

Three killed, others injured in recent vehicle incidents

By Randi Pierce Staff Writer

Two were killed in a crash outside of Pagosa Springs on Saturday, Feb. 15.

The crash was one of three fatal crashes investigated by the Colorado State Patrol (CSP) in the state that day, and one of several over the holiday weekend.

the CSP, troopers responded to a

Pagosa Country received some

long-awaited snowfall last week as a

winter storm moved through the area

in the early hours of Friday, Feb. 14,

Community Collaborative Rain, Hail

and Snow (CoCoRaHS), snow totals in Archuleta County ranged from 5.9

According to reports from the

and into Saturday, Feb. 15.

two-vehicle crash with four total occupants on U.S. 84, near milepost 18 (near Pagosa Springs) at 5:29 p.m. on Feb. 15.

It explains a 2021 Ford F250 was northbound on U.S. 84 when it moved into the southbound lane where a 2022 Chevrolet Trailblazer was traveling. The Trailblazer moved into the northbound lane and then the Ford F250 returned back into its original According to a press release from lane, colliding with the Trailblazer. See Incidents A8

Valentine's Day snowstorm results in power outage

By Clayton Chaney Staff Writer

inches to 11.9 inches.

Wolf Creek Ski Area reported 17 inches of snow over those two days, and, as of Wednesday, Feb. 19, reported a total of 140 inches of snow received this season.

Power outage

While the fresh snow was a sight for sore eyes, many folks in Archuleta County woke up Friday morning with See Outage A8

No decision made on town's Fourth of July celebration

By Derek Kutzer

Recreation Supervisor Amanda Ga-



SUN photo/Garrett Fevinger

Locals demonstrate along U.S. 160 Monday afternoon downtown. The President's Day protest, which coincided with others taking place around the country, took aim at several of the policy and staffing choices surrounding the Trump administration. The protest drew mixed responses from drivers passing by, with many honking horns in support and others expressing dislike through a variety of methods.

Water conservancy

Staff Write

On Feb. 18, the Pagosa Springs Town Council decided to wait until its next meeting to make a final decision on what kind of Fourth of July celebration it wants to put on this year.

At the meeting, Parks and Recreation Director Darren Lewis and domski brought three options for the council to consider:

• To have a parade following the same route as last year's parade, along Hot Springs Boulevard and ending at Yamaguchi Park.

• To have a celebratory party at Yamaguchi Park, instead of a pa-See Celebration A7

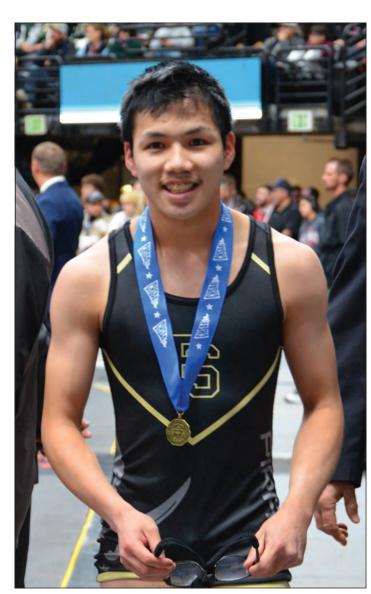


Photo courtesy Ashli Stretton

Samuel Kelly poses with his medal after winning his first-place match in the Unified division at last week's state wrestling tournament held in Denver. Kelly pinned his opponent in two minutes and 31 seconds.

Boarding adventures: Local snowboarder competes in multiple world qualifier events **By Clayton Chaney**

Local snowboarder Bradley Lamoreaux, 18, of Pagosa Springs, has been traveling overseas, to Canada and around the U.S. to

Staff Writer

compete in multiple snowboard Freeride World Tour (FWT) qualifying events, with the ultimate goal of earning a spot on the FWT Challenger Series this season. Lamoreaux's recent adven-

tures began with a trip to Austria in January, where he competed in the Yeti Freeride Junior World Championships at Kappl Ski Resort, where he earned a score of See Boarding A14

