "helps make a connection and touch the heart of the students."

Jolley explained that the students have a goal to raise \$3,500 and that

if they do, PSHS Principal Sean O'Donnell will get pied in the face.

"It does a great job of bringing everybody together," Sams said.

The student council reported that more than \$1,000 was raised during Wish Week.

"We had a good week with more student donations than in years past, which tells us that we are creating a school culture in which students are participating in and are knowledgeable about Wish Week," Jolley wrote.

clayton@pagosahun.com

## Support

Continued from A7

pursue higher education or pay back qualifying student loans.

One in three high school students report persistent feelings of hopelessness, and approximately 122 million people live in a Mental Health Professional Shortage Area, where there is a shortage of more than 6,000 practitioners, according to the Department of Health and Human Services.

Furthermore, according to the Colorado Health Access Survey, just over 16 percent of youth ages 5-17 reported poor mental health in 2023.

"Ensuring that we have a passionate, skilled and robust workforce is critical to achieving the vision of a future in Colorado where everyone — including our youth — has access to equitable, high-quality behavioral health services," said Colorado Behavioral Health Administration Commissioner Dannetete R. Smith. "This innovative collaboration is a fantastic opportunity to not only create a pipeline into the behavioral health care workforce, but to continue to build and expand our safety net of care for teens and youth. We are grateful to Schultz Family Foundation, Pinterest and the Biden Administration for recognizing this need and taking action to address it."

The Colorado Youth Mental Health Corps seeks to address the

crisis by leveraging the power of national service. Conceived by the Schultz Family Foundation and Pinterest, the program was developed in consultation with hundreds of experts and practitioners.

Both organizations will provide financial support to participating state service commissions to design and adapt the initiative to meet local needs, including providing training and credentials at no cost to Corps members.

AmeriCorps, the federal agency for service and volunteerism, will provide operating support to organizations hosting members, as well as stipends and education awards to Corps members.

Hundreds of Corps members will be deployed in Colorado, Michigan, Minnesota and Texas starting in September.

Anyone ages 18-24 with a high school diploma can apply at [www.servecolorado.colorado.gov/ymhc](http://www.servecolorado.colorado.gov/ymhc). "We are at a critical moment where we must act with urgency to address the mental health crisis that is impacting millions of our children. I am incredibly thankful for our grantees and partners at America Forward, Pinterest, and Schultz Family Foundation for standing up Youth Mental Health Corps," said Michael D. Smith, CEO of AmeriCorps. "This

innovative cross-sector partnership will build on AmeriCorps' 30 years of hands on experience supporting youth mental health and well being. AmeriCorps members will serve as peer support specialists and navigators at schools and in communities to connect students with care."

### About Serve Colorado

Serve Colorado, managed within the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, has been uplifting communities across the state by harnessing the power of volunteerism to tackle the state's most pressing challenges for nearly 30 years. Learn more at [www.servecolorado.colorado.gov](http://www.servecolorado.colorado.gov).

### About AmeriCorps

AmeriCorps, the federal agency for national service and volunteerism, provides opportunities for Americans to serve their country domestically, address the nation's most pressing challenges, improve lives and communities, and strengthen civic engagement.

Each year, the agency places more than 200,000 AmeriCorps members and AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers in intensive service roles; and empowers millions more to serve as long-term, short-term or onetime volunteers. Learn more at [www.AmeriCorps.gov](http://www.AmeriCorps.gov).

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# School

■ Continued from front interventions, suspension, expulsion and can involve filing a police report, but that all depends on the age of the student, the specifics of the situation and the severity of the behavior.

He also mentioned that some state laws require certain actions, like suspension for certain situations.

"This document creates a system and allows us to respond predictively and consistently in a way that we don't have wild variability from one building to the next," Holt said.

He explained that the student behavior matrix responses escalate with behaviors, as does the support for that student, as well as recommending when it's appropriate to conduct a threat assessment.

"This document does recommend when it's a nice idea versus it's a have to," Holt said, referring to when a threat assessment should be conducted.

He then went on to explain that level-four behaviors are major safety concerns and level-five behaviors call for a mandatory response.

He added that there are not a lot of response options as they are mostly spelled out in school board policy or state law.

"We don't get a lot of type-four, type-five behaviors, that's pretty minimal, but it's not uncommon to see some type-two and type-three behaviors," Holt said, adding, "We feel it's really important that we respond to students in a way that aligns with their developmental ability."

He explained how a situation involving a kindergarten student may be treated differently than a similar situation involving a high school student, noting that the expertise of district staff was used to build flexibility into this system.

"This tool helps us do that in a systematic way that doesn't leave us, let's say, in the heat of the moment, making a poor decision. Instead, we can make a calculated decision based on clear data and experience that we've had," he said.

Holt noted that the district has been using the student behavior matrix for two years now and that he is meeting monthly with school staff to review and modify the system if needed.

"Our response to behavior is teaching," he said, explaining that recommended interventions are put in place to support and improve behaviors for the student in the future.

Holt went on to explain some things have natural consequences, but that a majority of students with level-one and level-two behaviors need the opportunity to learn and grow.

"What we really need to do is help our young adults figure out how to behave in a group of peers with other adults," he said, adding that the safety and protection of rights for everyone are the top concerns.

"Those things are important to us," he said.

BOE president Bob Lynch commented that he likes the support and teaching aspects that are built into the student behavior matrix, noting

that some mistakes may not need such a serious response, but rather an opportunity to learn and grow.

"In general the philosophy is that we don't allow students to disrupt the learning time to the extent that other students are suffering from a loss of learning," Holt added.

Pagosa Springs Elementary School Principal Kelly Vining also provided the BOE with a review of the district's threat assessment procedure.

"All school threat assessments look different," she said, noting that "they are routine in our school."

Vining explained that what constitutes a threat is "when a student's behavior and communication, or reported behavior or communication, deviates from the normal for that student or the normal of other student peers. This indicates that there could be a concern for student safety and the safety of others, so school officials, like administrators, should initiate a threat assessments inquiry for prevention of targeted school violence."

She mentioned that a threat can be written, verbal or a physical gesture like shaking a fist at someone.

"It comes in a variety of ways," she said. "Basically, if a threat is made ... it is taken seriously."

Vining explained that the "threat assessment threshold is very low," providing the example of a kindergarten student saying, "I'm going to kill you," as something that would warrant a threat assessment.

She explained how language such as that might be common in the household of one student, whereas other students may not be exposed to that sort of language at all at home.

Vining went on to explain that when a threat is made, an administrator contacts the student's family to have that student taken home and the student is "mutually suspended" until the threat assessment is complete.

"We do this as a safety measure," she added.

Vining noted that bullying behaviors such as sexual harassment and fighting could warrant a threat assessment.

Vining explained the threat assessment process consists of eight steps, which include: assembling the threat assessment team, gathering a variety of information, using multiple data sources, organizing and analyzing the information, determination of concern leading a response plan, developing a response plan, documenting and keeping records of the threat assessment, and continuing to monitor the student.

She noted that any physical, verbal or drawn threats, or having a weapon at school, require a threat assessment to be conducted.

Vining went on to explain that there are 11 questions under step four of the process that have been formulated by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

"They found that there are patterns within these 11 questions," she said. "It's difficult to process and to go through, and so we really try very hard to think through the developmental age or the developmental

capacity of the student."

She explained if a full threat assessment is completed, the threat is categorized into level A, B, C or D, with level A being the most severe by posing a clear and immediate threat.

Levels A through C all involve law enforcement, she noted.

Level D is the least threatening and does not appear to pose a threat, and the situation can be handled through a support plan, Vining explained.

"We have simultaneous interests happening; we want to take care of the students threatened and had something scary happen to them, but we also want to support the students that made a threat. Oftentimes, they don't have other language to replace it or they don't understand the consequences to their actions," she said.

Vining explained that interventions for students can look a variety of different ways and may include things like suspension, an isolated lunch seat or limited playground time.

"We have plenty of interventions and support in place for those students," she said, adding that home visits with law enforcement and the Department of Human Services are also options.

She also noted that if a student is suspended off campus, they must have a re-entry meeting with administrators and staff for that student to be allowed back in the building.

Vining also explained all of the information is documented and kept in what is called a "vortex" which can be shared when a student moves from one school to the next, or if they move out of district all of the information can be shared with the new school.

"The purpose of this, especially at the elementary school, is to document baseline behaviors," she said, and "to see if they remain the same, see if they improve versus if they escalate."

Holt commented on the threat assessment review, saying, "There has been nothing like this in the past." He mentioned the district may have previously written off a lot of the threats or bullying behaviors as jokes.

"Threat assessments are critical in identifying those students who do check a lot of those 11 questions and so that we're able to early on get eyes on those students and make sure they get the support they need before they do something that we've seen often, often in the news," Holt added.

He explained the district uses a multidisciplinary team when conducting threat assessments, including school resource officers.

"It's a new thing. It's sad we have to do it, but we're glad to be doing it because it is this kind of diligence that is going to stop something dangerous from happening," Holt said.

BOE board member Amanda Schick mentioned the student behavior matrix and the threat assessment process allows for a "very clear way" to move forward when dealing with these situations.

Lynch asked how many threat assessments had been conducted so far

this year at the elementary school, with Vining indicating a total of 30 had been conducted.

Vining explained that, during the previous two years, only about six threat assessments were conducted, but that she was mainly the only one involved and now more staff has been trained and more resources are available to conduct threat assessments.

She added that she expects an average of 30 threat assessments to be conducted per year moving forward.

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## Public Meetings

The following meetings are subject to change.

### Thursday, May 23

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

**Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District regular meeting.** 5 p.m., PAWSD administrative offices, 100 Lyn Ave. Visit [pawsd.org](http://pawsd.org) for more information.

**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>.

### Tuesday, May 28

**Archuleta County strategic planning community listening session.** 1 p.m., virtual. Call (970) 264-8309 for Zoom login information.

**Archuleta School District Board of Education budget presentation work session.** 5 p.m., virtual. Join on Google Meet at <https://meet.google.com/cgg-nzxr-bzd> or call (608) 764-9641 and use PIN: 960 854 977. Visit [mypagosaschools.com](http://mypagosaschools.com) for

more information.

**Upper San Juan Health Service District Board of Directors meeting.** 5 p.m., Pagosa Springs Medical Center board room, 95 S. Pagosa Blvd. View the meeting on Microsoft Teams using meeting ID: 211 697 380 209, passcode: 72rBqf.

### Tuesday, June 4

**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>.

**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://pagosasprings.civicweb.net/portal/>.

### Wednesday, June 5

**Pagosa Springs Public Art Committee meeting.** 5:30 p.m., Ross Aragon Community Center West Conference Room, 451 Hot Springs Boulevard.

### Thursday, June 6

**Main Street Advisory Board work session.** 4 p.m., Pagosa Senior Center dining room, Ross Aragon Community Center, 451 Hot Springs Blvd. See town website for participation information: <https://pagosasprings.civicweb.net/portal/>.

### Tuesday, June 11

**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>.

### Wednesday, June 12

**Archuleta County Fair Board Meeting.** 6 p.m., CSU Extension office, 344 U.S. 84. For more information, visit <http://archuletacounty.org/agendacenter>.

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### JOHN'S EXPERIENCE

- John moved to Pagosa Springs in 1996
- Worked in the field of Public Finance for 18 years
- Served as a bond analyst for Counties' financials for 8 years
- Served as Chief Financial Officer for 11 years

### EXPERIENCE IN ARCHULETA COUNTY

- 2007 Served on Financial Task Force
- Elected County Commissioner to dig out of a financial hole
- Served on Committee to set up new Health District — 2023



To learn more about John Ranson's campaign for Archuleta County Commissioner, District 2, please feel free to contact John at:  
[RansonforCommissioner.com](http://RansonforCommissioner.com)

Advertisement Paid for by Committee to Elect John Ranson, Campaign Manager: Lisa Scott, Campaign Treasurer: Pete Gutman.



# Outdoors

## Pagosa Ranger District office's garden gets makeover Garden showcases native plants, low-water options

By Clayton Chaney  
Staff Writer

The San Juan National Forest's Pagosa Ranger District office located at 180 Pagosa St. is getting some improvements to its demonstration garden.

On Tuesday, May 14, U.S. Forest Service staff, Pagosa Springs High School (PSHS) students and members from the San Juan National Forest Green Team worked on renovating and reviving the office's demonstration garden.

Pagosa Ranger District Customer Service Representative Kevin Conwell explained that the ranger station's garden used to be a nice xeriscape garden for native plants and pollinators, but that "over the years it got kind of taken over by weeds."

Conwell mentioned that he and another Pagosa district employee first started thinking about renovating the garden last year, but were unable to find necessary funds.

He went on to explain that the Pagosa Ranger District decided to partner with the Mountain Studies Institute (MSI), noting that MSI was able to apply for grants to purchase supplies needed for the renovation.

Conwell hopes that the renovations will help give people ideas for using native plants and low-water use options for their gardens.

Amanda Kuenzi, community science director at MSI, explained that part of the renovations involved pulling non-native plants like Russian sage, cheeseweed and prickly lettuce, and replacing them with native plants like lead plant and Rocky Mountain penstemon, also known as beardtongue.

Kuenzi mentioned that non-native plants "aren't truly providing a benefit for our local pollinators and wildlife."

She also mentioned she hopes the renovated garden will inspire people to incorporate native plants into their gardens at home.



SUN photo/Clayton Chaney

Pagosa Springs High School students and San Juan National Forest employees help remove nonnative plants from the Pagosa Ranger Station demonstration garden. The garden is being renovated with native plants to bring it within xeriscape standards, helping native pollinators and using minimal water.

"We're hoping that this garden will show people how beautiful native plants can be and that you can still be an integral part of your ecosystem," Kuenzi said.

San Juan National Forest Partnership Coordinator Abraham Proffitt mentioned that the demonstration garden at the ranger station was first established in 2008, but that over the years it has been "overgrown" and that stuff "has been dying out."

He mentioned that bringing the garden back up to xeriscape standards will help reduce water use and

improve the landscape.

Proffitt also explained that native plants use much less water compared to non-native plants.

"They grow in this environment, so they're good for this landscape," he said.

Two classes from PSHS helped renovate the garden by pulling weeds and clearing the garden for new native plants to be put in. Students were able to help out during regular school hours as part of the school's work-day program.

clayton@pagosasun.com

## Wildfire Awareness Month reminds Coloradans to prepare for wildfire

By Kristy Burnett  
Colorado State Forest Service

Colorado observes Wildfire Awareness Month each May to encourage residents to better prepare their homes, property and communities for wildfire.

With nearly half of all Coloradans living in the wildland-urban interface and being susceptible to wildfire, it's important for people to take action to reduce their wildfire risk and create more fire-adapted communities.

Ongoing drought in parts of Colorado, powerful winds and large swaths of forests affected by forest pests and diseases increase the potential for large, uncharacteristic wildfire, so living with the potential for wildfire is the reality across the state.

Now in its second year, the Live Wildfire Ready campaign is funded by the state of Colorado through Senate Bill 22-007 and developed by the Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS), Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control (DFPC), USDA Forest Service (USFS) and Colorado State Fire Chiefs (CSFC).

"We are in an era of megafires, and Coloradans must live wildfire ready, especially those people who live in and around natural vegetation and are most at risk of wildfire," said Matt McCombs, state forester and director of the CSFS. "The Live Wildfire Ready campaign empowers these residents to protect their lives, homes and property through practical, low-cost actions that lower the chances their home ignites during a fire. It's only a matter of time before another destructive wildfire impacts our state, so I encourage everyone to do their part to prepare themselves and their communities for fire during Wildfire Awareness Month in May and throughout the year."

### Practical actions to reduce wildfire risk

Coloradans can take simple, practical, relatively low-cost actions to prepare their homes and property for wildfire.

These actions include the following:

- Regularly clear leaves, pine needles and other debris from your deck, roof and gutters.
- Rake and remove pine needles and leaves 5 feet from your home.
- Store firewood at least 30 feet from your home, preferably uphill, and never on or under your deck.
- Move items under your deck or porch to a storage area.
- Prune branches hanging over your roof and within 10 feet of your chimney.
- Remove flammable material within 6 vertical inches of your home's siding.
- Mow grasses to 4 inches or less within 30 feet of your home.
- Clear brush, shrubs and other plants within 10 feet of propane tanks and gas meters.
- Screen attic, roof, eaves and foundation vents and wall-in areas below decks and stilt foundations with 1/8-inch metal mesh.

"During this Wildfire Awareness Month, we'd like to remind everyone that mitigation is essential, and as individuals we must all do our part. Please make time to focus on prevention and preparedness at your own home and in your community," said CSFC President Kristy Olme.

In addition to preparing one's home, living wildfire ready means being ready to evacuate during a wildfire:

- Make an evacuation plan with Ready, Set, Go! for people and pets.
- Prepare a go-bag and disaster supplies kit with Ready, Set, Go!
- Sign up for emergency notifications from your local office of emergency management.
- Ensure home address signs are visible from the street.
- Identify at least two ways out of your neighborhood and a safe place for you to go.
- Practice evacuating your home with your family and pets.
- Create a family emergency communication plan.

Ready, Set, Go! is available at <https://csfs.colostate.edu/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Ready-Set-Go-Wildland-Fire-Action-Plan-Pages-8-11.pdf>.

"We must work together with our

communities and partner agencies to reduce the threat of wildfire in our communities," said USDA Forest Service Regional Forester Frank Beum. "The work we all do ahead of a wildfire incident will assist our resources in being successful when an incident occurs."

### Wildfire outlook

The DFPC presented the 2024 Wildfire Preparedness Plan to Gov. Jared Polis April 17; the plan includes information on the wildfire outlook and the state's plan for responding to wildfires in 2024.

"Even in an average year, Colorado can experience over 5,500 wildland fires burning over 220,000 acres," said DFPC Director Mike Morgan. "DFPC continues to expand our response capabilities to meet all fire-related needs year-round by focusing on early detection and rapid initial attack to limit duration, impacts, and costs where fire is unwanted."

### Campaign for Colorado

Wildland fire management in Colorado is an interagency partnership among local, state and federal agencies, so Live Wildfire Ready reflects that dynamic through its development by the CSFS, DFPC, USFS and CSFC.

By working together on efforts, including this campaign, the goals of these entities are resilient, fire-adapted landscapes and communities that best provide for firefighter and public safety and protection of natural resources.

For more about the campaign, visit [LiveWildfireReady.org](http://LiveWildfireReady.org).

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# PAWSD, SJWCD subcommittees discuss Running Iron Ranch options

By Josh Pike  
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD) Board of Directors Running Iron Ranch subcommittee and San Juan Water Conservancy District (SJWCD) board members held a joint work session to discuss potential options at the Running Iron Ranch on May 8.

Bill Hudson and Glenn Walsh attended representing the PAWSD board, while Rob Hagberg and Charles Riehm represented the SJWCD.

Discussion at the hour-and-a-half-long work session ranged over a variety of issues, including a proposed gravel lease extension, options for various activities to generate revenue on the property and the long-term positioning of both boards in terms of paying off the loans for the property.

The SJWCD board previously expressed opposition to the gravel lease extension proposed by Weber Sand and Gravel representative Donald Andrew "Andy" Weber to the PAWSD board.

However, Riehm explained that the board's opposition was rooted in an understanding that PAWSD would generate a nominal amount of revenue from the lease extension.

Upon Hudson and Walsh explaining that the lease extension would potentially generate more than \$100,000, which would help PAWSD offset the costs of paying the loans on the property and other cleanup work, Riehm and Hagberg both indicated that they would support such an arrangement as it would help reduce the financial burden of the property, and the associated reservoir project, on PAWSD.

The conversation also covered two proposed potential income-generating projects at the site, including an affordable mobile home park proposed by Walsh and a potential solar electricity generation installation with La Plata Electric Association (LPEA) proposed by Hagberg and Riehm.

Walsh explained that some local mobile home parks charge up to \$1,000 per month for a home to be parked there and that a park could be located on a 20 acre section of the property that is across U.S. 160 from the main ranch.

He indicated that this property could potentially accommodate more than 100 "park model homes" and that, if the districts developed an affordable housing project at the location and could make between \$150 and \$200 in revenue from each home per month, this would generate \$240,000 annually, which would come close to paying the loans on the property.

Riehm and Hagberg expressed support for the idea, adding that the proposal would be particularly valuable due to impacting the shortage of affordable housing opportunities

in the area.

The group also discussed that this project could be paired with a park or rafting put-in on the San Juan River, which would also be located on the same portion of the property.

A proposed deal between the two districts and Archuleta County to create a park and public river put-in failed last year.

Walsh and Hudson noted that their primary concern with that proposal was that the county, which would have assumed responsibility for managing the park, does not have the appropriate resources to do so safely.

*Walsh and Hudson suggested that the ideal arrangement might be for the SJWCD to purchase the ranch from PAWSD, thus removing the district from any involvement with the reservoir project.*

They also expressed concerns about extending the possible run for persons recreating with inner tubes that far above town due to the potential that a tube could rupture and the user could be stranded a significant distance from town.

However, they expressed a greater willingness to pursue such an arrangement if the put-in's use is limited to licensed river rafting companies and if the arrangement for a put-in is made with them.

The group also covered the possibility that LPEA would be interested in creating a solar installation on a portion of Running Iron Ranch that would not be covered by the proposed reservoir.

Hagberg stated that he had previously suggested this idea to LPEA, but that the association had expressed little interest.

However, he explained, following the decision by the LPEA board to exit from Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, which was partially driven by a desire to increase the amount of renewable energy used by LPEA, LPEA representatives approached him and expressed potential interest in moving forward with the solar farm proposal.

He stated that the portion of Running Iron Ranch proposed for the project could be ideal as it is on a hill and has no obstructions to the sky.

Hagberg added, depending on the terms of arrangement with LPEA — which could be formulated in a variety of ways — the project could generate significant revenues for the

districts and assist with the loan payments, as well as providing benefits for the community by increasing the local electrical supply.

The group then discussed potential formulations of an agreement with LPEA and the ramifications of these options before agreeing that the group has an interest in the project and would like to pursue it further.

The discussion then turned toward the long-term ownership of the ranch and the PAWSD board's potential interest in selling it.

Walsh and Hudson suggested that the ideal arrangement might be for the SJWCD to purchase the ranch from PAWSD, thus removing the district from any involvement with the reservoir project.

Walsh added that he believed that, with SJWCD's increasing mill levy revenues, it might be feasible for the SJWCD in the future to support the loan payments for the property.

Riehm stated that he believes that it would be possible for the district to pursue financial approaches that would allow it to support paying the loans, though Hagberg expressed doubts about if the district would have the funds necessary to do so.

Walsh also emphasized that reducing the financial burden on PAWSD is a key goal of the PAWSD board and that options for generating revenue to support the loans on the property would likely need to be found quickly to prevent the PAWSD board from moving toward a sale.

Riehm and Hagberg expressed agreement with Walsh about the importance of reducing the costs for PAWSD, and Walsh added that he appreciates that the SJWCD highlighted the importance of reducing such costs in a recent meeting with the Colorado Water Conservation Board, who is the third party in a three-way agreement concerning the Running Iron Ranch property and the reservoir project.

The group also discussed the sizing for a reservoir and the relationship of this size to water demand, with Hudson noting water demand has not grown in accordance with the projections that originally fueled the development of a reservoir and Riehm commenting that the 10,000 acre foot reservoir size that the project was based upon was somewhat arbitrary and could potentially be re-examined depending on the needs and funding options for the project.

Hudson and Walsh noted that reducing the size of the reservoir could potentially increase the value of various revenue-generating options for the property, particularly the solar farm.