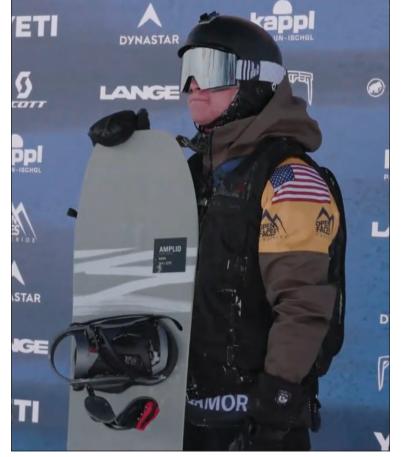


Photo courtesy Karmen Lamoreaux

Bradley Lamoreaux, 18, of Pagosa Springs, waits to receive his score after his run at the 2025 Yeti Freeride Junior World Championships competition in Kappl, Austria. Lamoreaux placed fifth out of 13 riders.

Federal layoffs hit **U.S. Forest Service**

By Randi Pierce Staff Writer

San Juan National Forest and Pagosa Ranger District employees were reportedly among the 3,400 Forest Service employees laid off late last week.

The layoffs were part of the federal workforce reduction being carried out by the Trump administration. According to a statement put out

by Colorado Gov. Jared Polis, at least 90 people in Colorado and 3,400 Forest Service employees were "part of much broader cuts to programs that protect health and safety with no replacement plans to deliver basic services."

On Feb. 11, President Donald Trump issued an executive order implementing the Department of Government Efficiency and a "work-See Layoffs A9

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district responds to PAWSD allegations, enters counterclaims

By Josh Pike Staff Writer

The legal battle between water districts continues, with the San Juan Water Conservancy District (SJWCD) filing on Jan. 31 a response and counterclaims to the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD) lawsuit filed against them in December 2024 concerning the possible sale of the Running Iron Ranch.

The PAWSD lawsuit asks the court for a declaratory judgment stating that PAWSD is allowed to sell the ranch without the consent of the SJWCD under the terms of a 2015 agreement between PAWSD, the SJWCD and the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB), which the SJWCD had previously claimed that PAWSD could not do.

The lawsuit also asks, if the declaratory judgment is not provided in PAWSD's favor, that the ranch be partitioned and sold off at a public sale with the money earned divided according to the terms of the 2015 agreement.

The SJWCD response admits that See Allegations A8

Opinion

The Pagosa Springs

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(970) 264-2100 PagosaSUN.com Physical: 457 Lewis Street Mailing: PO Box 9, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147

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OUR VIEW

'Look for the helpers'

What an absolutely heartbreaking and wild week.

Many in our community have been left frustrated, heartbroken and confounded over the last week, and we're right there with them.

It feels like it all started with knowing friends and neighbors across the county were without power for hours — some upward of 20 hours, according to La Plata Electric Association's outage website — in the midst of the biggest snowstorm of the year on Friday.

We were among all those in the community that morning eyeing road conditions to get to work and school on time before the school district was again left to cancel school at the last minute due to a lack of power at the school buildings and no estimated time of restoration.

Then, ironically, on the heels of our biggest storm of the year and discussions that we still haven't had enough moisture to alleviate concerns about fire danger, those fears combined with our concern for the livelihoods of our neighbors when 3,400 U.S. Forest Service personnel including some in our own community - were laid off.

That news hits close to home given our proximity to so much public land and with how much our community and businesses rely on nature. We know the decision means more of our neighbors have likely been thrown into uncertainty as the cost

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of living continues to rise, whether they worked directly for the agency or work in businesses that depend on the Forest Service to keep things safe and open.

We hoped these positions — imperative to wildfire prevention and the economies of so many places — wouldn't fall prev to government efficiency efforts on the heels of recent natural disasters, but we were, very unfortunately, wrong.

We also don't find it efficient that it was indicated to us that we should expect our request for numbers of layoffs within the San Juan National Forest and Pagosa Ranger District could take up to six days to be answered by the Washington office. We hope the effort to reinstate these

laid-off employees is successful.

Then, Saturday, heartbreak hit again when two lives were taken in a devastating crash on U.S. 84, with more injured. Our hearts dropped when the Colorado State Patrol sent out information stating that was one of seven fatal crashes that had taken place across the state so far that holiday weekend.

Monday we were alerted to a head-on crash on Wolf Creek Pass (thankfully no deaths were reported), then we received news that, that night, another person was killed by a vehicle.

And we know there was more that people dealt with throughout the week.

We thank all of those who are there for our community on weeks like this. Without

LOOKING BACK

those who selflessly serve this community, we would be in a much worse place.

Fred Rogers is often quoted as saying, "When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, 'Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping."

This week we're so thankful for all the helpers.

Electrical workers were out in the snowy, windy conditions seeking to restore power. Neighbors were checking in with each other and moving snow throughout neighborhoods without being asked. Bus drivers and school personnel were out on the roads, ready to transport local students and provide them a day of fun and learning despite the snowy conditions. School administrators were left with tough calls to make. We know that, no matter what choice is made, they'll always upset some.

First responders, emergency personnel, officers and others respond to crashes knowing they could see the worst and immediately work to save lives, as well as being left to deliver horrific news when lifesaving efforts are unsuccessful. Fellow community members, advocates, counselors then step in to help people navigate their way through loss and hardship.

It truly takes an entire community to get through weeks like this, where we're so fortunate to see so many helpers. Randi Pierce

LEGACIES

By Shari Pierce

100 years ago Taken from SUN files of

February 20, 1925

With the natural hot water heating system of the new school building installed and in good working order, the remainder of the interior work is now being rushed to completion. Contractor Wicklem yesterday commenced the concrete work on the corridors and ramps with a full crew of men, which when finished will be followed by the plastering and other decorative work.

Owing to the continued serious illness from scarlet fever of his wife and son, Paul Day again entered quarantine with them on Saturday to assist in their care. Both were seriously ill from complications the first of the week, but are now greatly improved. No further cases of the disease have to date been reported.

Four cars have crossed the Yellowjacket divide in the past week, and the road is reported open and passable for light cars.

75 years ago Taken from SUN files of

February 17, 1950

The new high school gymnasium construction has progressed to the point where the Friday night basketball game with Dove Creek will be played on the new floor as will the Saturday night game with Silverton.

Work was started on the new building last fall and it will be some time before the building is finished but the hardwood floor, back-stops and other installations necessary for basketball games have been completed.

The new gym is one of the finest in the country, being of all steel construction, with a 7/8 inch layer of fireproof insulation inside the steel. The building was purchased from the Eaton Metal Co. and is 80 x 100 feet in size. The hardwood playing floor is 50 x 80 feet in size and is a great improvement in size and quality over the floor in the old gym.

Most of the floor was layed by volunteer labor due to the fact that the local district was running low on funds. Ray Macht, president of the school board, has asked that all who helped in any way be extended the thanks of the board.

The building when completed will have a 20 x 80 foot stage with a 20 x 20 wing on each side. The dressing rooms and showers will be in the basement of the gym and heat will be provided by coal fuel and a blower type heating system.

50 years ago Taken from SUN files of February 20, 1975



From the Feb. 12, 1987, Pagosa SUN – LIVING A DREAM – Making like Walter Mitty, Mike Werner won the Colorado High School Ski League 7K boy's cross-country race on his home course last Saturday. Werner's win was the first ever for a

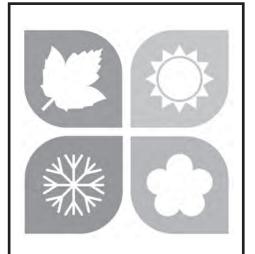
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Date	High I	LOW	Pr	recipita	ation
			Depth	Туре	Moisture
2/11	39	22	0.00	NA	0.00
2/12	29	11	0.00	NA	0.00
2/13	38	0	0.00	NA	0.00
2/14	36	26	7.50	NA	0.63
2/15	36	10	0.90	NA	0.40
2/16	41	2	NA	NA	0.04
2/17	55	27	0.00	NA	0.00

Pirate boy in varsity skiing competition.

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Warren Brown



Eighteen members of the local American Legion post met last week to reorganize the post and to outline plans for the coming year.

Carlos Trujillo was elected as Commander to head the Post for the next year. Other officers elected were: 1st Vice Commander, Jack Peterson; 2nd Vice Commander, Andy Gallegos; Adjutant, Darrel Cotton; Finance Officer, V.A. Poma; Chaplain, Eppie Trujillo; Sgt. at Arms, Abe Rodriguez; Historian, Ronnie Willett; Service Officer, Mel Trujillo; Executive Committeemen, Ralph Yamaguchi and Ernest Yamaguchi.