At the conclusion of the discussion, members of both boards expressed that the conversation had been positive and more productive than they anticipated and agreed to schedule another joint work session on June 12 at 10 a.m. at the SJWCD offices at 46 Eaton Drive, Suite 5.

[josh@pagosasun.com](mailto:josh@pagosasun.com)

## Nature Conservancy receiving nearly \$9.9 million for area work

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Xochitl Torres Small recently announced \$250 million to help at-risk communities protect their homes, businesses and infrastructure from catastrophic wildfire, made worse by the climate crisis.

The grant funding includes nearly \$9.9 million for The Nature Conservancy to protect communities in Archuleta County and watersheds that provide irrigation and drinking water to downstream users in Santa Fe and Albuquerque, N.M., which get 50 percent and 90 percent of their clean water from these watersheds, respectively.

The Community Wildfire Defense Grant program will fund 158 projects to help communities in 31 states, two territories and 11 tribes develop community wildfire protection plans and remove overgrown vegetation that can fuel fires that threaten lives, livelihoods and resources.

Now in its second year, the Community Wildfire Defense Grant program helps communities in the wildland-urban interface maintain resilient landscapes, create fire-adapted communities, and ensure safe, effective wildfire response — all goals of the unifying National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy and aligned with the objectives of the National Climate Resilience Framework.

Other examples include nearly \$10 million for the Cherokee Nation in Oklahoma to get the equipment it needs to reduce wildfire risk through prescribed fire, thinning, and to educate and train firefighters and the communities they serve. Wasco County in Oregon is receiving nearly

\$6 million to create fuel breaks and defensible space to protect Maupin, Pine Grove, Tygh Valley and other communities.

Interest in the program has also grown since its first year, with more projects being funded in more states and among more tribes, thanks to an increase in applications, representing a nearly 20 percent increase in funding overall.

In total, the program is investing \$1 billion over five years to assist at-risk communities through grants to local and tribal communities, nonprofit organizations, state forestry agencies and Alaska Native Corporations, with planning for and mitigating wildfire risks on lands not managed by federal agencies.

The USDA's Forest Service collaborated with tribes and states through an interagency working group to develop the Community Wildfire Defense Grant program.

Grant proposals undergo a competitive selection process that includes review panels made up of state forestry agencies, tribal representatives and

other organizations. The proposals are reviewed using guidelines within the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, which prioritize at-risk communities that have been impacted by a severe disaster, are at a high or very high potential for wildfire hazard, and are classified as low income.

"We recognize the difference this program is already having on reducing wildfire risk. This second round of investments will help communities develop community wildfire protection plans, which serve as roadmaps for addressing local wildfire risks," said Forest Service Chief Randy Moore. "They also will fund projects to lower wildfire risk on nonfederal land in communities that already have a community wildfire protection plan in place."

The Forest Service will announce a third funding opportunity later this year.

More information about the funded proposals, as well as announcements about the grant program, is available on the Community Wildfire Defense Grants website.



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# Sports

## TRACK



Photo courtesy Jessica Carr

Lady Pirate Abigail Nehring throws to a second-place finish at the state track and field championships last week. Nehring threw a distance of 121 feet, 11 inches. The Lady Pirates finished 12th as a team.



Photo courtesy Jessica Carr

Pirate Creede Dozier logs a new personal record and takes third in the high jump with a height of 6 feet, 3 inches at last week's state track and field championships.

# Pirates place in 11 events at state meet

By Randi Pierce  
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Pirate athletes brought home medals in 11 events from last week's state track and field championship in Lakewood.

The Lady Pirate team finished 12th in 3A at the event, while the Pirates finished 21st.

"The state meet was such a huge success for us," coach Connie O'Donnell wrote in an email to The SUN, adding, "I am so proud that our kids had the mental ability to perform in a high stress/high expectation event. The state meet has a different atmosphere to it and it can be hard for some to not give in to the pressure. Our kids were unfazed and did their very best."

Abigail Nehring was the top-placing Pagosa Springs athlete at the event, placing second in discus.

Nehring's throw of 121 feet, 11 inches was a personal record (PR), according to the coach.

"We will be looking for her to compete for a championship next year and break the school record as well," O'Donnell wrote.

O'Donnell also noted that Nehring was voted the league's female field athlete of the year by the Intermountain League (IML) coaches.

Creede Dozier placed third in the high jump and set a new PR with a height of 6-3.

"Out of the 9 placers in the event, 4 of them were from the IML," O'Donnell highlighted.

Centauri's Trow Sowards won with a height of 6-4, Bayfield's Tanner Neeley finished fourth with a height of 6-3 and Alamosa's Brant Jackson finished tied for seventh with a height of 6-1.

Pirate Jeremiah Jones finished 11th with a height of 5-11.

The Lady Pirate team of Sienna Rose, Annabelle Parker, Lexi Campbell and Rylie Carr finished fifth and improved upon their own school record with a time of 50.33 seconds in the 4x100-meter relay.

The team qualified for the finals with a time of 50.43 seconds in the prelims.

The 800-meter sprint medley team of Parker, Aspen Pitcher, Rose and Annie O'Donnell finished sixth with a time of 1 minute, 54.34 seconds.

The team finished fourth in the prelims with a time of 1:52.55 seconds.

Carr placed in both the 100- and 200-meter dashes, with the coach highlighting she set PRs in both events, "which improved upon her already held school records."

Carr took sixth in both the prelims and finals for the 100, logging a time of 12.72 seconds in the prelims and 12.49 seconds in the finals.

Carr took eighth in the prelims in the 200 with a time of 26.06 seconds and moved up to seventh in the finals with a time of 26.19 seconds.

"She had another great meet and was able to perform well. She also provided some good leadership on the relay teams," O'Donnell said.

The girls' 4x200-meter relay team — Rose, Annie O'Donnell, Campbell and Carr — took seventh with a time of 1:47.54.

The team took fourth in the prelims with a time of 1:47.62.

Colton Lucero took seventh in the long jump with a distance of 20-06.50.

Dozier placed 14th in the event with a distance of 19-08.50.

The boys' 4x100 relay — Lucero, Harley Armijo, Dozier and Blake Laner — placed ninth with a time of 43.93 seconds.

The team finished sixth in the prelims with a time of 43.73 seconds.

"It has been years since we had a boys sprint relay team place at the state meet," Connie O'Donnell wrote. "Prelims were so exciting. It was fun to watch Colton get out of the blocks and start making up the stagger right away and then have a seamless hand-off to Harley. Creede was the third leg and ran a really fast corner. Then it was up to Blake to get that third place spot and make finals."

The team also came close to setting a new school record.

"They missed our school record by 1/100th of a second," the coach wrote. "The record has been there since 2005."

Rose placed ninth in the 400-meter dash, running a time of 1:00.04 in the prelims and 1:01.30 in the finals.

"Sienna Rose placed 9th in the 400, but was unable to break 60 seconds like last week," the coach explained. "It's just different to run with people who are all so close together in the 400 at the state meet. Sienna missed finals last year in the event so it was nice to see her succeed this year."

Campbell earned a medal with her ninth-place finish in the triple jump, with Connie O'Donnell highlighting she tied her personal best from the week before with a distance of 33-07.50.

Lucero finished 10th in the 100 prelims with a time of 11.37 seconds, missing making the finals by one place.

■ See Track on A13



Photo courtesy Jessica Carr

Pirate Blake Laner runs following the handoff from Creede Dozier in the 4x100-meter relay at the state track and field meet last week in Lakewood. The relay placed ninth and came close to setting a new school record.



# Public Notices

## COMBINED NOTICE - PUBLICATION CRS §38-38-103 FORECLOSURE SALE NO. 2024-003

To Whom It May Concern: This Notice is given with regard to the following described Deed of Trust:  
On March 14, 2024, the undersigned Public Trustee caused the Notice of Election and Demand relating to the Deed of Trust described below to be recorded in the County of Archuleta records.  
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Original Beneficiary(ies)  
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Freedom Mortgage Corporation  
Date of Deed of Trust  
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Pursuant to CRS §38-38-101(4)(i), you are hereby notified that the covenants of the deed of trust have been violated as follows: Failure to pay principal and interest when due together with all other payments provided for in the evidence of debt secured by the deed of trust and other violations thereof.  
**THE LIEN FORECLOSED MAY NOT BE A FIRST LIEN.**  
S1/2SW1/4 of Lot 3 in Section 7, Township 32 North, Range 5 West, N.M.P.M., Archuleta County, Colorado.  
**Also known by street and number as: 1917 County Road 975, Ignacio, CO 81137-9639.**  
**THE PROPERTY DESCRIBED HEREIN IS ALL OF THE PROPERTY CURRENTLY ENCUMBERED BY THE LIEN OF THE DEED OF TRUST.**  
**NOTICE OF SALE**  
The current holder of the Evidence of Debt secured by the Deed of Trust, described herein, has filed Notice of Election and Demand for sale as provided by law and in said Deed of Trust.  
THEREFORE, Notice Is Hereby Given that I will at public auction, at 10:00 A.M. on Thursday, 07/11/2024, at the Archuleta County Treasurer's Office at 449 San Juan St, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147, sell to the highest and best bidder for cash, the said real property and all interest of the said Grantor(s), Grantor(s) heirs and assigns therein, for the purpose of paying the indebtedness provided in said Evidence of Debt secured by the Deed of Trust, plus attorneys' fees, the expenses of sale and other items allowed by law, and will issue to the purchaser a Certificate of Purchase, all as provided by law.  
First Publication  
5/16/2024  
Last Publication  
6/13/2024

Name of Publication  
Pagosa Springs Sun  
**IF THE SALE DATE IS CONTINUED TO A LATER DATE, THE DEADLINE TO FILE A NOTICE OF INTENT TO CURE BY THOSE PARTIES ENTITLED TO CURE MAY ALSO BE EXTENDED;**  
DATE: 03/14/2024  
Elsa P. White, Public Trustee in and for the County of Archuleta, State of Colorado  
By: Elsa P. White, Public Trustee  
The name, address, business telephone number and bar registration number of the attorney(s) representing the legal holder of the indebtedness:  
Amanda Ferguson #44893  
Halliday, Watkins & Mann, P.C. 355 Union Blvd. Ste 250, Lakewood, CO 80228 (303) 274-0155  
Attorney File #CO22645  
The Attorney above is acting as a debt collector and is attempting to collect a debt. Any information provided may be used for that purpose.  
©Public Trustee's Association of Colorado Revised 1/2015  
Published May 16, 23, 30 and June 6, 13, 2024 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (231865)

District Court  
Archuleta County, Colorado  
Court Address:  
Archuleta County Justice Center  
109 Harman Park Drive  
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147  
In the Matter of the Estate of:  
Carol Ann White  
AKA Carol Ann Neville  
Deceased  
Attorney or Party Without Attorney:  
Charlotte P. Vochem, Attorney at Law  
P.O. Box 353  
Coleman, TX 76834  
Case Number: 24PR30026  
Phone Number: (512) 529-6288  
E-mail: charlotte@vochemlaw.com  
Atty. Reg. #54998  
**NOTICE TO CREDITORS BY PUBLICATION PURSUANT TO § 15-12-801, C.R.S.**  
**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
Estate of Carol Ann White, AKA Carol Ann Neville, Deceased  
Case Number: 24PR30026  
All persons having claims against the above named estate are required to present them to the personal representative or to District Court of Archuleta County, Colorado on or before September 23, 2024, or the claims may be forever barred.  
James Roy White, Jr.  
1120 Lake Forest Circle  
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147  
Published May 23, 30, and June 6, 2024 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (237028)

DISTRICT COURT,  
ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO  
Case Number: 2024CV30026

Court Address: 109 Harman Park Dr, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147  
Phone Number: (970) 264-8160  
**Plaintiffs:**  
MARK S. JESKE  
v.  
**Defendants:**  
ROBERT L. REYNOLDS; ROSA R. REYNOLDS and ALL UNKNOWN PERSONS WHO CLAIM ANY INTEREST IN THE SUBJECT MATTER OF THIS ACTION.  
Submitting Attorney:  
Duke Eggleston, #24965  
Eggleston Kosnik LLC  
160 E. 12th St, Ste 7  
Durango, CO 81301  
Phone Number: (970) 403-1580  
E-mail: deggleston@e-klaw.com

**SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION**  
**PLAINTIFFS MARK S. JESKE**  
**ALL UNKNOWN PERSONS WHO CLAIM ANY INTEREST IN THE SUBJECT MATTER OF THIS ACTION YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED** and required to appear and defend against the claims of the complaint filed with the court in this action by filing with the clerk of this court an answer or other response. You are required to file your answer or other response within 35 days after the service of this summons upon you. Service of this summons shall be complete on the day of the last publication. A copy of the complaint may be obtained from the clerk of the court.  
If you fail to file your answer or other response to the complaint in writing within 35 days after the date of the last publication, judgment by default may be rendered against you by the court for the relief demanded in the complaint without further notice.  
This is an action to quiet the title of the parties, along with other relief, related in and to the real property situated in Archuleta County, Colorado, more particularly described as follows: Lot 649 in Pagosa Vista, according to the plat thereof recorded September 13, 1971 as Reception 74884.  
Respectfully Submitted this 16th day of April, 2024.  
Published in *The Pagosa Sun*  
First Publication: April 25, 2024  
Last Publication: May 23, 2024  
Eggleston Kosnik LLC  
/s/ Duke Eggleston  
Duke Eggleston, #24965  
160 E. 12th St., Ste 7  
Durango, CO 81301  
(970) 403-1580  
(234680)

District Court, Archuleta County, Colorado  
Court Address: 46 Eaton Dr., Suite #1, PO Box 148, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147, 970-264-8160  
John Reese, Plaintiff  
v.  
National Recreational Properties of Pagosa Springs, LLC, a delinquent Colorado limited liability company; April Bergman, in her capacity as the Public Trustee of Archuleta County, Colorado; and all unknown person who may claim an interest in the subject matter of this action, Defendants.  
**Case Number: 2024CV30013 Division 1**  
**THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF COLORADO**  
**TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT(S):**  
(1) National Recreational Properties of Pagosa Springs, LLC;  
(2) All Unknown Person Who May Claim Any Interest in the Subject Matter of this Action  
You are hereby summoned and required to appear and defend against the claims of the complaint filed with the court in this action, by filing with the clerk of this court an answer or other response. You are required to file

your answer or other response within 35 days after the service of this summons upon you.  
Service of this summons shall be complete on the day of the last publication. A copy of the complaint may be obtained from the clerk of the court.

If you fail to file your answer or other response to the complaint in writing within 35 days after the date of the last publication, judgment by default may be rendered against you by the court for the relief demanded in the complaint without further notice.  
This is an action to quiet title of the parties, along with other relief, related in and to the real property situated in Archuleta County, Colorado, to wit: LOTS 169 AND 170, CHRIS MOUNTAIN VILLAGE AT PAGOSA UNIT TWO, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF FILED FOR RECORD IN THE REAL PROPERTY RECORDS OF ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO ON JUNE 4, 1973 AT RECEPTION NO. 77868.  
Dated: April 16, 2024  
Published in the *Pagosa Springs Sun*  
First Publication: April 25, 2024  
Last Publication: May 23, 2024  
s/ Jeffrey B. Cullers  
Attorney for Plaintiff  
Publication: *Pagosa Springs Sun*  
Published April 25 and May 2, 9, 16, 23, 2024 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (234540)

District Court, Archuleta County, Colorado  
Court Address: 46 Eaton Dr., Suite #1, PO Box 148, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147, 970-264-8160  
Fred A Rich and Margaret Rich, Plaintiffs  
v.  
National Recreational Properties of Pagosa Springs, LLC, a delinquent Colorado limited liability company; April Bergman, in her capacity as the Public Trustee of Archuleta County, Colorado; and all unknown person who may claim an interest in the subject matter of this action, Defendants.  
**Case Number: 2024CV30029 Division 1**  
**THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF COLORADO**  
**TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT(S):**  
(1) National Recreational Properties of Pagosa Springs, LLC;  
(2) All Unknown Person Who May Claim Any Interest in the Subject Matter of this Action  
You are hereby summoned and required to appear and defend against the claims of the complaint filed with the court in this action, by filing with the clerk of this court an answer or other response. You are required to file

your answer or other response within 35 days after the service of this summons upon you.  
Service of this summons shall be complete on the day of the last publication. A copy of the complaint may be obtained from the clerk of the court.  
If you fail to file your answer or other response to the complaint in writing within 35 days after the date of the last publication, judgment by default may be rendered against you by the court for the relief demanded in the complaint without further notice.  
This is an action to quiet title of the parties, along with other relief, related in and to the real property situated in Archuleta County, Colorado, to wit: LOTS 173 AND 174, CHRIS MOUNTAIN VILLAGE AT PAGOSA UNIT TWO, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF FILED FOR RECORD IN THE REAL PROPERTY RECORDS OF ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO ON JUNE 4, 1973 AT RECEPTION NO. 77868.  
Dated: April 16, 2024  
Published in the *Pagosa Springs Sun*  
First Publication: April 25, 2024  
Last Publication: May 23, 2024  
s/ Jeffrey B. Cullers  
Attorney for Plaintiff  
Publication: *Pagosa Springs Sun*  
Published April 25 and May 2, 9, 16, 23, 2024 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (234541)

**INVITATION TO BID**  
Separate sealed BIDS for an Archuleta County Housing Needs Assessment will be received by Archuleta County, Colorado at the Finance Office, 398 Lewis Street, P.O. Box 1507, Pagosa Springs, Colorado 81147, until 3:30 P.M. local time on June 14, 2024. The project consists of preparing a county-wide Housing Needs Assessment to identify gaps between our current housing market and local workforce housing needs to inform the development of a workforce housing strategy and to adjust other initiatives to support potential housing developments and programs intended to serve the needs of the greater Archuleta County Workforce in 2024 and beyond. The study will cover all of Archuleta County, including the Town of Pagosa Springs, and will focus on current conditions with 3-year and 5-year projections, and should be completed in the 3rd of 4th quarter of 2024. The entire Request for Proposal and Statement of Work for the project is available on the Archuleta County website under Business-Bid Opportunities or by contacting Finance at (970) 264-8554 or Development Services at (970) 264-8381.  
Published May 23 and June 6, 2024 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (237049)

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING**  
Build Pagosa Inc has filed a pre-application with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, for financial assistance to develop a Regional Workforce Center.  
The area to be served by the proposed project is Archuleta County and the surrounding areas.  
A meeting regarding the proposed project will be held on Wednesday, June 5, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. at the following location: 390 Boulder Dr. (ReMax building), Pagosa Springs, CO 81147.  
The public is invited to attend this meeting and to provide comments on the proposed project.  
Name of Applicant: R. Doug Hershey  
Official Date: April 25, 2024  
Title of Applicant Official: Treasurer  
Published May 23, 2024 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (235235)

# PUBLIC NOTICES: YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW



# BASEBALL



Photo courtesy Aubrie Limebrook

Pagosa Springs High School hosted a skills clinic for the Pagosa Springs Youth Baseball 12U and 14U teams. The younger players worked with the older boys to break up in groups to practice fielding, outfield drills, pitching skills, catching techniques and batting. It is reported that everyone learned a lot and had a lot of fun.

## Pirates end season with postseason loss

By Randi Pierce  
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Pirate baseball team ended its season Saturday in postseason action.

The Pirates entered the postseason as the No. 28 seed and took on the No. 5 Coal Ridge Titans on Saturday for regionals.

The Titans were victorious in the affair, defeating the Pirates 13-3 before later defeating the Montezuma-Cortez Panthers by the same margin.

The Panthers entered as the No. 12 seed and defeated No. 21 Valley to advance and face the Titans.

The Titans, who are 23-2 on the season, are now set to face No. 4 Resurrection Christian.

The Pirates ended the season 11-11 and 4-4 in league play.

"I thought we could compete, and we did," coach Ben Garcia said, explaining the score doesn't fully indicate what happened.

The Pirates scored one in the top of the first, but Garcia explained the Pirates had the bases loaded with no outs and the four, five and six hitters coming up to bat.

"And that's exactly where you want to be," Garcia said, adding the team had a good chance to put some runs up early and put pressure on the Titans.

Kyler Henderson drew a walk to score a run before Garcia indicated the pitcher kind of settled down and struck out the next two batters.

"Tough situation, but we battled," he said.

The Pirates then came out and walked the first two batters, he noted, adding that scenario is where the Pirates need to get better — getting on top early in the game.

A passed ball then put the Titans in scoring position and a rundown situation didn't go the Pirates' way, he added, noting the Pirates were trying to keep the runs to a minimum.

The inning ended with the Titans up 4-1.

"We were still in the game, obviously. We thought we could play with them," Garcia said, adding the Titans are a good team that is sound with good pitching.

Neither team scored in the second, and the Titans scored one in the bottom of the third.

The Pirates scored one in the top of the fourth.

Garcia relayed the Pirates again had the bases loaded with no outs in the inning, this time with the eight, nine and top of the order up.

The Pirates then struck out, with the next batter being hit by a pitch.

Riley Laugel was then up to bat.

"And I'm thinking, this is where we want to be. This is exactly the opportunity to get right back into this game. And the pitcher does a pretty good job, throws Riley on the outside," Garcia said.

Laugel struck out with a 3-2 count,

with Chris Martinez doing the same, according to the coach.

The Pirates then gave up two runs in the bottom of the inning and two in the fifth, giving the Titans a 9-2 lead.

"We felt pretty good going into the sixth inning," Garcia said, with the Pirates again having opportunities.

The team had runners on first and second, he noted, but weren't able to get the key hit.

*"They did a great job. The improvements I saw with those kids was just absolutely tremendous."*  
**Coach Ben Garcia**

"Bottom of the sixth, things kind of fell apart," he said, with the Pirates walking the first two batters and a pitching change putting people into different defensive positions.

He noted there were "miscues" after the position changes and he probably should have called a time-out to discuss the plan.

The Pirates committed two errors in the inning and allowed four runs.

That made the score 13-3 in favor of the Titans at the end of the game.

Garcia noted while the Pirates made mistakes, the Titans "hit the ball very well."

That, he added, the Titans should have done all year.

"They've got a very sound team where if you're gonna beat 'em, you're gonna have to beat 'em by hittin' and executin' because they don't make mistakes. They're very sound. They're a very sound team. Give them a lot of credit. They've had a great year. They have some very good, fundamentally sound players," he said.

The Pirates had seven hits in the game, walked five times and had one batter hit by a pitch.

Zach Pouyer and Martinez had two hits each, with Pouyer scoring a run.

Jaden Tuggle-Reed, Laugel and Cooper Ralston had one hit each, with Laugel and Ralston each scoring a run and drawing a walk. Tuggle-Reed also drew one walk.

Henderson walked and had an RBI.

Brodie Norton was hit by a pitch.

Laugel pitched the majority of the game, with Martinez pitching in relief. They combined to allow 13 runs (eight earned) on 12 hits and eight walks while striking out one.

"As Riley's done all year, he kind of spreads it out," Garcia said of the hits and walks allowed by Laugel.

Garcia indicated the Pirates ended the season with the ability to play with anybody, but that the team struggled with switching positions

and having depth in that capacity, especially in the key positions up the middle that are going to touch the ball 75 percent of the time.

That's something, he indicated, the team will be working on next season — developing good players up the middle, learning to play catch at a long distance with and without pressure, knowing where to throw the ball, and keeping the ball in front of them.

"If we can continue to be a little bit more mature in playing ... we can do it," he said.

He added the team is hoping to have a chance to play other teams over the summer and get kids on teams to play.

"You don't win championships during the season," Garcia said. "You win them during the offseason."

He added the Pirates need to work in the weight room, play games and study what good teams do.

"If we can do that, I think good things are gonna happen for Pagosa baseball," he said. "I really do."