Next regular meeting is scheduled for February 26 when a film of the Golden Gloves Tournament held last year in Pagosa Springs, will be shown. Griff Jones will be in charge of entertainment.

Membership in the American Legion is open to most veterans of the Armed Forces. Any veteran interested in joining may contact Darrell Cotton. Any veteran is welcome at the meeting on February 26.

25 years ago Taken from SUN files of

February 17, 2000

Archuleta County's commissioners endorsed a grant request by the local Emergency Medical Services organization Tuesday at the regular commissioner meeting. If granted, the funds will be used to improve communications equipment and train additional personnel.

The local EMS program operates as a part of the Upper San Juan Hospital District. According to Bill Bright, executive director of the Upper San Juan Hospital District, it provides 24-hour service seven days a week. Last year, the EMS made 1,000 runs. That number is expected to grow in proportion to the population growth in the area, Bright said.

The district currently operates five advanced life-support ambulances. Staffing is provided by seven full-time paid employees and 52 part-time employees who work a standby schedule. Included among the fulltime employees are five paramedics and two EMT-intermediates. Included among the part-time employees are one paramedic, 11 EMT-intermediates, and 40 EMT-basics. A paramedic has at least 2,000 hours of classroom and clinical instruction, an EMTintermediate 280 of classroom and clinical instruction, and an EMT-basic 140 hours of classroom and clinical instruction.

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.

Facts and data

Dear Editor:

Kudos to Danelle Fernandez and her Instructor Josh Kurz for using facts and data to give perspective on the relative lack of snow this winter. And thank you to the Pagosa Sun for having the courage to publish the information. All too few these days show courage to speak truth in the face of adversity. Having facts at hand helps to counter the language of absolutes: "Always, Never, etc."

Contrast this display of courage with a total lack of professionalism and decorum from recipients of Forest Service grant monies who are lamenting that recent executive actions and DOGE scrutiny is representing, "The end of Forest and Wildfire management." They are on Zoom calls and emails letting people know, "You may have voted for Trump for good reasons, but I doubt you thought he was going this far!"

In short, my answer is, "Yes, I did, and hope it continues." Federal spending has been halted for 90 days while the review takes place. Funding has not been "illegally stopped", it was temporarily halted to figure out where the bleeding is worst. If your grant activities were using good accounting practices (it is), has objective evidence of thousands of volunteer hours devoted to beneficial service (it does), and is objectively making a positive difference in the community (it is), then we have nothing to worry about.

The Potemkin Village of previous administrations is crumbling and we are starting to see reality as opposed to the curated view of things. Mr. Kurz represents a more positive way of taking actual data, converting it into information, and in the process creating knowledge - that is a true educational gift. Together, let's stop pretending – an opinion doesn't become fact just because you confidently say it is so. Let's move forward in a common sense way, and in the process we can stop lamenting the loss of a government that spent like a boat load of drunken sailors.

mother flew in, made arrangements. Mom was taken to a crematorium near the Four Corners. Her cremains were returned to Pagosa, where they sat on a shelf at the clinic for a long time. I believe they were eventually claimed, spread somewhere locally.

Back home in Michigan; no memorial, funeral, nothing. The adults lied about what happened to her. I was 18 when another relative told me the truth.

Decades later, I conducted my own amateur investigation. I chatted via phone with a man who knew her and was still residing in your town. I believe he worked at the library when we spoke. He said the employees at the restaurant where she had been employed held a small memorial service for her. That meant more to me than I can express here. At least someone cared.

I want to thank Pagosa Springs someday, in person.

Sheryl Hubbell Poplar Bluff, Mo.

Dystopian nightmare Dear Editor:

When I emigrated to this country,

I had to affirm that I had never and did not intend to commit acts of sedition or insurrection against the United States. Also that I had never been a member of the Nazi party. Perhaps I should have inquired into the definition of those terms as used in the United States, because I am very confused. I definitely had no intention of storming the walls of the Capitol building, beating Capitol police officers to death with the American flag, defecating on desks inside the building, smashing windows, in an attempt to overturn an election. I had no intention, and never have tried to bribe government officials or judges. But it appears these are not acts of sedition or insurrection. The person now running the White House greeted the American public with a salute that would have had him instantly arrested in Germany. The vice president just admonished European leaders, telling them that that they ought to embrace white supremacist ideology, while he argues Catholic theology with the Pope.

I feel like I am living in a dystopian nightmare full of double-speak. The president swore an oath to uphold the Constitution of the United States and the laws of this nation, but he labels judges who are upholding the law as "corrupt" and the laws of this nation "corrupt". Civil servants and thousands of workers who have only done their job under multiple administrations of both major political parties are being fired and having to hire personal security to protect themselves and their families. I believe many people voted for this candidate because they wanted him to fix the economy, do something about immigration, help working people. Some voted based on their Christian faith. I do not believe that all my good Christian friends and hard-working neighbors ascribe to the Christian Nationalist doctrine that is driving current actions. I believe most Americans, indeed most people of all faiths are sincere, compassionate, kind and honest. I think many people were duped.

There is nothing efficient about letting billions of dollars of crops rot because government contracts were canceled overnight. Nothing efficient about stopping payment on signed contracts. Nothing efficient about canceling space programs that took decades of collaborative work across multiple nations to achieve. Nothing efficient about getting rid of the National Weather Service or FEMA. Nothing efficient about firing thousands of highly qualified, efficient employees overnight.

I read last week's issue of The Pagosa Springs Sun with more sadness than excitement. The Preview is full of events offered by local nonprofit organizations. This newspaper has always been generous and supportive of these organizations. I have to wonder how slim the newspaper may be once the true effectof the drastic, inefficient and cruel cancelations is known.

Congressman Jeff Hurd says he has not heard any complaints from his constituents about these issues.

You can call him at 970-317-6167 or 202-225-4676. Don't expect him to respond.

Lisa Jensen

Duty Dear Editor:

Rep. Jeff Hurd said in a recent interview: "certainly Congress should make sure that it's protecting its role in governing our country." No, Mr. Hurd. Don't push off on the collective body what you have a duty to do yourself. Every state and local official has a Constitutional duty (Art. VI, clause 3) to support the U.S. Constitution.

-Abdicating presidential duties to an unelected (and unelectable) billionaire.

-Opening US coffers to that selfinterested billionaire to pick and choose which obligations the government will honor.

-Advocating eviction of 2 million people from their ancestral land (Gaza) to make way for a beachfront development, using U.S. military force if they don't leave voluntarily.

-Threatening to sell off our public lands and at the same time threatening to take land, infrastructure, and natural resources from sovereign nations. (In private hands, our forests and other natural places will be off limits for camping, hiking, hunting, and fishing without permission from their new billionaire or corporate owners. That's private taxation like feudal England.)

Do these illegal actions and destructive policies not offend you? Yes, but not enough to do more than turn your head and think someone else will do something about them? How, exactly, do these things help

working class Americans? They don't. They take a great country and make it into a repressive regime in the mold of Russia and China, its treasures carved up and doled out to the wealthy elite.

You, Mr. Hurd, should be taking to the floor of the House to remind your colleagues that each and every one of you is called upon by the Constitution to support it and defend it from all enemies, foreign and domestic. You each swore allegiance to the Constitution, not the President. You should not be ducking and hedging on questions about the illegal actions of the Trump administration. And you should not be turning your head expecting someone else in your caucus to be first to step up to the responsibilities of a co-equal branch of government.

The most fundamental part of serving your constituents is to speak out in defense of the Constitution. When you start to do that, you will be protecting the people in your district from the dangers of unelected president Musk and the destructive policies coming from the White House.

Tyranny and hate thrive in silence. Dictators rise when good people don't call them out. Candace Jones

Project 2025

Did you vote for President Trump? Did you believe him when he said he didn't support Project 2025 and its attacks on the lives and livelihoods of average Americans?

This week the Trump administration announced plans to shut down the Department of Education (DOE). What did Project 2025 have to say about the DOE? It called for the DOE to be "eliminated." Hmm. Seems Trump lied.