Garcia said coming into the season the vast majority of the players didn't have much experience.

"They did a great job. The improvements I saw with those kids was just absolutely tremendous," he said, adding that, for some, it was like drinking from a fire hose. "But I give them tons of credit for coming out and working every day and, you know, giving me everything they had. So, that's awesome. That ... really kind of made my year, is the development of the young ones and the development of the older kids, too."

He added he's also seen the desire for them to get better and, most importantly, they had fun during the season.

Last week's postseason game was the final in game in a Pirate uniform for a handful of seniors.

"It's tough because they're all great kids," Garcia said.

Norton, Garcia highlighted, showed tremendous improvement over the season, never missed a practice and worked hard.

He added Norton is a "great kid" and that he wishes he had one more year with Norton.

Dieter Denen, Garcia explained, is class president and a "great, great kid."

While Denen didn't get a chance to play a lot as a young kid, he was learning to play and earned opportunities in right field toward the end of the season.

Garcia further highlighted that Denen is a "super individual" who is polite and intelligent and he loved working with him.

Tuggle-Reed, Garcia explained, has a lot of raw talent and could play everywhere.

He highlighted Tuggle-Reed's athleticism, strong arm and that he helped the team a lot and was a steady second baseman who believed

there wasn't a pop fly he couldn't go get.

Of Hunter Pouyer, Garcia said, "Hunter is probably one of the most gifted players I've seen in a long time."

He added the senior is "absolutely" the best receiver he's seen in high school baseball in a long time and he is "tremendous" behind the plate, saving a lot of wild pitchers.

He further highlighted Hunter Pouyer has a "rocket for an arm" and had probably his best year hitting this year, hitting the ball to all fields.

"The future for him is bright if he wants to play at a different level," Garcia said.

Garcia added Laugel "has all the tools as well."

He added Laugel has a lot of potential at the college level, having an above-average arm, above-average speed, the ability to hit the ball well and is a smart baseball player.

"I wish them the best," Garcia said of the seniors, calling them all "great kids."

randi@pagosasun.com

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## Track

Continued from A12

"I think it just made him hungry for next year," the coach wrote. "He is so close to our school record so that is definitely a realistic goal for him next year. He will want to make finals and break the record."

Jordan Lindstrom tied for 12th in the high jump with a height of 4-09.00.

The boys' 4x200 team — Lucero, Armijo, Gavin Carter and Laner — finished 15th in the prelims with a time of 1:32.17.

Dozer took 17th in the triple jump with a distance of 38-11.00.

"We made big strides this season,"

Connie O'Donnell wrote. "The girls broke 5 school records. We added people to our all time top ten lists for a school. While not everyone has a school record, many of our athletes are 2nd, 3rd, or 4th all time."

She indicates the goals for next year include seeing more records fall.

"Our goals for next year will be to break some school records on the boys side, take more individuals to state and continue to build our program," she wrote. "We finished this year with 67 athletes which is the biggest team we have ever had."

The team will also be without a

number of this year's seniors next season, with Connie O'Donnell indicating she hopes the athletes look back on their time positively.

"We are sad to lose our seniors," she wrote. "Several have run since freshman year and some wish they had been a part of our team throughout high school. What is most important is that I think that we had fun, we worked hard and athletes pushed themselves to be the best that they can be. I hope that they remember their track days in a positive way and continue to love the sport!"

randi@pagosasun.com



# County awards Light Plant Road reconstruction contract

By Josh Pike  
Staff Writer

The Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) voted to award the County Road (CR) 119 (Light Plant Road) reconstruction project to Ignacio based paving company PAP LLC at its May 7 meeting and approved contract documents for the project at a May 21 meeting.

The bids for the project were discussed at the BoCC work session on May 7, with Derek Woodman, then the county manager, explaining that the county received four bids for the reconstruction project, with costs ranging from \$1.78 million to \$2.433 million.

He stated that the low bid was from PAP for \$1,783,582.

Woodman indicated that there had been "quite a bit of discussion" surrounding PAP, which was not awarded the North Pagosa Boulevard and U.S. 160 intersection reconstruction project earlier in the year despite being the lowest bidder, but had received some other project awards for

the county "in recent years."

"They are a completely rebuilt company and so we felt that it would be appropriate to award them the contract for Light Plant Road," Woodman said. "That's a little over 2.5 miles and that will be end to end from [Apache Street] to [U.S. 84]. So, that's the recommendation."

Commissioner Veronica Medina asked what Woodman meant when he said that PAP is a "rebuilt company" and if there were issues with the company before.

Woodman explained that PAP performed two other projects for the county recently, including a road reconstruction project on North Pagosa Boulevard on the bridge near Village Lake and the North Pagosa Boulevard reconstruction from the bridge to Bastille Drive where there were "some administrative struggles," schedule overruns, asphalt acquisition issues and traffic-control issues.

He added that residents contributed to the traffic control issues by ignoring or moving barricades and "nearly running over" PAP staff.

The delays and issues ultimately resulted in the county issuing a \$10,000 penalty for PAP, he indicated.

Woodman stated that he and Public Works Director Mike Torres spoke with the owner of PAP, who indicated that the company is still "extremely interested" in working with Archuleta County.

The CR 119 project will involve only a small number of residents who live on the road, Woodman explained, and the road will be closed to everything except local traffic to homes on the road.

Medina asked Woodman why the county was not considering any of the other bids for the project.

He replied that the staff recommendation to select PAP was based on its superior pricing, noting that the county has a "great relationship" with all the contractors who submitted bids, including Four Corners Materials, who is currently working on the North Pagosa Boulevard/U.S. 160 intersection paving project; Elam Construction, which performed a paving project for the county on Clo-

man Boulevard two years ago; and Strohecker Asphalt and Paving.

He added that staff expected the Strohecker bid to be lower in cost than it was due to the company being based in Pagosa Springs and not having to mobilize any equipment.

Woodman concluded that the county is trying to be "conservative" and save money on its paving projects to ensure that more projects can be completed.

"I don't always think it's the best practice to go with the cheapest bid," Medina said.

"And we did not," Woodman replied.

"It's about — we want to make sure the quality of the work, just staying on time," she added. "Because all of those things are money, all money."

Woodman expressed agreement with Medina and stated that the quality of PAP's work has been similar to that of other companies.

Commissioner Ronnie Maez commented that PAP also experienced difficulties in securing material for paving and retaining employees,

which contributed to the delays on its most recent North Pagosa Boulevard reconstruction project.

"I don't see a problem with it, but I do expect performance out of it," Maez said.

Commissioner Warren Brown requested that a clause be included in the contract that PAP provide a weekly update on the project's progress to ensure the county is well informed, in addition to penalty clauses for delays.

"Completely agree with all com-

ments," Woodman concluded.

At the May 7 BoCC meeting, the BoCC heard a comment from PAP owner Ryan Farmer, who stated the company has an "open-door policy" and hopes to have a strong relationship with the county and BoCC.

He also commented that the delays on the North Pagosa Boulevard project included equipment malfunctions, rain delays and a two-week period where the company could not

■ See Light Plant A15

## Director

■ Continued from front

able to have more individuals help with those roles if needed.

"At the end of the year if the decision was those stipends were not needed, and she was able to just do those duties on her own... those funds would then be given to her in the form of traditional salary," Meade said.

She noted that Murphy worked collaboratively with her in coming up with the stipend fund option, and that she feels this is a "unique" and "creative" way to get more people involved who might have more expertise in certain areas.

Meade also mentioned that it is completely at the discretion of the director to retain the stipend or to use it in getting more people involved in specific matters.

"In conversations with Emily, there was other things that were really prioritized in her mind, maybe more so than what the monthly paycheck would look like, and we wanted to make sure that we retain that whole budget line item for the director job," Meade said.

Board member Bill Hudson asked Murphy during the meeting if she is "OK with this," to which Murphy confirmed that she would like to have the option to pull in additional help if needed.

"It gives us an opportunity to see where things go," Meade added.

Board member Jesse White clar-

fied that if the stipend is paid out at the end of the year to the director, it would be taxed as a salary and not as a bonus.

During the meeting, the board also discussed plans for a six-week transitional period, with current PPOS Director Angela Reali-Crossland stepping down at the end of this year and Murphy set to take over.

"I want to make sure that Emily feels empowered to make the decisions that she wants for next year. It's hard to inherit the decisions that another director has made for you, and I experienced that," Reali-Crossland said.

She explained that she would like to have Murphy brought up to full-time for the transition.

Murphy is currently working part-time as assistant director, Reali-Crossland explained.

Reali-Crossland also explained that the school is looking to have that transition partially funded by a grant from the state, but that she would also be open to using the school's reserve funds.

"I think that even if it's something that we're pulling out of reserves, that it's important for the future of the school and the transition to make Emily feel supported," she said.

Hudson commented in favor, saying, "Works for me."

Reali-Crossland explained that with Murphy taking on the extra

hours, "she will be taking on some of those director roles and decisions."

"It's OK that she'll make different decisions than I would, but I want to be here to be able to support those decisions and have that transition period," she added.

"We are blessed with a transition that covers months," said board president Lawrence Rugar. "I applaud that we are moving forward on this."

### Job descriptions

During the same meeting, the board also unanimously approved the first reading of a job description for the school's restorative practices coordinator position.

Murphy explained she first applied for a grant to fund the position in February, which has been awarded.

"We found out last week that we were awarded \$45,000 to fund that position for next year," she said. "So, I'm excited."

Murphy noted that PPOS will need to hire a new staff member instead of appointing a current staff member.

"A lot of it will be working, not only with our restorative practices student board, but with staff and parents," she added.

Murphy mentioned the board has talked about integrating opportunities to educate the community with the restorative practices coordinator and that "written into the grant

is funding to support those types of events."

The job will be posted as a 32-hour-per-week position with a salary range of \$30,000 to \$40,000, Meade explained.

She noted that the position could potentially turn into a full-time position if other funding becomes available.

A motion was made by Hudson to approve the description, which was seconded by White and unanimously approved by the board.

"Advertise it," Hudson said.

Later in the meeting, the board also unanimously approved a second reading of a job description for a new English language arts advisor position. That position is also posted with a \$30,000 to \$40,000 salary range.

### Board changes

The PPOS board welcomed a new member to the board, with Kathrine Siebel filling a vacant position.

Siebel's application to join as a board member was unanimously approved.

Siebel's term is for three years, through May of 2027, with the option to renew.

Rugar mentioned that Siebel has "great credentials."

White also had his term renewed, which is set to last through May of 2027 as well.

"You've been a valuable member of the board," Rugar said.

Board member Elly Osmera submitted her resignation from the board, but mentioned that she will be staying on the playground committee.

The PPOS board now has two open positions.

Rugar's term is set to expire in May of 2026, Meade's term is set to expire in May of 2025 and Hudson's term is set to expire in May of 2025.

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SUN photo/Josh Pike

Three Lady Pirate soccer players were named to the all-conference teams for the Intermountain League for the 2024 season. Elizabeth Currier (left) and Adison Johnson (center) were named to the all-conference first team, and Ximena Garcia (right) was named to the second team.

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## PPOS board hears treasurer's report, draft budget

By Clayton Chaney  
Staff Writer

Pagosa Peak Open School (PPOS) board treasurer Pamela Meade provided the PPOS board of directors with a treasurer's report during the board's most recent meeting on May 15.

Meade noted that her report looks at the school's financial situation for the month of April, highlighting that the school received \$193,000 during that month.

She also noted the school spent \$158,000 during April.

"So, we did have income this month," Meade said, noting the school had about \$35,000 of income.

Meade explained that PPOS has put in request for funding from the district which she anticipates PPOS will be receiving next month.

"So, we should have another big receipt of funds that we expect to receive," she said.

Meade noted that the school is still working on covering a deficit from July 2023 through April, mentioning the school has brought in \$1.3 million during that time and has spent \$1.57 million.

"So, we had a net loss of \$268,245," she said, explaining that gap should be covered once the school receives all of its expected revenues and they are "actually in the door."

Meade explained the school has generated \$6,841 in interest revenue in the last two months.

Meade also noted that PPOS has

received about 76 percent of its general fund revenues, but has spent about 88 percent.

The final 2023-2024 budget will be presented at next month's meeting for final approval, Meade explained.

The school has a balance of \$694,249 in its account designated for a new playground, which earned a total of \$3,081 in interest revenues in April, Meade explained.

She noted that the account is getting a 5.4 percent interest return rate.

Meade mentioned the general fund account, at the time of her report, had \$51,403 and is getting a 5.254 percent interest return rate.

Meade also noted that an additional \$50,000 is being transferred to the general fund account from the fundraiser account and will start earning interest instead of just sitting in an account that was earning no interest revenues.

"Let's make a little more interest on that," she said.

"In order for that budget to be balanced, we are looking at \$44,000 [from] reserves, and that's due to some unexpected costs related to special education aids, the audit and just lower enrollment than we realized," PPOS School Director Angela Reali-Crossland said.

### Draft 2024-2025 budget

Reali-Crossland also noted the budget proposal for the next school year, 2024-2025, has been drafted.

The board voted unanimously to

approve the draft, allowing for public comment on it before it is finalized.

According to the draft budget included in the meeting's packet, PPOS is expecting a total of \$2,465,926.18 in revenues. This includes \$1,237,530 of per-pupil funding.

Total funds available for spending are listed at \$2,686,566.71, and total budget expenditures are listed at \$2,462,232.41, resulting in a surplus of \$3,693.77.

Listed expenditures in the draft budget include \$728,828.60 for salaries, \$299,723.48 for benefits, \$435,899.33 for purchased services, \$73,250 for supplies and materials, and \$5,250 for "other."

The beginning budgeted fund balance for the general fund is listed at \$220,640.53, with the projected ending fund balance listed at \$224,334.30.

### Food authority

At the same meeting, the PPOS board voted unanimously to approve the memorandum of understanding between the school and the Colorado Charter School Institute (CSI) for CSI to act as the food authority for PPOS.

Assistant Director Emily Murphy briefed the board on the matter, explaining that she had been in communication with Archuleta School District Food Service Director Todd Stevens in regard to different school lunch program options.

Murphy also mentioned that she attended a webinar with schools

across the state and found that "there really isn't a sweet spot" in terms of meals served to have a viable food program.

She noted there have been "programs serving 200,000 meals fail and they've seen ones with 100 kids be just fine," noting that it comes down to the efficiency of the school program.

"Which gave me hope that we can continue forward with our lunch program," Murphy said.

Murphy indicated that, according to Stevens, "Due to time issues and schedules of schools ... that this will not be possible for this upcoming year, but that he would like to continue to stay in communication next year."

Reali-Crossland stated that, for this upcoming school year, "There is no other food authority option, so it is signing the contract or not having a food program."

Board member Bill Hudson inquired as to how comfortable Murphy would be overseeing the food program.

Murphy explained that she has engaged with current lunchroom staff about getting more training to have someone step up and fulfill the role of the food program supervisor and that she is comfortable with it.

"Because I know that we have a very confident and capable person in that role currently ... I feel some relief," Murphy said.

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## Light Plant

Continued from A14

get asphalt delivered.

Farmer added that many of these issues had been remedied and that he hoped the company could make a "better impression."

The BoCC then unanimously approved awarding the CR 119 reconstruction project to PAP and directed County Attorney Todd Weaver to finalize the contract documents.

At the May 21 BoCC meeting, the board unanimously approved the contract documents for the project.

### Roadwork update

County Communications Specialist Ashley Springer explained in an interview that a preconstruction meeting for the CR 119 project will be held in the last week of May and that work is expected to start on June 3, although she noted this date could change based on the results of the meeting.

She stated that the project is anticipated to last about 120 days and will involve the full closure of CR 119 between U.S. 84 and Apache Street to all but local traffic for the entirety of the project.

Springer stated that the North

Pagosa Boulevard/U.S. 160 intersection project, which resurfaced a portion of North Pagosa Boulevard between U.S. 160 and Bastille Drive in addition to a small part of Navajo Trail Drive, was completed in the last week.

At a May 14 BoCC work session, Medina added that this project experienced some rain delays in the last week, but remained on schedule.

At a May 21 joint work session of the BoCC and the Pagosa Springs Town Council, county Public Works Director Mike Torres explained that magnesium chloride application is

continuing on schedule, with crews having finished work in the Meadows subdivision, Lakewood Village and other portions of the Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Association, and now moving to treat roads in the Lake Hatcher area.

He added that the process has been highly efficient this year and that he hopes to have magnesium chloride applied to eligible roads in the county by the end of June.

The county is also using a "floating" blading crew to maintain roads while most Road and Bridge staff are focused on magnesium chloride application, Torres explained.

josh@pagosasun.com

## Medicare session and luncheon set for June 11 in Arboles

By Pam Willhoite  
Pine River Shares

Join our monthly Thrive in Place meeting for the A, B, C and Ds of

Medicare. Learn about options, deadlines, possible penalties, and where to find the information that you need.

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cheon, presented by San Juan Basin Area Agency and Aging, will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the TARA Community Center, 333 Milton Lane in Arboles.

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## "Why Do I Have Thyroid Symptoms Despite Taking My Thyroid Medication?"



Does this patient's story resonate with you? Tara is a 41-year-old female who was referred to me last June for chronic fatigue. She was deeply frustrated regarding her ongoing symptoms.

During our initial consultation she stated that she seemingly fell apart after giving birth to her second child. Tara shared how fatigue was impacting her family life. "I feel like I'm missing out on things and letting my family down because I'm tired all the time." She additionally struggled with daily headaches, dry skin, thinning hair and frequent abdominal bloating. Her erratic sleep pattern further exacerbated her symptoms.

Unfortunately, this is a common scenario. Tara had visited her primary care provider, underwent lab work and was started on thyroid medication. After five years nothing had changed, and her symptoms had not improved. Frustrated, she questioned whether she had a hormone imbalance.

The thyroid gland is a small

butterfly-shaped organ located in the front of the neck. Despite its modest size, it plays a major role in maintaining the body's overall functioning through the production of hormones. These hormones are essential for regulating metabolism, cellular growth, and energy levels. There are many physiologic conditions that can hinder thyroid function and create symptoms that mimic thyroid dysfunction. As a result, hypothyroidism is one of the most misdiagnosed conditions. Symptoms often attributed to thyroid dysfunction include gastrointestinal dysfunction, liver toxicity, and hormonal imbalance, predominately estrogen and progesterone.

In addition, an autoimmune disease called Hashimoto's can destroy thyroid tissue causing symptoms associated with hypothyroidism, including feeling sluggish, tired, depression, weight gain and brain fog. The typical blood panel to assess thyroiditis is simply not enough to find the actual cause of the problem and persistent

symptoms.

So how did it work out for Tara? By balancing her hormones and learning a lifestyle that reduces systemic inflammation, in less than four months, she reversed her symptoms and improved her energy, mental clarity and lost 30 pounds. In Tara's own words, "I have never felt this good. The best part, it's permanent, because now I have the tools and understanding on how to be in control of my health."

To learn more about the impact of balanced hormones and thyroid function, and to take control of your health, please register for my upcoming talk, **"Stress, Hormones, and Health."** It is my purpose and passion to help individuals determine the root cause of imbalance, reverse inflammation and improve health. There is a better way to manage your health.

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*P.S. I highly recommend bringing your spouse to this event!*



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# Wildfire groups participate in 'Mixing the Waters' trip focused on controlled burns



SUN photo/Josh Pike

Alex Handloff, who serves as collaborative communications manager for Mountain Studies Institute in addition to assisting the San Juan Headwaters Forest Health Partnership (SJHFHP), provides introductory comments during the "Mixing the Waters" joint field trip on May 17 between the SJHFHP and the 4 Rivers Resilient Forest Collaborative, which focused on controlled burns as a tool for wildfire mitigation. In his remarks, Handloff noted the importance of forest and wildfire organizations communicating across the region and the value of the trip as a networking opportunity.



SUN photos/Josh Pike

Members of the SJHFHP, 4 Rivers collaborative and partners, including members of the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Pagosa and Columbine ranger districts, discuss the history of controlled burns and wildfire mitigation efforts in the region at the electrical relay station near Yellowjacket Pass. The discussion covered a range of issues, including the history of controlled burns and wildfires in the areas surrounding the pass, the value of controlled burns for creating buffers and expanding wildfire control options, the importance of increased partnership with private landowners adjoining national forest to expanding controlled burn areas, the impact of wildfire on home insurance rates, and the need to find a mix of funding sources to further fuel treatments. Participants also noted the importance of building public partnerships and timing proposals effectively to promote wildfire preparedness on private land.



SUN photos/Josh Pike

SUN photos/Josh Pike

Participants walk to the footprint of the 2023 Dry Lake Fire up First Notch Road (left) to hear a presentation from San Juan National Forest (SJNF) Fuels Program Manager Pat Seekins (right) about the management of the Dry Lake Fire and the mechanisms for using naturally ignited fires like Dry Lake to remove excess fuels from the landscape and reduce wildfire risks. Seekins explained that the Dry Lake Fire was initially sparked by lightning and that its location in a prescribed burn unit and slow spread allowed the USFS to create plans and allow the fire to spread and remove fuels in the area, with USFS staff also laying additional fires to prevent the Dry Lake Fire from spreading beyond the planned boundaries for the burn. He noted that low-intensity fires like Dry Lake are ideal for removing Gambel oak and other understory species while retaining the ponderosa pine overstory. The USFS "took advantage of a great opportunity," Seekins said, adding, "This is what right looks like."

Adam Hirshberg (left) and Matt Ford (center), who both work with the SJNF in fuel harvesting and mitigation, along with SJNF Timber Management Assistant Kyle O'Neill (right), present on the timbering process for wildfire mitigation in the national forest. Hirshberg and O'Neill explained that the process of selecting what trees will be removed involves assessment of factors such as fuel moisture, the size of trees in the area, overcrowding and efforts to preserve large trees that will be difficult to replace. Ford added that an extensive amount of planning is involved in the process and that the efforts are science-based.



SUN photo/Josh Pike

Forest Stewards Guild Southwest Partnership Manager Dana Guinn highlights the importance of citizen science efforts such as Weminuche Audubon Society's Jackson Mountain bird monitoring project to guiding wildfire mitigation efforts. She explained that these efforts help document the impacts of potential wildfire mitigation treatments on a variety of wildlife, and guide the application and formatting of processes like timbering.



SUN photo/Josh Pike

SJNF Assistant Fire Management Officer Noah Daniels presents on the process for planning controlled burns near the location of the 2024 Beaver Meadows/Wickinson East controlled burn on Beaver Meadows Road. Daniels explained that a controlled burn often involves a three- to five-year planning process, including environmental assessments required by the National Environmental Protection Act; wildlife, hydrology and archaeology assessments and clearance; and the creation of a burn plan. Daniels added that weather conditions and the amount of resources available can also significantly impact the timelines for implementing a controlled burn.



SUN photo/Josh Pike

SJNF Pagosa Ranger District Ranger Josh Peck speaks on the difficulties of wildfire mitigation in the Piedra River drainage, which lies at the boundary of the Pagosa and Columbine ranger districts. Peck explained that these difficulties include the large amounts of fuel in the area caused by a lack of recent fires, the lack of features to control a fire, the potential watershed impacts of a fire on downstream water users and the rugged conditions, which create additional dangers for firefighters. He commented that taking advantage of slow-burning, naturally ignited fires and working with timbering companies to reduce fuel loads may be routes to improve conditions in the area.



SUN photo/Josh Pike

SJNF Assistant Fire Prevention and Education Officer Kevin Lindner presents to the group on the details of the short-term planning and implementation of a controlled burn. He explained that each burn is governed by a "prescription" created during pre-burn planning, which establishes weather, fuel moisture and temperature parameters. Lindner stated preparing for a controlled burn also requires taking up-to-date fuel moisture measurements, working with a local incident meteorologist to create local weather projections, and notifications about the fire to neighbors, local media and dispatch agencies. Each controlled burn is preceded by a test fire, Lindner stated, which determines if the fire behavior is suitable for the burn.