What does ending DOE mean for young people trying to go to college or trade schools? What does it mean for early childhood education? Do See Letters A4



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Eric Davidson

Someone cared Dear Editor:

My name is Sherry, currently of a small city in Missouri I cannot describe. Or rather, won't. "Unpleasant" to put it as pleasantly as possible. For me, personally, it's a Rod Serling-era Twilight Zone episode. I'm only exaggerating a teeny-tiny bit for comic purposes, promise!

My mother's name was Leslie. She resided in Pagosa Springs and passed away there in 1979. We drove through Colorado a number of times. She fell in love with your state. She adored John Denver, too, and he was a massive star back then. His music is literally fused to my memories of those U-Haul trips between Arizona and Michigan.

I wasn't quite 16 when our mother died. Hadn't seen her since I was 11. My little sister and I were in Michigan with an uncle & aunt. Mom was severely bi-polar (or 'manicdepressive' as it seemed to be known att.) She refused meds or therapy. I think she thought she could handle it with enough grit & determination, Today, mental health professionals know that's highly unlikely. And so it wasn't to be for mom. I thought she was special because . . . well, MOM. I know she completed EMT training in Pagosa, though she never worked as one, to my knowledge. At the end of her life, she was managing a small restaurant there. Name unknown, details absent. She was residing in a motel- type place, turned long(ish)term rental. Again, details are blurry. She died a suicide in her place in early January of 1979. I believe the landlord found her. He was worried about her water pipes since he hasn't seen her in a couple of days. Mom was a profound lover of animals. I've joked for decades that had she lived longer, she would have been a founding member of PETA. She had an Irish Wolfhound named Ian when she died. He was okay in the unit. Mom left him plenty of food & water. I heard about where he may have ended up, in a very good home. Again, details unknown. So mom's body was discovered. My grand-



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you think President Trump understands how public education works?

The Department of Education's role in special education is to enforce Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, which ensures that students with disabilities have equal access to education by prohibiting discrimination based on disability in schools receiving federal funding.

The DOE provides money to help districts support students through Individuals with Disabilities Educational Act, the special education law. It influences how IEPs (individual educational plan's) end up being used. For many students in Archuleta county this is a necessary part of their education to ensure success in life.

Let's face it. President Trump is not acting like President. He's acting like a weak minion of Elon Musk, Project 2025 architect Russell Vought, and the goons they put to work with illegal access to government accounting systems. They are in control of the federal government, not Trump, and what they're doing is illegal and unconstitutional.

We don't have to lose America to the wealthy elite. We pay federal taxes to "promote the general welfare," as the Constitution says, not fund oligarchs taking over the federal government. Patriotic Americans are standing up to Trump and Musk, defending the rights and interests of the 99.9%.

If you think it's wrong for President Trump to sell out working people and ignore the Constitution, you need to join patriotic Americans by speaking out against Trump's chaos. Email the White House (whitehouse. gov/contact) – they don't list a phone number. And call Rep. Hurd (Durango office: 970-317-6167) and all your local Republican officials to use their channels to the administration. Lori Mohan

Defy this assault Dear Editor:

Trump has wasted no time in trying to destroy the parts of our government that serve us all.

I could name many examples, but let's look at this one:

Under the guise of eliminating



LaVonda Bass

LaVonda, an amazing and beloved wife, mother, and sister, passed away on Feb. 13, 2025, in Pagosa Springs, Colo. She was "waste, fraud, and abuse," Elon Musk is working to destroy the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

Letters

This agency, in its 12 years of existence, has returned more than \$21 billion to Americans who were cheated by banks and other financial institutions.

Elon Musk wants to create "X Money," a financial app that allows users to store and send money online. His problem is that the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau would not allow him to cheat his customers or to suck up our personal data and sell it to the highest bidder.

Elon wants to remove the agency that would protect Americans from Elon.

But Musk/Trump's attempt to destroy the CFPB is illegal. If the courts enforce the law, the agency that protects us from financial fraud will continue to exist.

This is only one example. 74 lawsuits have already been filed fighting Trump's assault on Americans' rights.

Trump's plan is to transform our democracy into an oligarchy, transferring more of our country's wealth from the poor and middle class to Trump and his billionaire buddies.