SUN photos/Josh Pike

The group concluded the trip by walking into the footprint of the Beaver Meadows/Wickinson East burn to view the burn conditions and discuss the burn. The discussion covered variations in intensity across controlled burns; strategies for limiting fire impacts, particularly at the edge of burns or near residences; and approaches to limiting the impacts to the soil. The trip concluded with a broader conversation on the ecosystem of fire prevention work across the region, the many partners involved and the importance of utilizing local resources.



# preview

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Photo courtesy Sri Chinmoy Oneness-Home Peace Run

A team of runners left New York City in April for the Sri Chinmoy Oneness-Home Peace Run, and on Friday, May 24, will be in Pagosa Springs, where they will hear from the mayor and pass the peace torch.

# Sri Chinmoy Oneness-Home Peace Run to pass through Pagosa Friday

By **Prakhara Harter**

Sri Chinmoy Oneness-Home Peace Run

The Sri Chinmoy Oneness-Home Peace Run, an international torch relay, will be coming to the area on Friday, May 24.

The international team from five different countries is on a four-month journey across the U.S. and Canada to share a message that peace begins with the individual.

An estimated 50,000 children in more than 1,000 cit-

ies and towns along the route are expected to participate when the Peace Run ([peacerun.org](http://peacerun.org)) visits schools, youth organizations and local events. Runners will offer educational presentations that promote self-esteem and the oneness of humanity.

The team will run 74 miles on May 24 from Cebolla, N.M., to Pagosa Springs on U.S. 84, passing the Peace Torch along the way.

Mayor Shari Pierce will welcome the peace runners to **See Peace on next page**

## Live Performers

### Friday

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

**Meltdown on Main:** Unexpected Em, 5:30 p.m.

### Saturday

**East Side Market:** Grace Kiker, 11 a.m.

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

### Tuesday

**The Springs Resort lodge atrium:** Glenn Unrath and Jack Ellis, 5 p.m.

### Wednesday

**The Den:** Karaoke, 8 p.m.

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# Pagosa Pride festival slated for June 2

By Amy Nitchman  
Pagosa Pride

Pagosa Pride is a newly formed coalition whose mission is to “celebrate the LGBTQ+community, to advocate for equity and social justice, and to provide space for people for all colors, gender identities and sexual orientations to feel safe, welcome, and loved,” said Amy Nitchman, this year’s organizer.

The Pagosa Pride festival will take place on June 2 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Town Park.

The event schedule includes keynote speaker Vivian Smotherman, who will talk on her experience as a transgender woman, and LGBTQ+ issues at the state and federal level. Other activities will include karaoke, LGBTQ+ trivia and opportunities to win door prizes.

The first Pride Parade was orga-

## Peace

■ continued from previous page

town at noon on Friday at Town Hall, and children will pass the peace torch at 2:30 p.m. at the Pagosa Community Initiative at 3133 Cornerstone Drive.

For more than 35 years the Peace Run has traversed over 160 nations throughout the Americas, Europe, Asia, Africa and Australia as a symbol of humanity’s universal aspiration for a more peaceful world.

A team of runners left New York City in April, passing the Torch along the over 10,000-mile route. The continuous relay will also run through three provinces of Canada during the four-month journey before arriving back in New York mid-August.

The European Peace Run started in Portugal in March and concludes in Hungary in October.

Since the inaugural run in 1987, more than 7 million people have participated. Commendations have come from many world figures including Pope Francis (who lit the Peace Torch in March at the Vatican), President Nelson Mandela, President Mikhail Gorbachev, Mother Teresa, Olympians, state governors, city mayors and celebrities across the world.

Carl Lewis, nine-time Olympic Gold-medalist, said, “By carrying the Torch, you will be bridging cultural and social barriers, and all the boundaries that separate nation from nation. You will be the living proof of the ancient vision of having a beautiful and harmonious world.”

The Peace Run was inspired by visionary Sri Chinmoy to give citizens a dynamic way to express their own hopes and dreams for a more harmonious world.

An athlete, philosopher, artist, musician and poet, Chinmoy dedicated his life to advancing the ideals of world harmony and said, “How can we have peace? Not by talking about peace, but by walking along the road of peace.”

nized in 1970 by Brenda Howard, a bisexual activist, and marked the one-year anniversary of the Stonewall riot. The riot started as resistance to police brutality at the Stonewall Inn in New York City.

“At the time there existed outdated ‘masquerade’ or ‘cross-dressing’ laws that suggested a ‘man’ or a ‘woman’ must be wearing a certain number of clothing items that matched the gender on their state-issued ID. The police took advantage of these laws

to raid drinking establishments and arrest transgender and gender non-conforming individuals,” according to an article by Patty Housman at <https://www.american.edu/cas/news/the-first-pride-was-a-riot.cfm>.

On June 28, 1968, patrons of the Stonewall Inn fought back against the police brutality and injustice that had gone on for too long. June became the official month to commemorate the Stonewall riot and celebrate LGBTQ+

■ See Pride on next page

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# 'Pioneers in Faith': Celebration planned for Immaculate Heart of Mary Church's 75th anniversary

By J. Leonard Martinez  
Immaculate Heart of Mary Church

Before there was an Archuleta County and even before there was a Colorado or even the United States, faith and spirituality existed in our region.

Those who have dedicated their research and expertise to develop the Chimney Rock National Monument tell the story how this region has long served the faithful. Many since have brought their faith with them to these mountains, to the healing waters unique to this area and to the rich diversity of the upper San Juan Basin.

This story about Catholic pioneers in faith in Archuleta County is obviously not the only story of faith-filled residents. Its purpose in this series of articles is to set the stage for the 75th anniversary of what is now considered a historic building within the concept of downtown preservation: the Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church.

The San Juan Historical Society provided early information about the Catholic roots in Archuleta County. In the southern part of the county before priests were assigned to the region, as early as 1859, there is evidence of the Catholic faith brought in by those ranching and shepherding families. It was the Penitentes who practiced the faith for those early settlers and who still exist in northern New Mexico and southern Colorado.

In 1893, a group of Catholics came together to build St. Edwards Catholic Church, the first Catholic church in the county. In 1908, St. Francis was built in the community of Frances. The flood of 1911 destroyed that church. A new church was rebuilt, and that church was completed in 1917.

Also in 1908, the St. James mission church was built in the community of Trujillo and, in 1916, the church that is in use today was built. In Pagosa Junction, the St. John church was built in 1911, but was also destroyed in the floods of 1911. That church was rebuilt and dedicated in 1928.

The last of the mission locations was the Chromo Mission Station, built in 1922 as a schoolhouse but used by various religious entities, including the Catholic community until 1955. The building, no longer in use, is still standing and on the north side of the road upon entering Chromo from the east.

*On Sunday, May 21, 1949, the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church was dedicated by Bishop Joseph Wiliging of the Diocese of Pueblo.*

Early on, all the churches were served by visiting priests. Those priests would be picked up at train stops in Pagosa Junction and Pagosa. The transportation from the railroad station was by horse pulled wagons. Different families in each mission would share the responsibility of transporting the visiting priests to the churches and would return them to the railroad stations.

In 1906, the Theatine Fathers, Order of Clerics Regular established a permanent base in Durango at the Sacred Heart Parish. At that time, all the Catholic churches/missions in Archuleta County were served primarily by the Theatine Fathers.

By the end of World War II, the Catholic faith community in Archuleta County was growing. The need was for a larger church to serve not only as a central focal point for the mission churches, but also to serve the grow-

ing community of Pagosa Springs.

On Sunday, May 21, 1949, the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church was dedicated by Bishop Joseph Wiliging of the Diocese of Pueblo.

In the next article there will be more about the 75th anniversary of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, the pioneer families, the priests and the celebration itself.

June 8 this year is the actual feast day of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The theme is "Pioneers in Faith in Archuleta County." The celebration will mirror feast day celebrations as commemorated around the world: honoring the patron or patroness of that church. Combined with the 75th anniversary, the event will also focus on inclusivity — inclusivity of all Catholics, Christians, and our friends and neighbors in need.

For now, save the date of June 8. The procession will begin at 4:30 p.m., Mass at 5 p.m., with a meal and a street dance to follow.



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The Primary Care Clinic and Outpatient Services will be closed on Monday, May 27, reopening on Tuesday, May 28 to serve you.

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

## Pride

■ continued from previous page  
Pride in 1999 in a proclamation from President Bill Clinton. Presidents Barack Obama and Joe Biden have issued further proclamations, "but the battle for LGBTQ+ rights is far from over," Houseman wrote.

Communities across the nation continue to celebrate June as Pride Month and to advocate for the rights of the LGBTQ+ community.

Plans for the Pagosa Pride festival began on April 8 of this year, when

Nitchman obtained the park permit and began outreaching other members of the community to participate in organizing the event.

"It's my desire that Pagosa Pride will be an annual festival. There is also the potential for the Pagosa Pride coalition to continue promoting and advocating for LGBTQ+ issues in the community year-round," said Nitchman.

To contact Pagosa Pride, please email [PagosaPride@gmail.com](mailto:PagosaPride@gmail.com).

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# Actors rehearsing for Thingamajig Theatre Company's summer season

By Carole Howard  
Thingamajig Theatre Company

More than 30 professional actors, directors and production crew have been arriving in Pagosa from across the country as rehearsals begin this week for Thingamajig Theatre Company's Broadway in the Mountains summer season at the Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts.

The theater's three summer musicals are Jimmy Buffett's "Escape to Margaritaville" opening May 31, "Beautiful: The Carole King Musical" opening June 14 and "Beauty and the Beast" opening June 28. They will run in rotation until late August. All are family-friendly shows.

"Finding Nemo Kids" playing July 13-16 will be the theater's Whatchamawhozits children's summer camp show.

This year's fundraising Broadway Gala will take place on July 30 with a newly imagined format showcasing the incredible talents of the summer performers.

## Returning favorites plus new talent

Eight of the summer actors are much-admired favorites with local and out-of-town audiences from previous performances at Thingamajig. They are Justin Autz, Alexandria Bates, Cassandra Brooks, Dennis Elkins, Dominic Girolami, Zac Mitchell, Keenan Pasqua and Tyler Price Robinson.

Others on stage will be talented new faces.

The summer season actors were recruited by Tim Moore, artistic director, on a monthlong nationwide audition trip that took him to New York City, Michigan and the Unified Professional Theater Auditions (UPTAs) in Memphis, Tenn. He met with about 5,500 artists in person and some 10,000 more online before choosing the final cast.

Moore said, "I'm looking forward to a really fantastic season this summer, and I know our audiences will love these amazing shows and performers."

## Favorite directors take leadership roles

Three popular directors are returning to Pagosa to direct the musicals.

Andrew Barratt Lewis is here from Utah to direct "Escape to Margaritaville." He is associate professor of musical theater at Weber State University in Utah and is well-known here as a talented director and choreographer. Also a Thingamajig favorite, he directed "Bright Star" in the summer of 2022, as well as the Christmas shows "Grand Night for Singing," "Miracle on 34th Street" and "All is Calm" for the past three years.

Melissa Firlit comes from New

York City to direct "Beautiful: The Carole King Story." She is greatly admired by Thingamajig audiences for her work as director of multiple hits from serious dramas like "Red," "Proof" and "Marrow" to blockbuster musicals like "Jekyll & Hyde," "Aida" and "West Side Story." She also serves as artistic director of the Thingamajig Playwrights Festival, which develops and workshops the plays of emerging playwrights.

Ann Evans Watson comes from Michigan to direct and choreograph "Beauty and the Beast" after making her directorial debut at Thingamajig last summer with "The Great American Trailer Park Musical." She is associate professor of musical theater at the University of Michigan, a vocal instructor and coach. Many of her students have performed on Broadway and have won prestigious acting awards.

In addition to his acting roles, Girolami will be music director for all three shows. He was both music director and a performer last Christmas in "All is Calm" in his first visit to Pagosa.

Costumes are the responsibility of Nanette Cheffers, Lexi Saeger and Kirri Schaefer. Mackenzie Lowe is returning as lighting designer. Choreography is being handled by Davey Burton Midkiff.

## Three hit Broadway musicals

"Escape to Margaritaville" showcases the songs of Jimmy Buffett. The plot revolves around a bartender and a singer in a run-down hotel bar in the Caribbean who meet and romance two women vacationing from Cincinnati. Newsday called it "a delightful, energetic frothy drink of a show."

"Beautiful: The Carole King Musical" is the story of the early life and career of one of the most successful female singer-songwriters in the latter half of the 20th century. One reviewer praised the show for its "bounce and Broadway glitz." It was honored with multiple Tony nominations and one win, plus a Grammy for best musical theater album.

"Beauty and the Beast" returns to the Thingamajig stage for a 10th anniversary revival after being a huge hit here in 2014. The Disney musical made news as Broadway's 10th longest-running production in history, renowned for its poignant story, popular songs, elaborate costumes and clever transformation of actors into beloved animated characters. The movie version won two Academy Awards and five Grammys for its music.

## Season ticket benefits

To ensure you don't miss any of the three summer musicals, consider buying season tickets. Multiple

benefits go along with being a season ticket holder, including invitations to exclusive events, a free drink on opening weekends, discounted

■ See Season on next page

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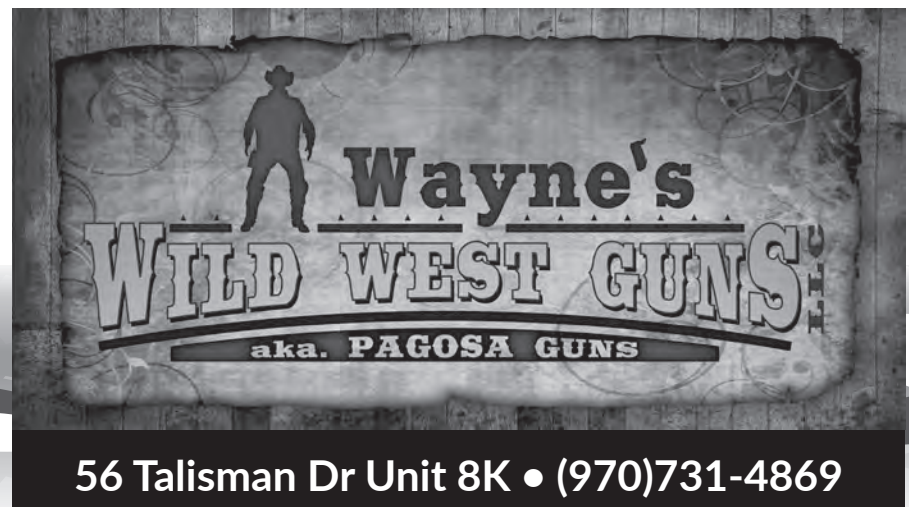
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Photo courtesy Carole Howard

More than 30 professional actors, directors and production crew are in Pagosa Springs this week from across the country as rehearsals have begun for Thingamajig Theatre Company's Broadway in the Mountains summer season at the Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts. The theater's three summer musicals are Jimmy Buffett's "Escape to Margaritaville," "Beautiful: The Carole King Musical" and "Beauty and the Beast."

## Season

continued from previous page  
 tickets, no ticketing fees, reserved seats, unlimited ticket exchanges at no extra charge, come-again tickets to see a show again while bringing a paying guest when you attend an opening weekend performance, and an invitation to the wine and cheese winter season announcement in August.

A new special perk this summer took place May 19. Season ticket holders attended the first sing-through rehearsal of "Escape to Margaritaville" followed by dinner with the cast.

Season tickets are \$120 per person and \$260 for the gala. Reserved seats are \$210 per person and \$350 for the gala.

They are available on the theater's website at [pagosacenter.org](http://pagosacenter.org) or by phoning the box office at 970-731-SHOW (7469).

Individual tickets and all show

dates also are available on the website. There are special lower prices for kids 12 and under because all three musicals are family-friendly.

### Friends of the Theatre benefits

You also can pay your annual Friends of the Theatre dues of \$35 per person on the theater's website.

Becoming a Friend brings you many exclusive interactions with the actors and directors throughout the year, including multiple social gatherings like welcome and farewell parties, an exclusive summer cabaret concert, invitations to Tech Tuesday potlucks and Behind the Scenes presentations, plus excursions to Williams Lake for water sports in the summer and Wolf Creek for skiing in the winter.

### About Thingamajig

### Theatre Company

Thingamajig Theatre Company was co-founded in 2011 by Tim and Laura Moore. It is an award-winning professional nonprofit 501(c)(3) theatre in residence within the Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts. Its talented actors, directors and production experts come from across the U.S. to produce musicals, comedies and dramas year-round.

Thingamajig also is dedicated to providing theatrical experiences and educational opportunities for youth and teens in our community.

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# Mental Health Awareness Month: How to care for yourself during a mental health crisis

By **Amanda Briggs**  
Rise Above Violence

Many trauma survivors struggle with their mental health in the aftermath of the harmful experience.

Realizing that this is a normal reaction can help survivors understand their mental health experiences and take steps to help themselves and keep themselves safe.

There are several ways survivors can care for their mental health and prevent crisis moments.

**1. Have a plan.**

If you struggle with your mental health, one of the most powerful things you can do to keep yourself safe is to have a plan for the moments when your mental health is really suffering. If there are safe people in your life with whom you can share your traumatic experience and the mental health struggles it causes, consider confiding in them and asking them to be available to offer support if you notice your mental health is spiraling.

You can also set yourself up for success during a mental health crisis by pre-identifying certain routines and activities that help you cope when things are especially difficult. Knowing what works for you and having a plan in place helps tremen-

dously when you are in the middle of a mental health crisis and do not have energy to figure out what to do.

What is one thing you can do today to put a plan in place to care for yourself when your mental health is suffering?

**2. Know when to seek help.**

It is not weak to need help. It is OK to reach out to others for help. It is OK to go to therapy. It is OK to go on medications to help your mental health. In fact, reaching out for help is one of the strongest, most empowered things we as humans can do for ourselves.

If you are struggling with your mental health, what is one way you can reach out for help today?

**3. Know when crisis intervention is necessary.**

It can feel embarrassing to need crisis intervention for your mental health, but please know you are worth it, and healthy, supportive people will never judge you for seeking crisis intervention.

Crisis intervention becomes necessary when you have intent to harm yourself. In those moments, it can feel impossible to summon the energy to call 988, 911, your therapist or a safe person in your life. Those feelings are real.

Your worthiness to live is also

real. When those moments come, please remember that you are loved, you are worthy of your own compassion and care, and that many, many people stand ready to support you without judgment if you reach out for help.

If you are in crisis, please call 911. You can also call 988 for the 24/7 free, confidential Suicide and Crisis Lifeline.

If you would like to be connected to local mental health resources, such as options for therapy, or if you need help navigating a domestic violence or sexual assault crisis that is harming your mental health, you can call the Rise Above Violence Hotline 24/7 at (970) 264-9075 for free and confidential help.

## Mental Health Awareness Walk a success

We are pleased to report our Mental Health Awareness Walk last Saturday, May 18, had 40 participants.

Additionally, many of our community partners were present for the event, including the Pagosa Fire Protection District, Axis Health System, Archuleta County Public Health Department and Pagosa Springs Medical Center.

Thank you to everyone who made the event a success.




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Photo courtesy Seeds of Learning

The stars for the seventh annual Dancing with the Pagosa Stars have been revealed. From left are Veronica Medina, Roy Tinguely, Janna Lilly, Ramon Badell, MorgAnne Foster and Bo DePena.

## Seeds' Dancing with the Pagosa Stars stars revealed

By Cory Henderson  
Seeds of Learning

Seeds of Learning is honored to announce the 2024 Dancing with the Pagosa Stars. These stars were selected for their community leadership, personality and a belief in Seed's education. Our talented Stars are: Veronica Medina, Roy Tinguely, Janna Lilly, Ramon Badell, MorgAnne Foster and Bo DePena.

Dancing with the Pagosa Stars will be held on Aug. 17 at the Ross Aragon Community Center.

These incredibly generous people have agreed to be paired with a professional dancer, learn a dance routine choreographed just for them and perform for your votes on what will be the seventh year anniversary of this magical event.

Today you can go to the Seed's website, [dwtps.org](http://dwtps.org), to see bios of these competitive stars and vote for your favorites.

Each \$1 vote moves a star closer to winning the coveted Mirror Ball Trophy and bragging rights as the winner for the next year. But, more importantly, all the proceeds go to sustaining Seeds of Learning, where preschoolers are expertly prepared for school and for life.

Over the next few weeks, we will tell you more about these special people and why they have agreed to support Seeds. Each has a unique

story, and everyone associated with Seeds feels very lucky to have their amazing support. Their commitment to raise critically needed funds to educate vulnerable at-risk preschool children is truly inspiring.

When you see these folks around town, be sure to let them know how special they are, and don't forget to vote at [vote.dwtps.org](http://vote.dwtps.org).

All tickets include voting for your favorite star, a buffet dinner served by our fine dining restaurant — which will feature fall-off-the-bone slow-cooked short ribs — open dancing during voting, and a fabulous show that is sure to entertain.

Ticket sales will open to the public at 9 a.m. on July 1. Watch our website and Dancing with the Pagosa Stars Facebook page at [facebook.com/Dancingstarspagosa/](https://facebook.com/Dancingstarspagosa/) for specific instructions on ticket purchase.

But why wait to support your favorite star(s) when you can start voting online today at [vote.dwtps.org](http://vote.dwtps.org)? Every dollar equals one vote, and you can vote for multiple stars and as many times as you'd like.

Seeds of Learning provides quality and affordable early learning education, serving approximately 60 preschoolers year-round, ages 2.5 to 5 years old. Your support allows Seeds to continue offering discounted tuition for 100 percent of the children who attend. Investing in our youngest children now will create lasting change for their future.

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# Summer Reading Program and Jane Austen tribute events to start soon

By Carole Howard  
PREVIEW Columnist, and the library staff

“Adventure Begins at your Library” is the theme of this year’s free all-ages Summer Reading Program that kicks off next Friday, May 31, from 2 to 4 p.m. with a Mysto the Magician performance followed by snacks and activities.

Participants can choose their own adventure from the Smokey Bear reading challenge celebrating Smokey’s 80th birthday, a travel journal challenge where you document your experiences as you try new things and visit new places in the area, and a Camp Ruby Sisson bingo challenge that brings back our much-loved bingo sheets.

Prizes are available for all ages for each week of activities completed, and those results also put your name into a raffle for the grand prize at the concluding party on Aug. 9, Smokey’s birthday.

Sign up now in person or online and watch for details in this “Library News” column of all the fun free summer reading events coming your way.

## Jane Austin 250th birthday series

From June 3 through July 1, local fans of Jane Austen can join booklovers and libraries across the globe in celebrating the 250th birthday of this beloved English author, whose works include “Pride and Prejudice,” “Sense and Sensibility” and “Emma.”

Your library is presenting a special five-week, all-ages series hosted by Jenny on Monday mornings from 10 a.m. to noon, which will provide opportunities for hand-on fun learning about one of the most published authors of all time. This multigenerational program will introduce themes relating to Jane Austen’s stories, books and film adaptations.

Each week will feature a different topic, including the author’s life as a woman in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, Regency-era English history, fashion, food and dance. The series highlight will be a tea party and English country dancing. Call Jenny at (240) 426-7887 for more information.

## Library closure

Your library will be closed Monday, May 27, for Memorial Day.

## Lifelong Learning Lectures

The free spring Lifelong Learning Lecture series concludes this evening, Thursday, May 23, from 6 to 7:15 p.m. with an informative presentation on “North American Monsoon Outlook for Pagosa Springs,” a presentation by Arleen Prochazka of Pagosa Weather.

The lectures are free, and no registration is required.



## Paws to Read tomorrow

Friday, May 24, from 2 to 3 p.m., youngsters are invited to share their favorite books with Muppet or Maple, therapy dogs who love stories, at a free Paws to Read session.

## Craftapalooza tomorrow

All ages are invited to create a variety of crafts Friday, May 24. We will have several free different craft stations set up. Stop by anytime from 2 to 3:30 p.m.

## Adult knitting Saturday

Join new and experienced knitters Saturday, May 25, for our free Knitters Circle from 1 to 3 p.m. It is aimed at anyone over the age of 18 who would like to knit together or get some help if you are stuck on your project.

## Dungeons and Dragons

May 28 and 30 from 4 to 5:30 p.m., join our Dungeons and Dragons game free for teens and young adults. Preregistration is required because space is limited. Contact Josie@pagosalibrary.org to join.

## 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.

## Elementary tutoring

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

## Writers Guild

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

## ESL classes

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

## Tech Time

Free in-person slots are available from 10 a.m. to noon Tuesdays and 2 to 4 p.m. Thursdays. Judy helps you with basic questions relating to computers, smartphones and tablets, and also provides assistance in accessing the library’s online resources.

No appointment is needed for these drop-in sessions, but please

bring your device’s charger and passwords with you.

## Pagosa Adult Learning Services (PALS)

Join Mark or Sally for free PALS sessions Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:30 to 8 p.m. to help with high school equivalency, GED, college prep, financial aid, tutoring and more.

## Activities calendars

Pick up monthly events calendars at the library so you don’t miss any of the free activities available to you and your family.

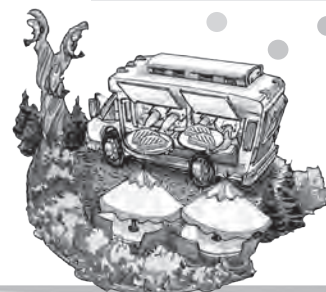
## Downloadable books

CloudLibrary has a wide variety of downloadable e-books and audiobooks for all ages. To access this free digital collection, download the cloudLibrary app, answer a few simple questions, select AspenCat Union Catalog for the name of your library, then enter your library card number and four-digit PIN. Library staff are happy to help you set up your

■ See Library on next page

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To tour this home go to:

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65 Caballero Drive  
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MLS 811817

4 bed, 2 ½ bath, 2,350 sq ft on approx. 1 acre, Back deck boasts a view of the mountains and a hot tub. Main floor primary bedroom with three additional bedrooms upstairs.

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# Library

■ continued from previous page  
device if you need assistance.

## Books on CD

“The Instruments of Darkness” by John Connolly is part of the Charlie Parker PI thriller series. “Summers at The Saint” by Mary Kay Andrews follows a new widow trying to return a landmark Georgia hotel to its past glory. “Only The Brave” by Danielle Steel is a historical novel about a courageous woman in World War II Germany.

“Home is Where the Bodies Are” by Jeneva Rose is a chilling family thriller that begins when an old video tape is found after the mother’s death. “Long Island” by Colm Toibin is the story of a woman who learns another woman is pregnant with her husband’s child.

## Large print

“Cade at the Walls” by Robert Vaughan is book four in the Western Adventures of Cade McCall series. “The First Mountain Man: Preacher’s Bloody Ramage” by William W. and J.A. Johnstone is the latest in this series. “Infectious Generosity” by TED head Chris Anderson documents many people’s generous actions, some with world-changing impact. “The Counterfeit Countess” by Elizabeth B. White and Joanna Sliwa is the story of a Jewish woman who rescued more than 10,000 Poles imprisoned by the Nazis.

## Nonfiction

“The Demon of Unrest” by Erik Larson describes the chaotic five months between Lincoln’s election and the Confederacy’s shelling of Sumter, a crucial period in American history. “Psilocybin Therapy” by Dr. J.J. Pursell is a guide to understanding how to use nature’s psychedelics for mental health. “Everest, Inc.” by Will Cockrell is a look at how guided climbing became a major industry on this famous Nepal mountain. “Life as We Know It (Can Be)” by Bill Weir is based on Earth Day letters to his son by the first chief climate correspondent in network news. “Shadow Diplomacy” by Lev Parnas

and Jerry Langton is the story of a wheeler-dealer who lived the life of power and money before going to jail.

## Local guidebook

“La Plata Mountains” by Debra Van Winegarden and Thomas Holt Ward is a comprehensive guide to the peaks and trails of some of the most rugged and picturesque mountains in Colorado.

## Mysteries, thrillers and suspense

“Granite Harbor” by Peter Nichols begins when a local teenager is murdered in a town’s archaeological site. “Days of Wonder” by Caroline Leavitt follows a woman’s search for her adopted baby after completing her prison sentence. “Oracle” by Thomas Oldeheuvelt begins when the wreck of an 18th century ship is found and people start to disappear. “Women and Children First” by Alina Grabowski looks at a young woman’s death through the eyes of 10 local women.

## Other novels

“Only The Brave” by Danielle Steel is a historical novel about a courageous woman in World War II Germany. “Long Island” by Colm Toibin is the story of a woman who learns another woman is pregnant with her husband’s child. “Midnight Harbor” by Davis Bunn is set in a seaside town that brings new opportunities to a classical guitarist and a painter running from ghosts. “The Museum of Lost Quilts” by Jennifer Chiaverini is an Elm Creek Quilts story. “Colton Gentry’s Third Act” by Jeff Zentner tells of a country music singer trying to rebuild his life after

losing his fans and his marriage. “Sip-sworth” by Simon Van Booy follows an elderly woman ready to die until an unexpected bond with a mouse.

## Donation guidelines

We are grateful to Richard M. Sigler for his materials donations and to La Plata Electric Association for its monetary donation for a GED scholarship.

When we are open, material donations are accepted for the Friends of the Library at the front desk — not down the outside returns slot at the library or the drop box at City Market, please.

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

## Quotable quote

“Find something where you love the good part and don’t mind the bad parts too much. This is the golden path to victory in life.” — Jerry Seinfeld, comedian, actor and creator and star of the sitcom “Seinfeld,” in his Duke University 2024 commencement address on May 12.

## Website

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



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Ruby Sisson Library Foundation
- June 13** Bo DePeña  
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- June 20** The San Juan Mountain Boys  
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# Medicare fraud prevention event to be held at Senior Center

**By Caryn Hill**  
San Juan Basin Area Agency on Aging

Learn how to protect yourself and your loved ones by attending a special event on June 6 at 3 p.m. at the Pagosa Senior Center.

Presenters from the Archuleta County Sheriff's Office (ACSO) and San Juan Basin Area Agency on Aging (SJBAAA) will discuss how to detect, prevent and report fraud abuse. ACSO staff will discuss general fraud targeted to seniors, and the SJBAAA will cover Medicare fraud.

Fraud costs Medicare an estimated \$60 billion per year. It costs Medicare beneficiaries in time, stress, their medical identities and potentially their health. It costs families, friends and caregivers in worry and lost work when helping their loved ones recover from falling victim to Medicare fraud.

"Medicare fraud has a devastating impact on both beneficiaries and the Medicare program," said Caryn Hill, Medicare and Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) counselor. "We teach people how to avoid experiencing Medicare fraud. By preventing fraud from happening, this program helps individuals and protects the Medicare program for generations to come."

She added, "We're excited to teach people about how to protect themselves from Medicare and general fraud and about the services that the Senior Medicare Patrol program offers."

Medicare Fraud Prevention Week begins June 3. Everyone can help play a part in the fight against fraud:

- Medicare beneficiaries can monitor their insurance statements to make sure products and services received match what is on the statements. They can request free My Health Care Trackers from their lo-

cal SMP.

- Caregivers can help by being on the lookout for items such as durable medical equipment (like boxes of knee braces) lying around the house that may have been shipped to the beneficiary without their or their doctor's approval. They can remind their client or loved one to never give out their Medicare number or other personal information over the phone.

- Families can help by talking to their loved ones about protecting their Medicare number just as they would a credit card number. They can help their loved ones create a Medicare.gov account to access their Medicare statements online or remind them to open and review them when they come in the mail. They can also register their phone number on "do not call" lists and go to [optoutprescreen.com](http://optoutprescreen.com) to opt out of mailings.

- Partners and professionals can help by sharing SMP information on social media, referring clients and consumers to the SMP, and inviting the SMP to speak during a shared event.

- Health care providers can help by talking to patients about health care-related scams such as those related to durable medical equipment and genetic testing schemes. They can remind them that products and services should only be ordered by physicians they regularly see.

Needed medical items should never be ordered through TV ads or unsolicited calls.

- Community members can help by looking out for older neighbors. When in public, they can be aware of older individuals purchasing gift cards in large amounts. They can encourage those they know to talk to a trusted source about their Medicare questions and tell neighbors about the most recent Medicare scams. They can even consider volunteering with the local SMP.

The SJBAAA SMP is ready to provide you with the information you need to protect yourself from Medicare fraud, errors and abuse; detect potential fraud, errors and abuse; and report your concerns. SMPs help educate and empower Medicare beneficiaries in the fight against health care fraud.

The Senior Center is located at 451 Hot Springs Blvd. For more information about the June 6 event, SMP or Medicare in general, please call the SJBAAA Medicare line at (970) 264-0501, ext. 2.

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5-7 pm in the Lodge Atrium



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**Saturday, May 25**  
Jason Rose

**Tuesday, May 28**  
Glenn Unrath and Jack Ellis

**Friday, May 31**  
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# Free electric bicycles, tricycles available for seniors through 4CORE

By Rose Chavez  
PREVIEW Columnist

The Four Corners Office for Resource Efficiency (4CORE), in partnership with the Town of Pagosa Springs and La Plata Electric Association, is offering free electric bicycles and tricycles to Pagosa Springs residents.

To qualify for the program, you must be 55 years old or older, a resident of Pagosa Springs and make 80 percent of the area median income or lower.

The application window is open now until May 31, and applications may be picked up at three locations around town — Archuleta Seniors Inc. (ASI), the Ross Aragon Community Center and the Ruby M. Sisson Memorial Library — or accessed at [www.fourcore.org](http://www.fourcore.org).

Completed applications may also be mailed to: 4CORE at 10 Town Plaza #190, Durango, CO 81301.

For more information about the Pagosa Springs 55+ eBike program, please email [info@fourcore.org](mailto:info@fourcore.org) or call 4CORE at (970) 259-1916.

## Picnic in the park

On Friday, May 31, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., join ASI for a picnic in the park.

Join us as we renew a tradition of the past hosting lunch for older adults and community members of all ages in Yamaguchi Park, located at 684 S. 5th St.

Local band Acoustic Picnic will provide music and generate an ambiance of connection and relaxation. All community members are invited to join.

We just ask that you please RSVP for lunch by 9 a.m. on May 30 by contacting or texting the ASI office at (970) 264-2167.

## Emotional Freedom Technique

At 1:15 p.m. on May 24, there will be a follow-up session for Emotional Freedom Technique (EFT).

The technique is an evidence-based method which uses acupressure trigger points and elements from other therapeutic practices.

Extensive research and more than 100 published studies have shown EFT to be effective with lowering both psychological and physiological symptoms of anxiety, depression, PTSD, insomnia, stress and more.

Once you've learned EFT, you can use it at any time you need it. Those who utilize the technique often report a reduction in symptoms in the first 90 seconds.

In this session you'll be able to ask questions and we'll practice a few rounds of EFT to make sure you're comfortable with your new EFT skills.

## Healthy aging yoga therapy class series



This spring, a Healthy Aging Yoga Series will be offered in person at the Senior Center on Mondays from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Classes will be structured by therapeutic yoga tools and techniques with chair movement, standing stretches, gentle postures, breathing practices and reflective meditative moments.

Monthly themes for the series will include topics such as sustainable strength for healthy aging individuals, brain health, heart and cardiovascular health, mental and emotional well-being, community connections, and stress management, to name a few.

Classes will be educational for participants to utilize practices in daily life and are meant for all levels of experience with yoga.

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 Connors directly by emailing [ajconnorslove@gmail.com](mailto: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 May 31, June 7 and June 21.

Participation is free, and we ask you bring yourself and a friend for joyful fellowship. We will provide prizes from local businesses for all winners, and snacks will also be provided.

No RSVP is required; just show up. All ages are welcome, but we ask those 18 and younger to come with an adult chaperone.

For more information, contact us at (970) 264-2167.

## T'ai Chi Chih

The Senior Center offers T'ai Chi Chih with accredited instructor Patti Popovich each Thursday from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. 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.

■ See Senior on next page

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.

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9								1
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3			5	7	9		4	

Level: Beginner

## Fun By The Numbers

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

## Here's How It Works:

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

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

ANSWER:



# Senior

■ continued from previous page

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 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, May 23 — Mahi-mahi with tangy salsa verde, zucchini medley, garden salad, fruit, blueberry-lemon cheesecake and milk.

Friday, May 24 — Beef Frito pie, green beans, cornbread, garden salad, fruit, vanilla yogurt and milk.

Monday, May 27 — Closed for Memorial Day.

Tuesday, May 28 — Chicken piccata with quinoa brown rice, broc-

coli, garden salad, fruit, cookies and milk.

Wednesday, May 29 — Pork Colorado, baked potato, sauteed greens, garden salad, fruit, cinnamon coffee cake and milk.

Thursday, May 30 — Korean beef over white rice, sauteed snow peas, garden salad, fruit and milk.

Friday, May 31 — Picnic in Yamaguchi Park 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.: chicken salad on croissant, deviled eggs, broccoli salad, assorted chips, orange blossom cupcakes, beverages.

## Grab-N-Go meals

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

## Meals on Wheels

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

## Mobile food pantry service

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

## Text reservations

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

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

## COVID-19 test kits available

Stop by the Senior Center to pick up a pack of six free COVID-19 tests for your personal use. These kits are available to anyone in the

■ See Senior on next page



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Photos courtesy Aubrie Limebrook

The 4-H club Wolf Creek Wonders poses after working hard and participating in several acts of community service recently. The members made dog treats to donate to the Humane Society of Pagosa Springs in April. They also cleaned trash all around Town Park and the river in May.

## Senior

■ continued from previous page

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 cre-

ate 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

■ See Senior on next page

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# Senior

■ **continued from previous page**  
 in Archuleta County takes place on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 1:15 p.m.

Bridge is a four-player card game with partners sitting opposite each other around a table. It is a trick-taking card game using a standard 52-card deck. Come alone or bring a partner.

## Hand and foot card game

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

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

No experience is necessary, so come willing to learn.

## Board vacancies

The ASI Board of Directors has multiple vacant positions open. The

terms are three years with an option to renew for an additional term.

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

## 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/>.

There is also another way to donate.

Are you 70 and half years old or better? Do you have an IRA from which you need to take a distribution? Did you know you can make charitable donations directly from

your IRA without paying taxes on the distribution, up to \$100,000 per year? The donation from the account would be payable to Archuleta Seniors Inc. and sent to P.O. Box 344, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147. This gift option is called the IRA charitable rollover or qualified charitable distribution.

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for County Commission, District 2

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## JOHN'S EXPERIENCE

- John moved to Pagosa Springs in 1996
- Worked in the field of Public Finance for 18 years
- Served as a bond analyst for Counties' financials for 8 years
- Served as Chief Financial Officer for 11 years

## EXPERIENCE IN ARCHULETA COUNTY

- 2007 Served on Financial Task Force
- Elected County Commissioner to dig out of a financial hole
- Served on Committee to set up new Health District — 2023

To learn more about John Ranson's campaign for Archuleta County Commissioner, District 2, please feel free to contact John at:  
**RansonforCommissioner.com**

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# PAGOSA SCENE . . .

## MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WALK

PREVIEW photos/Josh Pike

Scene ... walking for mental health on Saturday, May 18. Rise Above Violence and Youth Rise hosted the annual Mental Health Awareness Walk event, with 40 participants taking part.





# Bird of the Week



Photo courtesy Charles Martinez

This week's Bird of the Week, compliments of the Weminuche Audubon Society and Audubon Rockies, is the snowy egret.

During May, three species of the bright white herons known as egrets have made an appearance in our area. The snowy egret, averaging 2 feet tall, is intermediate between the great egret at 3 feet and the slightly smaller cattle egret, which stands at 1.5 feet.

The adult snowy egret is known as the bird that wears golden slippers, a reference to the bright color of its feet during breeding season. Long and thin describe its black legs, black bill and white neck. The patch of yellow skin at the base of the bill turns reddish during courtship. The gorgeous features which nearly caused the snowy's extinction are the filmy, curving feather plumes that develop on their backs, necks and heads during breeding season.

Snowy egrets are primarily birds of coastal wetlands and inland large river drainages. They are found on both coasts, down through Mexico and Central America, and throughout South America. They travel through our area to inland wetland areas used for breeding in patches of North America.

Unlike larger herons that minimize energy use by foraging with slow, deliberate movements, snowy egrets employ active feeding strategies that require maximizing food intake. They stir up prey by walking, running, hopping and sometimes hovering over the water to watch for fish. In either saltwater or fresh, they mainly feed on aquatic animals: fish, frogs, worms, crustaceans and insects.

Snowys are highly social all year, feeding and nesting in large colonies in close proximity to other species. They build their platform nests of sticks at the tops or outer branches of woody vines, shrubs or trees. Although they generally nest in isolated swamps, marshes and islands, they can be unwelcome visitors when they nest in large, noisy, messy colonies in coastal residential neighborhoods.

When the plumes of these and other egrets were sought by the fashion industry to adorn hats, snowy egrets were killed in such large numbers that they were on the path to extinction. Through the work of concerned citizens and the passage of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, these and other beautiful birds were protected before it was too late.

For information on events, visit [www.weminucheaudubon.org](http://www.weminucheaudubon.org) and [www.facebook.com/weminucheaudubon/](http://www.facebook.com/weminucheaudubon/).



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## WALKING MAY SIGNIFICANTLY LOWER YOUR STRESS (part 2)

*Continued from last week.*

By comparison, the people who walked at a low-intensity pace but didn't meditate showed no improvements until the 14th week, and even then, the effects weren't as significant.

On the other hand, the people who engaged in mindful exercise experienced results that were very similar to those reported by the walking-plus-meditation group, suggesting that other mental techniques could yield stress-busting benefits.

According to Rippe, one of the most impressive findings from this research is the immediacy with which walking can relieve stress.

The study also provided good news for those who aren't able to engage in high-intensity exercise: They can capitalize on walking's stress-busting effects just by practicing meditation or another mental technique during their strolls.

And for those who find relaxation exercises tedious or boring, the study proved that a brisk walk can do just as good a job of short-circuiting stress.

Source: A Step Ahead of Stress: Discover how to optimize the stress-busting benefits of walking. By Maggie Spilner. <http://www.prevention.com/fitness>

**Bonus Tip:** Visit <http://www.AmazingFacts.org> for spiritual refreshment every week!

**"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." Psalm 119:105**

A public service from your Adventist friends & neighbors at Pagosa Springs Seventh Day Adventist Church.

Disclaimer: This and all our Nature's Remedies are for health information purposes only. The Seventh Day Adventist Church is not responsible for results.



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# Species spotlight: Russian knapweed gall wasp

By Ethan Proud and Robin Young  
PREVIEW Columnists

## Extension Viewpoints

The naming conventions of bio-control agents are pretty self-explanatory.

In this case, the Russian knapweed gall wasp is a wasp that forms galls on Russian knapweed.

Before we take a deep dive into this beneficial, we will quickly define what a biocontrol agent is: an insect or pathogen that controls a pest. Bio-controls are host-specific and only damage the target species.

Russian knapweed gall wasps are tiny, stingless wasps that are about the size of a pinhead. In the spring they emerge as adults from galls formed by their egg and larval form in the stem of Russian knapweed and reproduce before dispersing and laying eggs in the stem of new shoots of Russian knapweed plants.

They are only active for about 10-15 days as adults before they die, and their progeny start the cycle over again.

Galling the Russian knapweed plants weakens the root system by requiring more energy in the upward growth and the plants are more susceptible to disease.

Many patches of Russian knapweed have been infected with rust fungus one season after a gall wasp release. Russian knapweed gall wasps are available from the Palisade Insectary, and locally we have several nursery sites in Archuleta County and can distribute the wasps in gall form.

### Colorado Cottage Foods certification

There will be a Colorado Cottage Foods certification class on June 5 from 12:30 to 5 p.m. Check out our



Photo courtesy Archuleta County Weed and Pest Department

**Russian knapweed gall wasps are tiny, stingless wasps that are about the size of a pinhead that can be used as a biocontrol agent for Russian knapweed.**

Facebook page for more information.

### 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 Cola opener
  - 5 Fragrant wood
  - 10 Alka-Seltzer sound?
  - 14 Place to broil
  - 15 Iron \_\_\_ (rust)
  - 16 Palmist's concern
  - 17 Extend credit
  - 18 Outward show
  - 20 Periodical piece
  - 22 Wall coating
  - 23 Sushi bar order
  - 24 More than dislike
  - 26 Bleachers denizen
  - 28 Calcutta's continent
  - 30 Slinky shape
  - 34 Anagram for "one"
  - 35 Drumming sounds
  - 37 Musical close
  - 38 Thin, slow flow
  - 40 Plaintiff's filing
  - 42 Provo's state
  - 43 Printing goofs
  - 45 Fishing gear
  - 46 Waldorf and Caesar
  - 48 Help in holding up
  - 49 Word on a bill
  - 50 Tropical fruit
  - 52 Repair shop fig.
  - 54 Stomach-related
  - 57 Caustic wit
  - 61 Emphasize
  - 63 Slender instrument
  - 64 Putdown
  - 65 News source of yore
  - 66 Chimney duct
  - 67 Sings without singing
  - 68 Fictional Potter
  - 69 Fedora fabric
- DOWN**
- 1 Bubbly drink

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
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61							62				63			
64					65						66			
67					68						69			

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- 2 Head-heels connector
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_ State: Colorado
- 4 Actress MacDowell
- 5 Locomotive fuel
- 6 Logistics worker
- 7 Party bowlful
- 8 Skilled
- 9 Home business?
- 10 Synthetic materials
- 11 Fuzz
- 12 Previously
- 13 Social equal
- 19 Coarse file
- 21 Hollywood's Gable
- 25 Partake of
- 26 Former embryo
- 27 Largest artery
- 29 Vendor's spiel
- 31 Camelot meeting spot
- 32 It may be bid
- 33 Starbucks serving
- 36 Sculptor's medium
- 39 Book sections
- 41 2017 film, "The Shape of \_\_\_"
- 44 Bit of sunlight
- 47 "Shucks!"
- 51 Honda's luxury line
- 53 Speak derisively
- 54 Cut
- 55 Rights grp.
- 56 Pond gunk
- 58 Lofty nest (var.)
- 59 Motown genre
- 60 Come together
- 62 Televis

### Answers to Previous Crossword:

D	E	M	O		A	P	R	I	L		P	A	S	S			
I	R	O	N		P	L	A	N	E		R	U	L	E			
N	O	T	E		P	E	N	T	A	M	E	T	E	R			
E	D	I	T	I	O	N		E	P	I	S	O	D	E			
D	E	F	I	C	I	T		L	E	T	U	P					
					M	O	N	E	T		D	E	M	I	S	E	
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M	E	N	D	S		S	E	P	A	R	A	T	E	S			
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					C	R	E	E	L		R	I	N	G	O	F	F
C	H	I	M	E	R	A				F	E	D	E	R	A	L	
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I	R	A	N		P	I	N	O	T				I	T	E	M	
B	O	L	T		H	A	N	D	S				C	E	D	E	

***If you or someone you know might be at risk of suicide, there is help.***

Call the **National Suicide Prevention Lifeline** at 1-800-273-8255, text a crisis counselor at 741741 or visit [suicidepreventionlifeline.org](http://suicidepreventionlifeline.org).

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# Sitting in the dark, dead as a doornail

By Betty J. Slade  
PREVIEW Columnist

"Old Marley was as dead as a door-nail. Mind! I don't mean to say that I know, of my own knowledge, what there is particularly dead about a door-nail." — Charles Dickens' famous words in A Christmas Carol.

On a recent Monday morning I woke to a dead, dark house. And of my own knowledge, I can attest that everything in the house was as dead as a doornail in Marley's coffin. I sat up in the blackness, a blank clock stared back at me. An electric blanket, as cold as Pagosa's winters, lay stiff as a board across my Sweet Al. I sucked for the air from my CPAP machine. Not a stir of stale air, I threw the ridiculous contraption off my face and stared into nothing.

Monday is my meeting day for writers. I needed to prepare for the day. Nothing to prepare with.

Every gadget, gizmo and electronic device lay dead. What time is it, anyway? I shuffled around to find a flashlight so I could see the battery-operated clock in the living room. No flashlight. I sat down in my recliner; nothing to do but wait it out. The recliner sat stiff in an upright position without my electric foot lift. Horrors.

I can't sleep through this. It's uncomfortable. What is going on? I paid the electric bill. I'll pray. But I'm too worked up and uncomfortable to pray. How can I meet the day? How many bottles of water will I need to heat in a pan on the gas stove? I need a cup of coffee. I'm still sitting in the dark waiting for the sun to come up.

Where's my Sweet Al when I need him? His even breathing told me he's sleeping like a baby. I should wake him and tell him about the problem. He might know where he put the flashlight or where the 5-gallon water jugs are so that we can at least carry water from the river.

I sat there. What happened? I didn't know until later that the wind caused the problem. More than 7,300 Pagosans sat in the dark on May 6. There was a two-hour school delay. Everyone shifted their schedules.

At 6:18 a.m., all was well. The electricity was running through every device in the house again. I headed to the kitchen to the coffee machine.

Another thought came to mind, something that will affect everyone and yet we go about our lives as if nothing could happen. No one talks about the cyberattacks on our electrical grid.

In our writing meeting that day we were challenged to write about something that is relevant and significant to the people around us, something we hadn't written about before. I knew the perfect topic. Our entire country could experience a cyberattack, and we're not prepared.

Research told me that U.S. power grids are becoming more vulnerable to cyberattacks, 60 per day of increasing attacks. Did we know any of this? No. We are too busy going about our

## Artist's Lane

business without thought to what is happening around us.

It was reported that the grids' virtual and physical weak spots are susceptible to cyber criminals —22,000 cyberattacks at the end of 2022 and 24,000 last year in 2023.

Manny Cancel, senior vice president of The North American Electric Reliability Corporation said in a web-cast, "It's very hard to keep pace with addressing all those vulnerabilities."

He continued, "Geopolitical conflict, including Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the war in Gaza, have dramatically increased the number of cyber threats to North American power grids.

"Threats also commonly come from China, and the regulators said they expect the upcoming U.S. presidential election to increase the probability of attacks on the grid."

Oh great, another worry about the election.

When I shared this with a friend, she immediately gave me tips to prepare for blackouts.

Purchase battery-powered plug-in lights that come on when the power goes out. Have solar-powered phone chargers and a generator.

I'm sure this subject will be as dead as a doornail again as we go on living in our comfort. So, what if Marley's ghost visits us for real the next time and we have a cyberattack on U.S. soil? We need to do more than sit in the dark with our eyes closed or sleep through it.

I have to go back to my basic faith. There is a God; He is in charge. He is very aware of what is going on and He tells us His grace abounds. God promises the sun will come up every morning and He will protect us. Does he not also expect us to prepare with enough oil and trim our lamps until they are needed?

Final brushstroke: Our problems are bigger than a recliner without a comfortable footrest. We've grown too lax in this crazy world where everything is getting crazier. We need a bigger faith in a bigger God.

Send your comment to bettyslade.author@gmail.com.

Views expressed do not necessarily represent those of The SUN.

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## "Why Do I Have Thyroid Symptoms Despite Taking My Thyroid Medication?"



Does this patient's story resonate with you? Tara is a 41-year-old female who was referred to me last June for chronic fatigue. She was deeply frustrated regarding her ongoing symptoms.

During our initial consultation she stated that she seemingly fell apart after giving birth to her second child. Tara shared how fatigue was impacting her family life. "I feel like I'm missing out on things and letting my family down because I'm tired all the time." She additionally struggled with daily headaches, dry skin, thinning hair and frequent abdominal bloating. Her erratic sleep pattern further exacerbated her symptoms.

Unfortunately, this is a common scenario. Tara had visited her primary care provider, underwent lab work and was started on thyroid medication. After five years nothing had changed, and her symptoms had not improved. Frustrated, she questioned whether she had a hormone imbalance.

The thyroid gland is a small

butterfly-shaped organ located in the front of the neck. Despite its modest size, it plays a major role in maintaining the body's overall functioning through the production of hormones. These hormones are essential for regulating metabolism, cellular growth, and energy levels. There are many physiologic conditions that can hinder thyroid function and create symptoms that mimic thyroid dysfunction. As a result, hypothyroidism is one of the most misdiagnosed conditions. Symptoms often attributed to thyroid dysfunction include gastrointestinal dysfunction, liver toxicity, and hormonal imbalance, predominately estrogen and progesterone.

In addition, an autoimmune disease called Hashimoto's can destroy thyroid tissue causing symptoms associated with hypothyroidism, including feeling sluggish, tired, depression, weight gain and brain fog. The typical blood panel to assess thyroiditis is simply not enough to find the actual cause of the problem and persistent

symptoms.

So how did it work out for Tara? By balancing her hormones and learning a lifestyle that reduces systemic inflammation, in less than four months, she reversed her symptoms and improved her energy, mental clarity and lost 30 pounds. In Tara's own words, "I have never felt this good. The best part, it's permanent, because now I have the tools and understanding on how to be in control of my health."

To learn more about the impact of balanced hormones and thyroid function, and to take control of your health, please register for my upcoming talk, "Stress, Hormones, and Health." It is my purpose and passion to help individuals determine the root cause of imbalance, reverse inflammation and improve health. There is a better way to manage your health.

**Please RSVP to (970)507-3030, seating is limited!**

*P.S. I highly recommend bringing your spouse to this event!*

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 Y A S S E L R A E F U S I A T U S N K L O  
 P E P D E T L I D C O U M V U A F F L O S  
 U B G R G C P O O E T H N K D U P B A S  
 R U D E B E E D G M K M C R F E L H R V  
 M S V B B P V D G E L G C B C N R S K B  
 P O D M P S K L E T A N E L L A F L S V  
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 N O L C Y A I H K E M S E O R E H O F A  
 L R D C E N C N G A L F C V T I E M O F

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

## WORDS

- BRANCH
- CEMETERY
- DRAFT
- DUTY
- ENLIST
- FALLEN
- FEARLESS
- FLAG
- HEROES
- HONOR
- MEMORIAL
- MEMORY
- MILITARY
- OBSERVED
- PLATOON
- REMEMBER
- RESPECT
- SACRIFICE
- SERVICE
- SOLDIER
- SOMBER
- THANKS
- TOUR

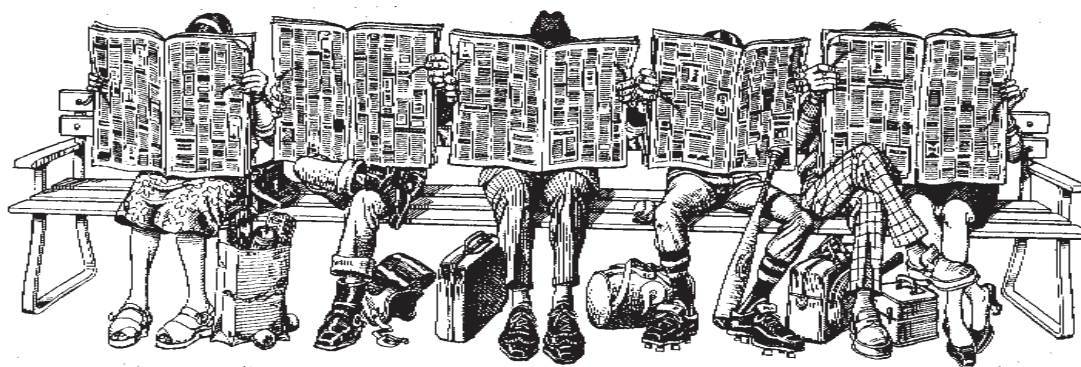
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# Preview Calendar

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

## Thursday, May 23

**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.

**Guided Great House Tour.** 10:30 a.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This guided tour takes visitors 1/3 mile up the Great Pueblo Trail. Tickets are \$12 for ages 13 and up and \$6 for ages 5-12. For more information, visit [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org).

**Archuleta County Democratic Club.** 11:30 a.m., Coyote Moon. Meet for lunch and hear about Pagosa Springs Main Street.

**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.

**Creation Care Pagosa.** 5:30-7 p.m., Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St. Debra Huffman will give a behind-the-scenes look at the Methodist Thrift Store.

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

**Pagosa Gateway River Project Open House.** 5:30-7 p.m., Community Center. Join the Upper San Juan Watershed Enhancement Partnership for a public open house. Frito chili pie will be provided. Visit [upper-san-juan-wep.com](http://upper-san-juan-wep.com) for more details.

**Lifelong Learning Lecture Series.** 6-7:15 p.m., Sisson Library. The topic will be the "North American Monsoon Outlook for Pagosa Springs" with Arleen Prochazka of Pagosa Weather will.

**Full Moon Program.** 8:15 p.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. Tickets are \$25 per person, or \$30 with an early, guided tour. For more information, visit [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org).

[chimneyrockco.org](http://chimneyrockco.org).

## Friday, May 24

**Birding at Chimney Rock.** 8 a.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. A fun and casual two-hour guided bird walk. Tickets are \$20 for ages 13 and up, and \$10 for ages 5-12. For more information, visit [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org).

**Mysteries of Chimney Rock Tour.** 8-10:15 a.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This tour spotlights topics aimed at interpreting the history and significance of Chimney Rock and the Ancestral Puebloans. Tickets are \$20 for ages 13 and up, \$10 for ages 5-15, and under 5 are free. For more information, visit [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org).

**Guided Great House Tour.** 10:30 a.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This guided tour takes visitors 1/3 mile up the Great Pueblo Trail. Tickets are \$12 for ages 13 and up and \$6 for ages 5-12. For more information, visit [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org).

**Community Coffee.** 1-3 p.m., TARA Historical Society Community Center. For more information, email [TARACommunityCenter101@gmail.com](mailto:TARACommunityCenter101@gmail.com).

**Emotional Freedom Technique Follow-up.** 1:15 p.m., Senior Center.

**Paws to Read.** 2-3 p.m., Sisson Library. For all ages. Read with Muppet or Maple, therapy dogs who love stories.

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

## Saturday, May 25

**Geology Tour.** 8 a.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This tour explores local geology and its relationship to the daily lives of the Ancestral Puebloans. Tickets are \$20 for ages 13 and up, \$10 for ages 5-15, and under 5 are free. For more information, visit [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org).

**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](mailto: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.

**Guided Great House Tour.** 10:30 a.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This guided tour takes visitors 1/3 mile up the Great Pueblo Trail. Tickets are \$12 for ages 13 and up and \$6 for ages 5-12. For more information, visit [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org).

**Knitters Circle.** 1-3 p.m., Sisson Library. Join new or experienced

knitters to get help with your project, or sit and knit.

**DivorceCare.** 4-5:30 p.m., Centerpoint Church, 2750 Cornerstone Drive. DivorceCare is a program that provides a safe environment for persons who have gone through,

■ See Calendar on next page

## Trinity Anglican Church



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# Preview Calendar

■ **continued from previous page**

are going through or are considering going through a divorce. You may begin classes at any time throughout the session. For more information, please contact Lorena Medina at loremedina0817@gmail.com or the church at admin@centerpointpagosa.com. You can also register online at www.divorccare.org. Click on "find a group" and follow the prompts or register at any of the meetings. There is a \$20 fee for the cost of your workbook. Scholarships are available.

## Monday, May 27

### Mysteries of Chimney Rock Tour.

8-10:15 a.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This tour spotlights topics aimed at interpreting the history and significance of Chimney Rock and the Ancestral Puebloans. Tickets are \$20 for ages 13 and up, \$10 for ages 5-15, and under 5 are free. For more information, visit www.chimneyrockco.org.

### Women's Fellowship.

9-11 a.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church classrooms.

### Memorial Day Remembrance.

10 a.m., Hilltop Cemetery. The American Legion Post 108 Honor Guard will conduct the ceremony, which will include a flyover, flag ceremony, prayers and the playing of taps. All are welcome.

### Memorial Day Service.

11 a.m., Allison/Tiffany Cemetery, 807 County Road 329. The Memorial Day service will be followed by a potluck dinner at the Allison Grange Hall at 2622 County Road 329. Everyone is welcome.

### Deepening the Faith Classes.

6-8 p.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church classrooms.

### Memorial Day Remembrance.

7 p.m., Veterans Memorial Park.

Archuleta County Veterans for Veterans and the American Legion will present a ceremony including a flag ceremony, rifle salute and prayers. There will also be a display of luminarias. All are welcome.

## Tuesday, May 28

**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.

**Guided Great House Tour.** 10:30 a.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This guided tour takes visitors 1/3 mile up the Great Pueblo Trail. Tickets are \$12 for ages 13 and up and \$6 for ages 5-12. For more information, visit www.chimneyrockco.org.

**Pagosa Duplicate Bridge.** 12:30 p.m., PLPOA conference room. Duplicate players new and experienced are welcome. We are members of the Durango Bridge Club and play ACBL-sanctioned games with computer-dealt hands for maximum review options. Please email names of playing pair to pagosaduplicate@gmail.com or call (970) 946-6454 for more information.

**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.

**Dungeons and Dragons.** 4-5:30 p.m.,

Sisson Library. Join the adventure. Preregistration is required.

**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.

**Art at the Pinnacles.** 5 p.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. Tickets are \$25 for ages 10 and up. For more information, visit www.chimneyrockco.org.

**Geology Tour.** 5 p.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This tour explores local geology and its relationship to the daily lives of the Ancestral Puebloans. Tickets are \$20 for ages 13 and up, \$10 for ages 5-15, and under 5 are free. For more information, visit www.chimneyrockco.org.

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

**Men's Fellowship.** 6 p.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church classrooms.

**Flute Music at Twilight.** 6 p.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. Tickets are \$20 for ages 13 and up, \$10 for ages 5-12, and under 5 are free. Recommended for ages 4 and up. For more information, visit www.chimneyrockco.org.

## Wednesday, May 29

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

■ **See Calendar on next page**



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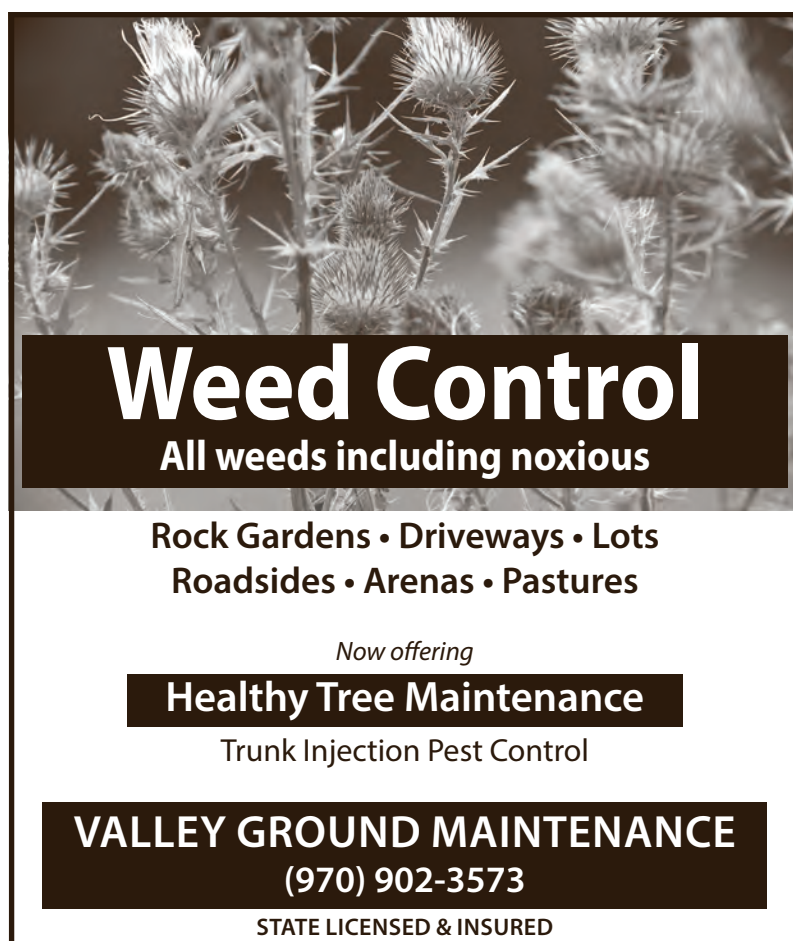
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# Preview Calendar

■ continued from previous page

hour of reading, singing and free play while building early literacy skills together. For all ages. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information.

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

**Mindful Drawing.** 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.

**Mysteries of Chimney Rock Tour.** 5-7:15 p.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This tour spotlights topics aimed at interpreting the history and significance of Chimney Rock and the Ancestral Puebloans. Tickets are \$20 for ages 13 and up, \$10 for ages 5-15, and under 5 are free. For more information, visit [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org).

**Spanish Fiesta Committee Meeting.** 5:30 p.m., Senior Center dining hall, Community Center. All are welcome.

## Thursday, May 30

**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.

**Guided Great House Tour.** 10:30 a.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This guided tour takes visitors 1/3 mile up the Great Pueblo Trail. Tickets are \$12 for ages 13 and up and \$6 for ages 5-12. For more information, visit [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org).

**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.

**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, May 31

**Mysteries of Chimney Rock Tour.** 8-10:15 a.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This tour spotlights topics aimed at interpreting the history and significance of Chimney Rock and the Ancestral Puebloans. Tickets are \$20 for ages 13 and up, \$10 for ages 5-15, and under 5 are free. For more information, visit [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org).

**Guided Great House Tour.** 10:30 a.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This guided tour takes visitors 1/3 mile up the Great Pueblo Trail. Tickets are \$12 for ages 13 and up and \$6 for ages 5-12. For more information, visit [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org).

**Archuleta Seniors Inc. Picnic in the Park.** 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Yamaguchi Park. Acoustic Picnic will provide music. All community members are invited. RSVP for lunch by 9 a.m. on May 30 by contacting or texting the ASI office at (970) 264-2167.

**Community Coffee.** 1-3 p.m., TARA Historical Society Community Center. For more information, email [TARACommunityCenter101@gmail.com](mailto:TARACommunityCenter101@gmail.com).

**Bingo.** 1:30-2:30 p.m., Senior Center. Free. Those under 18 must have an adult chaperone. For more information, contact (970) 264-2167.

**Summer Reading Program Kickoff Party.** 2-4 p.m., Sisson Library. Jump into the Summer Ready Program. Mysto the Magician will be performing from 2-3 p.m., and there will be snacks and activities from 3 to 4 p.m. The program is open to all ages and abilities.

**Family Movie Night.** 7:30 p.m., TARA Historical Society Community Center. For more information, email [TARACommunityCenter101@gmail.com](mailto:TARACommunityCenter101@gmail.com).

## Saturday, June 1

**Pagosa Springs High School Graduation.** 9 a.m., Golden Peaks Stadium.

**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.

**San Juan Mountain School Graduation.** 1 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School auditorium.

## Sunday, June 2

**Pagosa Pride Festival.** 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Town Park. The event will include a keynote speaker, trivia, karaoke and more. For more information, email [PagosaPride@gmail.com](mailto:PagosaPride@gmail.com).

## Monday, June 3

**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.

## Tuesday, June 4

**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.

**Pagosa Duplicate Bridge.** 12:30 p.m., PLPOA conference room. Duplicate players new and experienced are welcome. We are members of the Durango Bridge Club and play ACBL-sanctioned games with computer-dealt hands for maximum review options. Please email names of playing pair to [pagosaduplicate@gmail.com](mailto:pagosaduplicate@gmail.com) or call (970) 946-6454 for more information.

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

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

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

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

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

**Men's Fellowship.** 6 p.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church classrooms.

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SCAN ME

## Community news.

The Pagosa Springs SUN  
264-2100



# We won't forget what happened 101 years ago

By Shaun Ketchum Jr.  
PREVIEW Columnist

One hundred and one years ago, my Ute ancestors were forced to live within a barbed-wire camp in Blanding, a small town in southeast Utah.

For six weeks, nearly 80 people were trapped in a cage, sleeping in tents and hastily constructed hogans. Only meager meals were provided, and the captors sometimes tossed food over the fence.

Like the infamous Japanese American prison camps during World War II, the only crime my relatives committed was belonging to a group of people that the white majority deemed a threat. There was no due process for Japanese Americans or for the Utes.

But while Japanese American incarceration sites, including the Topaz Camp near Delta, Utah, have memorials to the victims, there are no plaques or interpretive displays in Blanding acknowledging the suffering my ancestors endured.

In fact, the events that led up to their imprisonment are best known by misleading names like the "Posey War" and the "Last Indian Uprising." My ancestor, William Posey, was a leader in the Anikanuche Band who continued traditional hunting across the vast Canyonlands and Bears Ears region into the 1920s, long after many other Indigenous people had been forced onto reservations.

On March 19, 1923, two Ute men were convicted for the alleged raiding of a shepherd's camp. After an altercation with the San Juan County sheriff, the two men fled and joined their families.

They escaped over Comb Ridge into what is now Bears Ears National Monument. A posse of 50 armed white settlers pursued the Ute people on horseback and in a Model-T Ford. County commissioners also requested an airplane equipped with World War I bombs for use in the chase. Before a plane arrived, the posse found the families, forced them into trucks at gunpoint, then transported them to the barbed-wire stockade in Blanding.

I tell this story because the jailing of Ute people 101 years ago had devastating consequences for my community and healing is necessary even today.

Two Ute men were murdered, including Posey. Ute children were among those shipped to Indian boarding schools, separating families and cutting off traditional teachings. As a condition of release, prisoners in the camp had to sign allotment papers for small parcels of land that relinquished their claims to the large Ute reservation that had once been proposed for nearly all of San Juan County.

These events were tragic, but they were not a "war" or an "uprising." Like the Long Walk of the Diné people in 1864, or the Trail of Tears that began in the 1830s, my Anikanuche

## Opinion: Writers on the Range

*Like the infamous Japanese American prison camps during World War II, the only crime my relatives committed was belonging to a group of people that the white majority deemed a threat. There was no due process for Japanese Americans or for the Utes.*

ancestors were subjected to brutal settler violence in Utah, which had no similarities to a war fought between two nations' militaries.

Despite these injustices, my people carry on what we call a Legacy of Resilience, and last year the Ute Mountain Ute community of White Mesa began telling our side of the story for the first time.

I was selected to direct the 100 Years of Silence project, and I've been working with elders, historians and artists to facilitate healing. We've hosted many meetings to listen to community members talk about this history.

Seven local artists produced pieces now on display at The Leonardo Museum of Creativity and Innovation in Salt Lake City, Utah, until May 28. On March 23, we hosted a public launch for the project with presentations from 18 Ute tribal members.

Throughout the process, I've been inspired by the courage and wisdom of my community. Our collective effort aims to end a century of silence

## Community news.

The Pagosa Springs SUN  
970-264-2100

to usher in an era of recognition and empowerment for all sides.

As the 101st anniversary of the Anikanuche incarceration drew to a close last month, we hoped Utahns would begin to acknowledge the events of 1923. We ask that those awful weeks no longer be referred to as the "Posey War," a term based on misinformation that spread as the events unfolded. The 100 Years of Silence project is currently seeking input from the White Mesa community to rename this series of traumatic events.

Perhaps one day a memorial could be installed on the site of the incarceration camp that is near the historic bank building that still stands in Blanding.

As the Ute scholar Forrest Cuch reminded us at the anniversary, healing cannot occur until the truth is known and accepted.

Shaun Ketchum Jr. is a contributor to *Writers on the Range*, [writersontherange.org](http://writersontherange.org), an independent nonprofit dedicated to spurring conversation about the West. He directs the 100 Years of Silence project and is a member of the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe. Views expressed do not necessarily represent those of *The SUN*.



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# Bagpipes in short intervals

By **Daris Howard**  
Special to The PREVIEW

I had only been a faculty member at the university where I work for a few years when I was sitting in my office and heard a strange sound. I couldn't quite tell where it was coming from, but it sounded like it was coming from my ceiling.

I decided to ask some of my colleagues if they heard it, too. I headed to the first open office down the hall, but as I did, I realized the sound was getting louder the closer I got to the outer office door. So, instead of bothering my colleague, I decided to leave our office complex and step into the hall.

The minute I opened the door to the hall, I recognized the sound. Someone was playing bagpipes. I do like bagpipes, though I must admit I only enjoy listening to them in short intervals — about a half hour is my limit. I stood in the hall and listened for a while, then went back to work.

From then on, at least one day each week, I would hear the bagpipes and go to the hall to listen. I never heard other loud sounds in the building, so I reasoned it must be that bagpipes have a resonance that carries into the open space above the false ceiling.

After listening for a few weeks, I decided to meet whoever was playing them. So, the next time I heard

them, I followed the sound until I got to an office on the opposite side of the building from mine. I was further amazed at how far the sound carried.

I hated to interrupt, but I just had to meet him, so I knocked. When he answered, I recognized a new professor at our college.

"Am I bothering you?" he asked.

I shook my head. "No. I just wanted to come to meet the talented bagpipe player."

He laughed. "I'm sure some people wouldn't put the word 'talented' in the same sentence as bagpipes."

I told him about going into the hall from our office complex to hear him better. He told me he practiced in his office at the college because practicing at home was too much for his family and neighbors. We had a pleasant visit, and then I returned to my office so he could continue.

One day, when I went into the hall to listen, the college dean approached the math department. He looked at me quizzically, seemingly wondering why I was standing there.

"I'm listening to the bagpipes," I told him.

He laughed. "Is that what it is? I was about to head over to the Biology Department and remind them that they are supposed to euthanize the cats before dissecting them."

I laughed. Some people don't really appreciate bagpipes.

One day I ran into the bagpipe

player's wife at a community concert practice. I told her that the orchestra needed a number that included bagpipes.

She laughed. "My husband actually tried to do something like that once. He got the idea that his bagpipes would sound good with piano accompaniment, along with the mellow sound of a tuba. But it didn't work."

"Why not?" I asked.

"Bagpipes can't be tuned. When he played, the tuba player could kind of tune to him, but the piano couldn't. And if the tuba player tried to tune to the bagpipes, he was very disconnected from the piano. It was just too much chaos."

"But I thought bagpipes were all about dissonance and a controlled cacophony of sound," I said.

"That is probably a good way to put it," she replied. "But adding other instruments takes it a little too far."

I smiled. It is true that I have never heard any other instrument play with bagpipes besides other bagpipes. But I still like them, at least for short intervals.

*Views expressed do not necessarily represent those of The SUN.*

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## New Thought Center to meet Sunday

By **Shayla McClure**  
New Thought Center for Inspirational Living

The Sunday service on May 26 at 6 p.m. will be the Flower Moon Drumming Circle at the Malone home on Jack's Pasture.

Bring drums, rattles and a lawn chair. A love donation will be accepted. Call or text for directions, (970) 510-0309.

### Upcoming events

May 23, 6 p.m.: Illuminations with Maggie Red Eagle, animal communicator and earth gridworker. A love donation will be accepted.

May 30, 6 p.m.: Illuminations with

White Eagle on "Lymphatics - the Master System for Health and Longevity, and The 5 Simple Things to Change in Your Diet."

### 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.

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**Early Deadlines**  
for the issue of May 30

Display Advertising: Noon, Friday, May 24  
Legal Advertising, Articles and Letters:  
Noon, Thursday, May 23  
Classified Advertising: Tuesday, May 28, 10 a.m.  
Too Late to Classify: Tuesday, May 28, 3 p.m.

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The Pagosa Springs SUN will be closed  
Monday, May 27, in observance of Memorial Day

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Office Hours: Monday — Friday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Classified Deadline: Tuesday 10 a.m.

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**FREE. CONFIDENTIAL. HELP.** 24-hour domestic violence and sexual assault helpline. (970) 264-9075.

**PLEASE RETURN MY PURSE** and contents taken from my car 5-13-24 at The Aspen Village Plaza. May the Karma lords be kind to you, Zhena.

**ROOMMATE WANTED.** (970)759-2868. \$900/ month plus half utilities. On golf course.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**ILLUMINATIONS** Thursdays 6p.m. May 23rd, Maggie Red Eagle. Animal communicator and Earth grid worker. Love Donation. May 30th, Shayla White Eagle. Lymphatics, the master system for health and longevity. At The New Thought Center. (970)510-0309.

**OLD-FASHIONED TENT REVIVAL** June 2-5 at 7:00p.m. Pagosa Baptist Church, 10533 W. Hwy 160, Pagosa Springs.

**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

**#1 SOUGHT AFTER ROOFERS.** In Pagosa for 25+ years. Repairs, free estimates, we do it all. Look no further. \$150 off when you mention this ad. Call Sky (970)880-2598.

**ASPEN SPRINGS HANDYMAN** now available. Pagosa Springs area. Specialties: Brush mitigation, caulking, greenhouses, minor home repairs, raised beds, vent flanges. Book one of these services today! Hourly rates upon request. Brett (970)570-9403.

**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.

**BIRD'S EYE VIEW DRONE SERVICES** Your eye in the sky. Call Casey Mudroch at (970)799-7524. Offering a unique perspective! Trying to stay up to date on an in-progress build, make your new real estate listing pop or commemorate an event or milestone? Our certified drone pilots deliver high resolution eye catching images and videos. Have an idea in mind that drones would be perfect for? Contact us for a free estimate today.

## SERVICES

### Excavation Dirt Work

Asphalt Driveways • Foundations • Concrete  
Ponds • Septic Systems  
Retaining Walls • Landscaping



Skid Steer  
Mini Excavator  
*Free Estimates*

Call Josh  
at 970-903-5892

Serving Pagosa Springs,  
Arboles & Chromo

## SERVICES



### El Paso Concrete Works

*servicing all of southern Colorado*

Patios • Driveways • Flat Work • Steps  
Retaining Walls • Decorative Concrete

Call 970-749-6284  
*more than 20 years experience  
insurance & references available*

No job too big or too small

### Certified Flooring Installer

Master Carpenter  
Remodels to  
New Builds

25 years in Pagosa Springs  
References available

Call or Text: 970-946-9349





## JD's Cool Water Heating

### Sales, Service & Repair Boilers & Tank-less Water Heaters

27 years in Pagosa Springs • (970) 946-3989  
Colorado License PC0001348, Insured

### Precision Autobody & Collision

**Pagosa's premier collision repair facility**

*We work with all major insurance companies*

*Our professional staff will take care of your vehicle repair needs!*



*Deer & Elk strikes,  
Fender Benders, Dents,  
Dings, Hail Damage,  
Expert Color Matching &  
Windshields.  
We do it all!*

**Precision Autobody & Collision (970) 731-3111**  
**667 Cloman Blvd. Pagosa Springs CO 81147**

## SEPTIC SYSTEMS

Residential & Commercial • New Systems & Repairs by TNJ's

Insured • Serving Pagosa Springs area for 17 years  
Archuleta County Health Licensed System Contractor  
NAWT Certified Inspector  
License number INS2021-0084

Call Tony at 505-210-0045 or Nancy at 575-209-0376

**CALL BRUCE**  
*for all your roofing needs*

### Rescrew Leak Repair Shingles

*Specializing in All Metal Roofing*

**Call Bruce at 970-946-4906**  
40 Years Experience • Insured

## FIREWOOD Snow Removal

# FIRE & ICE

Call Dan • (970) 582-0006

## The Water Runner



Certified Bulk Potable Water Delivery  
Cistern Deep Cleaning

*You call, we haul!* (970) 731-5022  
*Since 1999* Chadd Carnley, owner

### Tree Removal & Trimming Fire Mitigation, Lot Clearing

Licensed & Insured

Call San Juan Arborists LLC  
(719) 849-9515  
(706) 410-4997  
free quotes



## Remodeling & Maintenance

High Meadows Properties, LLC  
Call today (970) 403-2263

## Deck Specialist

Decking floor replaced  
Total deck rebuilds  
Handrails  
Stairs  
*35 years experience references*



**Call Mike today 970-507-0379**

## PAGOSA SECURE STORAGE

80 Bastille Dr. • 970-731-8599  
Storage units & parking spots  
*Special rates available*  
pagosaspringsrealty.com



### Pagosa SPARKLES cleaning company, llc.

Detail Oriented, Trustworthy & Reliable Cleaners  
For All Your Housekeeping & Window Cleaning Needs  
Find us on Google & Facebook

**Text/call Kim (970) 946-6446**



264-2100

# Classifieds

264-2100

Office Hours: Monday — Friday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Classified Deadline: Tuesday 10 a.m.

**SERVICES**



**Pagosa Construction Services**  
Remodels including Kitchen & Bath Siding • Decking • Drywall • Painting  
No Job Too Small  
Call (970) 749-4252  
Licensed & Insured • 20+ Years Experience

**TURN A JOB TO DO INTO A JOB WELL DONE**

**REALTOR RECOMMENDED**



**PAUL'S PAINTING**  
Interior/exterior Deck & fence staining  
33 years experience Insured • References  
(970) 422-7916

Same day callback!

**COMPETITIVE PRICES • FREE ESTIMATES**

Exterior & Interior Painting  
Exterior Staining  
Drywall Texture  
Drywall Repair  
Roof Repairs  
Fire Mitigation  
Gutter Cleaning

**STAINING & PAINTING LLC**  
Exterior Spring House Power Washing

Patrick 970-946-9571  
Dominic 432-847-6451

**Master Craftsman Handyman Services**  
Remodeling Specialist  
Kitchens • Baths  
Decks • Basements  
Interior Trim • Painting  
Exterior Siding Installation  
Concrete Work • and more  
Large & Small Repair Work

**STEVE**  
(970) 946-3356

**New Construction Remodeling • Houses**  
Garages • Barns • Decks  
Licensed, insured & references  
Plans drawn & submitted

Call Rick (970) 946-1737

**SERVICES**

**SERVICES**

*Feel the warmth*



Wood & Gas Burning Fireplaces & Stoves  
Vermont Casting Majestic Hearth Isokern • FMI Enviro Pellet Stoves  
Custom installation & finish work

Chase caps  
Snow splitters

**Pagosa Peak Custom Fireplaces**  
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office and showroom: (970) 264-2006  
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**Top of the World ROOFING**  
*We do it all — look no further!*  
Residential Commercial  
Repairs  
Free Estimates  
Insured  
25+ years in Pagosa

**\$150 off when you mention this ad**

Call Sky (970) 880-2598

**Landscaping & Tractor Work**

- Landscaping New & Old
- Planting Trees, Shrubs, etc.
- Drainage Problems Solved
- Driveways Reworked
- Construction, Decks, Patios & Sheds

Small & Large Jobs Welcome  
**Westward Inc.**  
Call (970) 264-0913

**SERVICES**



**NEED WATER?**  
Cistern cleaning, too!  
Dependable • Fast  
Efficient • Affordable  
Best customer service in town  
**Perez Water Hauling**  
(970) 264-3000  
7 days a week • Credit cards accepted  
Serving Pagosa Springs, Chromo, Arboles, Aspen Springs, Trujillo

**PLUMBING**  
Semi-retired plumber  
30+ years experience  
15+ years in Pagosa  
Reasonable rates • Local references  
Michael • 480-685-6191  
I return all calls!

**REMODELING NEW ADDITIONS COMMERCIAL**



(970) 731-9700

**CLEANING WITH ATTENTION TO DETAILS.** Residential and commercial. Please call Julie (970)946-8229.

**CUSTOM PICTURE FRAMING.** Reasonable prices. Linda Lerno, (970)731-5173.

**ELK PARK CONSTRUCTION.** Garages, Decks, Additions. 45 years experience. Call Steve (970)903-7567.

**EXTERIOR AND INTERIOR HOUSE** painting and staining. Kitchens, bathrooms, decks, granite countertops and more. Call Josh Soniat (970)903-5892.


**HANDYMAN SERVICE.** Noah's Ark Enterprises. (970)901-5298.

**HOME SERVICES—REPAIR/INSTALL.** Specializing in Rentals and VRBOs Anything in or around your property. **INTEGRATED, LLC** (970)731-3558.

**KRITTER GITTERS, SKUNK AND BAT** Busters. We specialize in capturing and removing unwanted rodents and varmints. We don't trap pigs. 50 years experience, lifetime resident. Dan Snow (719)849-8873.

**LET US GIVE YOU A HELPING HAND** with all your home improvement projects, both interior and exterior. Also, offering window screen replacement. We are Handy Helpers and we are here to help! (970)403-9159.

**SERVICES**



**Fine & Fast Painting**  
Handyman too!  
Experienced • Equipped • Insured  
Over 20 years experience  
(857) 247-0871  
mmmsted@gmail.com  
Happily making Pagosa Springs my home!

**CUSTOM HOMES**



(970) 731-9700

**Cole Plumbing**  
24/7 Service  
EMERGENCIES  
SAME DAY  
in most cases  
Adam 575-574-7284  
Located in Pagosa Springs

**LIGHTNING RIDGE LANDSCAPING.** Maintenance, installs, tree planting, spring and fall cleanup, small jobs welcome. (970)844-6609.

**LOCAL MOVING SERVICES.** Reasonable and reliable. (970)946-2061.

**MINT ROOFING-ROOF SNOW REMOVAL & ICE DAM MITIGATION** Contact Mint Roofing at (970)426-5255.

**OVERHAUL AUTO DETAIL.** Need TLC for your 4-wheel friend? Look no further, we'll come to you. Call or text Ben Taylor at (970)507-1353.

**PAGOSA SPARKLES, LLC.** Group of high standard cleaners, reliable, trustworthy and affordable. Window cleaning also available. Text/ call KIM. (970)946-6446.

**PAGOSA SPRING STORAGE** has all size units available. 24 hour access, gated, with security cameras. Call for specials. (970)731-0007 www.pagosaspringsstorage.com.

**PROPERTY MAINTENANCE/ HOME CARE** checks, providing snow removal, landscaping, handyman services. Call Eric (970)946-2061.

**RICHARD DECLARK ELECTRICAL** is available for all your electrical services from remodels to new construction. I have been in Pagosa for 15 years, no job too small or too large. (970)903-1456.

**Email us at classads@pagosasun.com to submit your classified. PagosaSUN.com**



264-2100

# Classifieds

264-2100

Office Hours: Monday — Friday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Classified Deadline: Tuesday 10 a.m.

## SERVICES

**RIVERSTONE CARPET CLEANING.** 25 cents/sq. ft. and \$3 per stair. No hidden charges. Owner/operator 20 years experience. Professional, trustworthy and punctual. 100% eco-friendly. Call Mike at (970)403-9222. Credit cards accepted with no fee. Hallways and closets always free.

**ROOF REPAIRS, LEAKS, RESCREWS, INSPECTIONS.** 35+ years experience. Call Jeff at Blair Roofing. (970)903-6556.

**ROOF RESCREWING, CHIMNEY CLEANING,** roof repairs, dryer vent cleaning, valley repairs. Arlie's Chimney Sweep. (970)731-2543.

**SENIOR COMPANION/CARE-ASSIST** Services in Pagosa Springs. Services include a wide range of tasks. Call for questions and pricing at (970)325-3585.

**SKID STEER EXCAVATOR, DUMP** trailer for hire. Driveways, foundations, gravel, septic systems, etc. Call Josh Soniat (970)903-5892.

**TANKLESS/ON DEMAND WATER HEATERS.** Largest inventory in the area, including replacement parts. Same day Installation and service in most cases. We are the only company that extends the parts & labor warranty from 1 year to 5 years. VAIL HOME SERVICES, (760)835-1041.

**TIDY TOUCH CLEANING SERVICES LLC.** Where spotless cleaning comes to your door. (801)201-0496.

**TREE REMOVAL.** Licensed and insured up to \$2 million. Free estimates. No obligations. Call OR text (970)903-8068.

**VIP MAINTENANCE SERVICE.** Painting, deck work, electrical work, plumbing, siding, window wash. (239)413-4126 or adwatup@gmail.com.

**WE HAUL. WE WILL** haul off anything but your marijuana or your mother-in-law. No job too big or too small. We also move buildings. We don't haul pigs. Dan Snow (719)849-8873.

**WINDOW CLEANING —RESIDENTIAL** Bonded and insured. 25 yrs. experience **REFLECTIONS** Window Cleaning. (480)892-1999 -FREE estimates.

## HEALTH

**HOT SPRINGS HEALERS.** Sessions at hot springs! Also, cranial sacral, bodywork, massage. Serving Pagosa 27 years, Dr. Dean and Amanda, (970)844-0645, (970)903-5309.

## HELP WANTED

**ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT II AND III** Red Willow Production Co. Responsible for providing accounts payable and accounting support to the Red Willow Production Accounting Department. AA/ AS in Accounting, Finance or Business with 3- 7 years experience OR a high school diploma or equivalent with 5- 9 years experience. Preference is given to qualified Southern Ute Tribal members and other Native Americans. Closing date: 5:00 p.m. on 5/31/2024. To apply, visit: <http://www.sugf.com/Careers/>.

## HELP WANTED

### Dulce Independent School District

is now hiring



**Educational Assistants (Regular Ed)**  
**Global Support Educational Assistants (SPED)**  
 Starting Salary \$18.45 per hour/\$19.82 GS  
 AA Degree \$21.26/\$22.34 GS  
 BA Degree \$21.62/\$23.42 GS

**Elementary Kindergarten, 1st Grade, and 2nd Grade**  
**Middle School Principal • High School English**  
**Instructional Coach • Social Worker**

Applications can be submitted online at  
<https://dulce.tedk12.com/hire/index.aspx>

For more information, please contact the  
 Human Resource Department at 575.759.2950/2907

**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT** /Front Desk person needed for diverse office. Must be MS Office proficient with strong business writing and communication skills, able to multi-task, organized and detail-oriented. Tech savvy a plus. Please send your resume to [frontdesk@pagosalandcompany.com](mailto:frontdesk@pagosalandcompany.com).

**ALLEY HOUSE GRILLE.** We are looking for Line Cooks and Pizza Salad Cooks. Nights, \$18 per hour. See Chef Anthony or Chef Garrett.

**ASSISTANT ACCOUNTING MANAGER** Southern Ute Growth Fund, Ignacio, CO. Ensures AP/AT and fixed asset entries, general ledger adjustments and account reconciliations are made on an accurate and timely basis. Prepares monthly financial reporting packages, analysis and presentation. Supervising accounting staff as necessary. BA/ BS in Accounting, Finance, or related with 5 yrs experience. Preference is given to qualified Native Americans. Closing date: 5:00p.m. on June 2nd, 2024. For job details and to apply, visit: [www.sugf.com](http://www.sugf.com)

**BEST JOBS IN PAGOSA!** Pagosa Springs Golf Club is accepting applications for restaurant/bar staff \$11.40- \$14.42/ hour +tips and kitchen staff for Square Top Bar-B-Que \$17- 20/ hour. Seeking honest, outgoing, reliable and responsible applicants with excellent customer service skills for our team. Full or Part time positions available. Training available for all positions. Apply in person at 1 Pines Club Place.

**CARPENTER NEEDED.** Background with finish carpentry, light framing, drywall and painting, and other assorted duties. Please email your resume to [frontdesk@pagosalandcompany.com](mailto:frontdesk@pagosalandcompany.com). Phone (970)264-5000.

**CITY HALL CAFE** hiring servers and line cooks. Apply within. 2151 Eagle Drive.

## HELP WANTED

**DEEP TISSUE LASER TECHNICIAN** Ideal candidates will have a strong understanding of anatomy and a passion for helping people heal and alleviate pain such as massage therapists, physical therapy technicians, personal trainers, etc. Call for more information or to set up an interview: (970)398-5456. Starting Pay: \$18/ hour. Full-Time and Part-time available.

**ELITE RECYCLING & DISPOSAL** Seeking a full or part-time waste operations driver in Pagosa Springs. CDL Class A or B license preferred. Will consider a non-CDL applicant. For CDL drivers a minimum of 1 years CDL experience is required and a clean driving record. Pay range for CDL drivers is \$21- \$26 hourly. Non-CDL applicants must be 21 years old with a clean driving record. Prior medium duty truck experience a plus. Elite offers competitive pay and benefits. Please email qualifications and experience to [ctanner@elite-recycling.com](mailto:ctanner@elite-recycling.com).

**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](http://www.pshotsprings.com) or stop by to pick one up. Applications can be emailed to: [sales@pshotsprings.com](mailto:sales@pshotsprings.com), Attention Front Desk Position. We look forward to hearing from you!

**GENERAL LABORER NEEDED** F/T or P/T Seasonal. Assorted Duties. Please send resume or work history to [frontdesk@pagosalandcompany.com](mailto:frontdesk@pagosalandcompany.com). Phone (970)264-5000.

## HELP WANTED

### The Pagosa Lakes Property Owner's Association

is looking to hire

**1-2 part time or 1 full time Community Liaison/Inspector to work in the Department of Community Standards.**

The PLPOA is a private non-profit corporation serving over 6640 properties and is the second largest association in Colorado. The position is to assist property owners and association personnel in inspecting and recording open building permits as well as research all compliance complaints. This is done with regular inspections, photo documentation, and data entry and regular communications with property owners. Ideal candidates will have a positive, outgoing personality and previous code enforcement and/or general construction or building inspection knowledge. The position(s) start at \$17 an hour. Please drop off or email your resume to: [plpoadcs@plpoa.com](mailto:plpoadcs@plpoa.com).



230 Port Avenue

**HOMETOWN INSURANCE** is looking to fill a full-time receptionist/administrative assistant position. Prior experience is required. Must be detail oriented, able to multi-task and proficient in Google Docs, Sheets, Excel, Word and Adobe. Phone and typing skills are a must. Our ideal candidate will have a friendly and warm personality while being professional, responsible and motivated. A customer-oriented approach is essential. Send resumes with references to [info@hippsllc.com](mailto:info@hippsllc.com).

**IMMEDIATE OPENING** for CDL Driver / Equipment Operator. Experience is forestry equipment helpful. Must pass drug test. Local driving only. Please send your resume to [frontdesk@pagosalandcompany.com](mailto:frontdesk@pagosalandcompany.com).

**IMMEDIATE OPENINGS** for kitchen staff, servers and bartenders for the summer season. Experience preferred but will train. Please apply in person at The Buck Stops Here Market and Eatery, 19 Navajo Trail Dr.

**IN BUSINESS FOR 30 YEARS.** Colorado Dream Homes is looking for full-time (40-hour week) year-round work. Construction laborers \$20- \$25 an hour, based on experience. Finish Carpenters \$25- \$30 an hour, based on experience. Interior/ exterior painters \$25- \$30 an hour, based on experience. Payroll position benefits- paid time off, bonuses. Please call (970)731-3071 or email [coloradodreamhomesinc@gmail.com](mailto:coloradodreamhomesinc@gmail.com) to submit a resume or questions.

**LANDSCAPE LABORERS WANTED.** Must have own transportation. Call for an application. Good pay for good help. (970)946-2277.

**LOOKING FOR A CHANGE** to get out of the extremely hot weather and work indoors while still being in construction? Mountain Men Disaster Mitigation is hiring! Full time guaranteed 40 hours a week and year round work with competitive wages. We are looking for smart individuals with good critical thinking skills. Call or text Lars at (970)946-0238 or Bruce (970)749-9028. MountainMenDm.com

**LOOKING FOR CONSTRUCTION LABORER/ Carpenter** to help in a growing business. Please call (970)844-4140.

**MALT SHOPPE NOW HIRING.** Apply in person between 9a.m. and 2p.m.

## HELP WANTED

### CONTRACTOR SALES

Ponderosa Lumber is seeking a customer service oriented individual to assist contractors with purchasing building materials. Knowledge of building materials is necessary.

Responsibilities include:

- Providing excellent customer service
- Completing required paperwork
- Providing product information
- Data Entry

Please apply in person at

**Ponderosa Lumber**

2435 Eagle Drive or call (970) 731-4111

**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](mailto:racheldevloo@gmail.com).

**MOUNTAIN SPIRITS IS SEEKING** customer service associates. Must be available nights and weekends. We offer \$16 p/h to start, accrued vacation/personal time, performance-based bonuses twice a year, and employee discounts. Please apply in person.

**NORTH PAGOSA MARATHON** is hiring a full-time cashier nights and weekends. Competitive wages. Please apply in person at 30 N. Pagosa Blvd.

**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 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](mailto:employment@jandjinc.net).

**PHYSICAL THERAPY TECH** Rocky Mountain Physical Therapy has an opening for a full time Physical Therapy Tech. We are looking for a dependable, energetic multitasker who will enjoy helping people recover from surgeries, injuries, accidents and other health issues to join our team. No prior experience necessary. We offer competitive pay, \$16- 18 per hour, and benefits including paid holidays, paid sick leave, 401k plan, and a profit-sharing program. Please submit resume to [RMPT 117 Navajo Trail Dr., Suite T or email to rockymountainpt@yahoo.com](mailto:RMPT117NavajoTrailDr., Suite T or email to rockymountainpt@yahoo.com).



264-2100

# Classifieds

264-2100

Office Hours: Monday — Friday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Classified Deadline: Tuesday 10 a.m.

## HELP WANTED



### We are hiring for our busy summer season!

Must be able to work  
Sundays 11am-4pm.

Stop by Foot Prints to  
drop off your resume or  
pick up an application.

*We can't wait to meet you!*

458 Pagosa Street  
(970) 264-3668  
FootPrintsPagosa.com

**PINE VALLEY RENTAL** is seeking a yard/shop service technician to maintenance heavy machinery, excavators, skid steers, plus small engines and much more. Hydraulics, electrical and basic mechanical knowledge is required. Helping assist customers loading/ unloading goods, strong communication skills required. Apply through our website pinevalleyrental.com, email a resume to ppine000@centurytel.net or apply in person 305 Bastille Drive. Come join our crew!

**PONDEROSA LUMBER IS SEEKING** a person for a yard associate/ driver position. Lumber experience and/or CDL license is a plus, but not necessary. Duties may include delivering loads to job sites, as well as helping customers in the yard, loading/ unloading trucks and providing inventory support. We offer competitive wages based on experience and a benefit package that includes Holiday Pay, Paid Time Off, 401(k) and Medical/ Dental insurance for full-time employees. Please apply in person at 2435 Eagle Drive in Pagosa Springs.

**ROOF LABORER NEEDED** with some construction experience. Will train. \$20-\$25/ hour to start. (970)749-0830.

**SEEKING PART-TIME HELP.** For landscaping, experience helpful. Must have valid drivers license and transportation. Contact Eric. (970)946-2061.

**SEEKING RELIABLE WORKERS** for custom home building and remodels. Rising pay for experience. Apply online at cuttingedgepagosa.com or in person. (970)442-1036.

**THE PIEDRA PARK METROPOLITAN IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT (PPMID)** located in Arboles, CO is requesting Water Plant Operator qualifications (RFQ's) from interested individuals and/or contractors. The position requires a C Treatment license and Type 1 Distribution. The position requires ensuring the Water Plant is compliant with all aspects of Colorado State regulations, including maintenance support, troubleshooting, and preventative maintenance of all water plant and distribution systems. Must be able to be on-call and report to the plant within 45 minutes for emergencies. Pay is dependent on qualifications and experience. Please submit information to the P.O. Box listed above. For any questions please contact Ray Torres via cell phone at (970)749.3190.

## BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

**BUSINESS FOR SALE.** SOS Draining Opening, established drain cleaning business including equipment, 4x4 F-550 box truck with lift gate, 2008 Chevy box van with lift gate. Good reputation, training. Asking \$250K. Serious inquiries only. Call Steve (970)903-9104.

**PRIME LOCATION NEAR NAVAJO** State Park. 1.6 Acres, Gas station, liquor store, convenience store, restaurant, motel, post office. \$1.65 million. AP-1. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

## FOR SALE

**2006 WHITE TAHOE** 5.3L, 4WD, Pioneer sound system, running boards, 226k miles, \$4,926. Dog run. 10x 10x 6. Chain link. \$120. (970)507-0132.

**AVON RAFT** with electric motor and battery, \$485. Pagosa Springs area. (505)804-2814.

**BLINDS.** Bali honeycomb and slatted assortment. \$300. Details at (970)903-1043.

**DEAL OF THE SUMMER!** 2020 LANCE bumper pull TRAILER, model 2375. Original owner, used twice, new. ~~\$40,000~~ \$35,000. Call or Text (970)749-4640.

**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.

**NEW 20' CONTAINERS FOR SALE** or rent. We deliver to homes or businesses. Pagosa Springs Storage (970)731-0007.

**OUTDOOR VEHICLE STORAGE SPACES** available. 16', 20', 25', plus indoor 12'x20'. Winter specials starting at \$60. Pagosa Springs Storage. Gated with security cameras. (970)749-1500.

**SELL OR TRADE YOUR GUNS.** We buy for cash or trade it. No hassle. Licensed, bonded, insured. San Juan Trading Post, 635 San Juan St. (970)731-PAWN (7296).

**TRAVEL TRAILER.** 2020 Freedom Express 192 RBS. \$19,500. (970)389-2595.

**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.

**USED HORSE** and mule saddles, pack saddle, and various tack, all in good condition. (970)264-1449.

**WRIGHT NATURAL BAKERY.** Located at East Side Market. Open 9a.m. to 3p.m. Friday through Sunday. Best of pasture-raised eggs. Baked items have reduced sugar, same sweetness. Organic, gluten-free products. Unique, gluten-free muffins and cookies. (970)903-1998 or (970)883-2600. wrightnaturalbakery@gmail.com.

## LIVESTOCK

**HORSE BOARDING AVAILABLE** -up to 2 horses. 10 acre fenced pasture. \$150 per horse, per month. (970)883-2600. wrightnaturalbakery@gmail.com.

**POWDER RIVER** top of the line heavy duty cattle panels. Selling in lots of 6 panels. Total of 18 panels that are 16 foot, \$240/ panel. 6 panels that are 12 foot, \$210/ panel. Several sizes of gates also available. Disassembling of corrals required with trailer/ pick-up accessibility. Astraddle A Saddle (970)946-7999.

## PETS

**ADOPT FROM THE** Humane Society. Stop by or call (970)731-4771. You'll be amazed at what we have to offer. www.humanesociety.biz.

**DOGGY DAY CARE 81147.COM.** Open 365 days of the year! Full day and half day doggy day care and overnight boarding. Conveniently located just 1 mile from downtown Pagosa. Call (970)264-9111.

**FOR POOCH SAKES GROOMING.** Appointments available with Kelly (303)819-2015. Mobile appointments with Barb (970)903-1290.

**LOVING DOG CARE BY LESLIE N.** Text Pet Info to (469)667-4480. Boarding, day care, drop ins, house sitting. References and reviews available. Look for info on: leslieslittles.com.

## RECREATIONAL VEHICLES



2017 Gulf Stream Vintage 19' RBS Best offer over 11K received by 05/31/2024. Cute. Practical. Light weight. Well designed for full-time living or as office space. Comes with all accessories and bedding, including an Equal-i-zer weight distribution/sway control hitch. Text or call (479)244-6564.

## WANTED

**CLEAN FILL WANTED.** Now or later. Thank you. (970)731-5098.

## AUTOS

**1998 2.8 LITER BMW Z3 ROADSTER** black, power roof, with 87,500 miles for \$12,000. This roadster is in excellent condition with practically new tires (installed last year) and fairly new back window, CD changer and cassette tape works great. Air conditioner blows cold. I bought it in 2019 and it has been property maintained. Patrick (405)314-0686.

**2001 BUICK LESABRE** 122k miles. FWD. Sold as is. Mechanically sound. Body in great condition. \$2,800 OBO. (310)245-0555.

## AUTOS

**2017 KIA SORENTO EX** Premium Package SUV 4D in very good condition. 95,000 miles, 25 MPG Highway, AWD with Locking Differential, 2.0L Turbo, 18" Alloy Wheels, 1st and 2nd Row Leather Seats, Heated front Front Seats, UVO 7" Touchscreen with Android Auto and Apple CarPlay, SiriusXM Radio, Bluetooth, Push Button Start with Smart Key, Remote Start, 2nd Row Window Shades, Fog Lamps, Heated Outside Mirrors with Turn Signal Indicators, Privacy Glass, Roof Rails, Power Folding Side Mirrors, Blind Spot Detection, Rear Cross Traffic Alert, Smart "Hands Free" Power Liftgate, Cargo Cover and Tray, 2 Remote Keys. \$16,900. Contact Angelene at (970)264-4321.

**GUARANTEED CREDIT APPROVAL!** 4X4 Auto Sales, 21698 Hwy. 160 West, Durango. (970)385-7940.

## YARD SALES

**976 HERSCH AVENUE** 5/25 8a.m. -2p.m. at the Barn. Camping/ Rec Gear, Tools, Kitchenware, Furniture, Kayaks, Stock Tank, Boat, Clothes etc.

**BE SURE TO CHECK** for more yard sales in the Too Late To Classify section.

**GARAGE SALE** Tools, table saw, electronics, office supplies, printer, clothing, furniture, doggy stairs, 10-speed bike, lawn equipment, self-help/ children's books, snow blower, skis and boots, and much more. 169 Ranger Park Drive. Saturday and Sunday 9-3.

**MULTI-FAMILY YARD SALE.** May 24 and 25, 8:30a.m. -2p.m. 518 S. 7th Street by Seeds of Learning. Clothes, furniture, tools, tires, school supplies and more. Something for everyone.

**SATURDAY MAY 25TH** 10a.m. -3p.m. at Astraddle A Saddle (8 miles west of town). Selling saddles, miscellaneous tack, corral panels, etc. Catering supplies. 48 years of accumulation, so little of everything.

**YARD SALE** Lots of stuff! South 7th Street, go down 1 block, turn left on Durango Street. Friday and Saturday, May 25 and 26, 8a.m. to 3p.m.

**YARD SALE.** Friday 5/24 and Saturday 5/25, 8a.m. Weber gas grill, Husqvarna chainsaw, furniture, tools, new and used clothes, golf equipment and more. 16 Mosswood.

**YOUTH FUNDRAISER YARD SALE.** Pagosa Baptist Church. Memorial Day, 5/27 9a.m. -3p.m. 10533 W. Hwy 160.

## COMMERCIAL FOR RENT

**2000 SQ. FT. SHOP/ WAREHOUSE** 14x 14 overhead door. Office, restrooms, and natural gas. Good parking. \$1700 per month. Call Doug (970)946-3762 or (970)731-4792.

**4 OFFICE SPACES.** Freshly remodeled, \$400-\$525. Well suited for spa services, 140-270 sq. ft. Beautiful spacious restrooms. (970)946-3232.

## COMMERCIAL FOR RENT

**MIXED USE OFFICE/ STORAGE** 1500 sq. ft. with Two Roll Up Doors. 412 Bastille Drive Unit #1B -Benchmark Storage. Space is 25x60, includes roll up doors on the front and back. Enclosed office and additional cubby office with 1 bathroom. Available 6/1. Call us today at (970)731-4344 to schedule a tour or for more details. www.sunethaproperties.com.

**MULTIPLE STORAGE UNITS AVAILABLE** at 412 Bastille Drive -Benchmark Storage. Four 10x10s at \$90/ month and one 10x15 at \$100/ month. Unit numbers 7, 11, 12, 14, and 21 are currently available. Please call (970)731-4344 for more details. www.sunethaproperties.com.

**OVER 750 SQ.FT. COMMERCIAL** office space. \$850 /monthly. Available April 1. Prefer long term. Call (970)946-7355 for more information.

**PAGOSA VALLEY PROPERTIES:** Offering "Aspen Plaza ProSuites" These are Professional Office Suites available for Long Term or Short Term rental from 100 SF to 205 SF, priced from \$264-\$669/ month. We also offer Hourly, Daily, or other Membership options for even more flexibility. Also, Large Conference/ Event Room Available. Call (970)889-2022 for more information.

**PAGOSA VALLEY PROPERTIES:** Offering Lewis St. Office Suites available from 238 SF to 755 SF, and priced from \$400 - \$700/ mo. Excellent for a studio or professional office space. Call (970)889-2022 for more information.

**PRIME RETAIL SPACE AVAILABLE.** 970 sq. ft., \$1 per sq. ft., plus utilities. Call (970)946-1981.

## VACATION RENTALS

**OWNERS, WE ARE BOOKED UP AND NEED MORE VACATION RENTAL PROPERTIES!** Call us today for lowest commission and highest customer service. All you have to do is wait for your rent check to come in. We do the rest! Rocky Mountain Realty & Rentals (970)507-1192.

## RESIDENTIAL RENTALS

**1 BEDROOM** plus garage, \$1550/ month plus deposit and utilities in core area. No smoking. No pets. Leave message (970)880.2296.

**3 BEDROOM** 2 bath with storage. Vista Sub-division, park, access to lake and rec center. \$2200. (719)850-8680.

**\$800 ROOM** includes utilities. Close to City Market/ Hospital. First and last months/ security deposit. Background check. No pets. (970)903-5309.

**AVAILABLE MAY 15.** 2 and 3 bedroom in 4-plex. \$1,469, 2 bedroom. 3 bedroom, \$1,569. Great location. 5 minute walk to Pagosa Lake. Washer/ dryer, dishwasher, ATC. Most utilities paid. No pets. Call John for details (720)960-4910.

**FOR RENT** 3 Bed 2 Bath Single Family Home in Trails Neighborhood. \$1750/ month. Email: tfsrentalspagosa@gmail.com



264-2100

# Classifieds

264-2100

Office Hours: Monday — Friday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Classified Deadline: Tuesday 10 a.m.

HOMES FOR SALE

HOMES FOR SALE

HOMES FOR SALE

HOMES FOR SALE

HOMES FOR SALE

*"We owned a condominium in the Pagosa Springs area which was a rental property. For many years the firm provided property management services for us and we always found them to be very professional and responsive. If you are in need of a competent, professional property management firm or realtor, we would strongly recommend them. ~ Michael Gamba*



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NATIONWIDE ADVERTISING  
ON CALL 24 HR 7 DAYS



RESIDENTIAL RENTALS

COMMERCIAL

HOMES FOR SALE

HOMES FOR SALE

LAND/ BUILDING SITES

**FULLY FURNISHED GARAGE APARTMENT**  
157 Laguna Place - \$2700/ Month + Deposit  
Fully furnished, lakefront, Garage apartment home located in Lake Hatcher. 3 bed, 2 bath, wood floors and tile throughout. Central heat and air, wood burning stove, granite countertops, and a private deck. Call us today for more details or to book an appointment! (970)731-4344. www.sunethaproperties.com.

**LONG TERM RENTALS AVAILABLE.** Call Team Pagosa (970)731-8599, 46 Eaton Drive, Suite #1, pagosaspringsrealty.com.

**NEW DOWNTOWN 1 BEDROOM** apartment. Near riverwalk. \$1100 including utilities. Call (970)398-9136.

**ONE AND TWO BEDROOM APARTMENTS** available. 303 S. 7th Street, downtown Pagosa. Rent \$1,300 to \$1,750. (720)470-2653.

**OVER THE GARAGE APARTMENT.** Furnished. 1 bedroom. Living, Dining and Kitchen. Bonus room. Large deck overlooks mountains, sunsets and lakes. Furnished outside deck. Includes WIFI, electric, gas, water, sewer, trash pickup, cable TV, washer and dryer. Walk to City Market and bus. No pets. No smoking. Free month with signing of annual lease. Last month rent plus \$500 deposit. \$1500 month. (970)398-0023.

**TIRED OF RENTING?** Habitat for Humanity of Archuleta County is seeking applicants now to partner to build their own home in 2025. Applications are open through the end of June 2024. Swing by our office or website to pick one up, or reach out to staff with questions. Home@HabitatArchuleta.org, (970)264-6960, www.habitatArchuleta.org.

**1.19 ACRES WITH VIEWS OF NAVAJO LAKE.** All utilities nearby. \$99,000. AP-5. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

**1.48 ACRE COMMERCIAL LAND.** Highway frontage. \$99,000. AP-6. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

**.28 ACRE COMMERCIAL LAND** County Road 982 frontage \$55,000. AP-7. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

**.35 ACRE COMMERCIAL LAND** County Road 982 frontage \$55,000. AP-8. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

**DOWNTOWN, MULTI-FAMILY** .52 acre -3 lots, views, close to river, all utilities available. \$500,000. AP-2. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

**FOR SALE DOWNTOWN CHAMA.** One acre with small building. Excellent highway frontage with many commercial possibilities. All utilities on site or at property line. Great for family vacations and Chama Days gatherings. Centrally located middle of town. Will sell whole or parcel out. Selling for \$5/ sq. ft. Call (505)300-6148 for details.

**MULTI USE 5,700 SQUARE FOOT** building in prime location on .60 of an acre. \$1,375,000. AP-3. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

**OWN YOUR OWN BAR AND GRILL** by Navajo Lake. The Lone Wolf Bar and Grill, on 1 Acre \$450,000. AP-4. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

**Christie Calderwood**  
SRS, ABR, ePRO  
Serving Sellers & Buyers  
970-946-6856  
christie@jimsmithrealty.com

**20 MINUTES** from Durango. 4 Bedroom, 3 Full baths with office on 5 Acres. Carport and shed with no HOA \$475,000. AP-12. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

**3 BEDROOM, 2 BATH, 1 ACRE** with great cell service, country views and 10 minutes from town. \$235,000. AP-9. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

**64 ACRES, 46 SHARES OF IRRIGATION.** 3 bedroom, 2 bath home. 3 garages and shed, 3-3 phase electric outlets. Brand new Generac Generator, Pastures with beautiful views, too many extras to name them all. \$995,000. AP-10. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

**NEED HELP FINDING A HOME?** Call Wen Saunders (970)903-0038. Condo: 2 Bedrooms, 2 Baths, Owner Finance \$300s. Mobile Home: 3 Bedrooms, 2 Baths \$200s. Home: 3 Bedrooms, 2 Baths, 1512 SF, on 3 lots \$530,000. Keller Williams Realty Southwest Associates.

**NEWLY REMODELED, LODGE HOME** Hobby farm on the Stollsteimer Creek. 3 bedrooms, 2 bath. Detached two car garage carport, fenced in yard, small barn, and large shed. Motivated Seller!! \$675,000. AP-11. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

**SEASONAL CABIN:** 1 Bedroom, 3.3 Acres, Mountain Views (\$90s). 1.3 Acres Parcel: includes Septic, Water Cistern, Electric, Driveway, Building Pad, Metal Storage Unit (\$100s), Tiny Home and RV (at additional price). Wen Saunders (970)903-0038. Keller Williams Realty Southwest Associates.

LAND/ BUILDING SITES

**1.19 ACRES WITH VIEWS OF NAVAJO LAKE.** All utilities nearby. \$99,000. AP-18. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

**1.2 ACRES, MOUNTAIN VIEWS,** electricity near, No HOA, close to town. \$35,000. AP-13. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

**1.48 ACRE COMMERCIAL LAND.** Highway frontage. \$99,000. AP-19. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

**1.62 FLAT BUILDABLE ACRES** with mountain Views, all utilities accessible. Located in the Ranch Community, within minutes of town. \$220,000. AP-21. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

**35.81 ACRES OF AGRICULTURAL LAND** at the end cul-de-sac with national forest access. Power and Water accessible. Also comes with a full set of house plans. \$300,000. AP-15. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

**5 BEAUTIFUL ACRES.** Centrally located, all utilities near. \$250,000. AP-14. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

**5.25 ACRES** Mountain views flat buildable. Located between Allison and Ignacio \$120,000. AP-20. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

**DOWNTOWN, MULTI-FAMILY** .52 acre -3 lots, views, close to river, all utilities available. \$500,000. AP-17. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

**MOUNTAIN VIEWS, MEADOWS.** Unique high elevation and complete privacy. 5.6 acres bordering national forest, (970)769-3588 blancoretreat@gmail.com.

**ONE ACRE LOT,** all ready for your new home with newly installed all utilities, four bedroom permitted septic system, power and insulated pump house. \$165,000. AP-16. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

**PAGOSA INVESTMENT LAND OPPORTUNITIES:** WITH City/Sewer Water: (Pacifico) 5+ Acres, NO HOA (\$100s), (Paradise) 1/4 Acre (\$40s), (Saddle) 1/4 Acre, backs greenbelt (\$40s), (Caddy) 1/4 Acre, golf course (\$80s), (Clint) 1/2 Acre, gated, guest house stays available (\$90s). NO HOA, Seasonal RV Welcomed: (Crooked) 3.94 Acres, 2 parcels (\$40s), (Gun Barrel) 1+ Acre, backs tribal land (\$40s). More Land Available, Call For List! Wen Saunders (970)903-0038. Keller Williams Realty Southwest Associates.

**TWO ADJACENT 5 ACRES LOTS.** Available Separately. Meadows 4. Details at www.BLANCA257.com. Scott (970)731-4421 or fscott409@outlook.com.

**EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY**  
All real estate advertised in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing act of 1968 which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, or national origin, or an intention, to make such preference, limitation or discrimination."  
This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis.



# PAGOSA SCENE . . .

## DAY OF SERVICE

Photos courtesy Rotary Club of Pagosa Springs

Scene ... Rotarians from the Rotary Club of Pagosa Springs work alongside other local volunteers on Saturday, May 18, as part of a worldwide effort to give back to their communities. In Pagosa Springs, the focus was picking up trash along U.S. 160 on Put Hill and working on garden improvements at Rotary Park, located next to the Geothermal Greenhouse Partnership domes. Service is at the core of Rotary's mission. This unprecedented day of giving back involved more than 800 Rotary clubs and 30,000 Rotarians across the United States and seven countries.