If you have any money left after buying eggs, consider contributing to groups that are fighting in court to protect our rights, such as Democracy Docket or ACLU.

We can defy this assault on our freedom!

Philip Riffe Hesperus, Colo.

Palestine

Dear Editor:

In early 2000 my husband Dale and I lived and worked in Bethlehem for more than six months. We supported a rehabilitation program for children and youth traumatized by physical or emotional violence. The program was and is partially subsidized by USAID.

Currently, our administration's plan is to eradicate such programs that build goodwill and partnerships around the world.

In recent months and years, our administrations have decided that Palestinian people are non-people.

I still have many friends living in Palestine. They are NOT non-people. They are smart, well educated people just like us who want to support their families and live lives of promise and hope.

We cannot support our administration's plan to remove them from their homeland and take it over as our own. We have no right!!! The Palestinian people were the earliest settlers of the land that is now known as Israel. They deserve their land and their lives without violence. Betty Schwicker

head down, eyelids drooping. When asked about his spreading of misinformation about USAID providing condoms for Hamas, Elon gave an answer which gives some clarity for the future: "Some of the things that I

say will be incorrect". Elon's company, SpaceX, received over \$20 billion from the feds over the last 15 years and has \$22 billion in government contracts. DOGE will be looking for "waste" at NASA - no conflict of interest there! He gleefully reported the death of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau that has returned \$21 billion to consumers who were victims of fraud, malfeasance and unfair practice by banks and corporations. Elon doesn't want oversight for his businesses. (FYI, Trump's Super Bowl attendance cost roughly \$15 million.)

The list of Elon absurdities continues but let's have a cursory look at what actually-elected Republicans are up to these days. JD Vance was off to Europe, meeting with leaders of Germany's extreme right, AfD, considered a neo-Nazi party; then proceeded to dispense with major bargaining chips for resolving the Russia-Ukraine war by publicly stating that the pre-war borders are unreasonable and nixing any idea of NATO admission for Ukraine. Even members of his own party called it a rookie mistake, but I suspect it was intentional. Our current leadership does not value the friendship of our traditional allies, preferring alignment with Russia. After trashing our relationship with Mexico and Canada, we can only hope they will still send firefighters for this year's wildfires.

Chip Roy (Texas) introduced the SAVE act - another effort to make it harder for Americans to vote, cloaked as a salve for nearly nonexistent voter fraud. This bill would make it harder for married women who changed their names to register to vote. As this would also impact Republican women, this may be step one of the right wing's misogynistic dream of disenfranchising women. Or maybe it's just dumb legislation.

Other examples of dumb include Trump renaming the Gulf of Mexico and stating that he will "have" Gaza. Buddy Carter (Georgia), sucking up to Trump, suggested Greenland be renamed Red White and Blueland after we "have" it. These are not serious people.

Meanwhile, DOGE and right wing ghouls enacting Project 2025, of which Trump claimed ignorance, are coming for Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, Education, Head Start, food assistance, public broadcasting and more — whatever benefits ordiTrump's campaign and in return has been given unfettered access and control of the US government. With no oversight from the elected Congress, Musk has installed what amounts to hackers doing god knows what to government agencies' computer systems under the guise of improving efficiency. They are going after the most vulnerable first, both abroad and at home. The GOP believe that federal government regulations that force people and corporations to follow rules are "bad" and they dislike taxes that provide public services and keep Americans and allies safe and secure. Investigations of Musk's businesses by several federal agencies have been discontinued. Now his DOGE goons are going after the most recently hired civil servants who have the least job security. These are people, your friends, family and neighbors, who choose to work in the civil service at lower salaries than private sector jobs because they care about our country, its public lands and services. They serve YOU. These are the people Musk calls the "parasite class."

The ultimate goal is to further reduce taxes for the most wealthy, who over past decades have changed legislation/tax laws to increase their share of the wealth. They do not want to pay taxes to help the rest of Americans have public schools, affordable healthcare, good paying jobs with job security, etc. Musk wants to replace people with AI technology, an industry he is trying to gain control of by bullying his competitors. He will also try to bully his competitors in the space, solar/EV, internet/telecommunications and social media industries where he has financial stakes. He will also go after the mighty dollar and the banking industry as he tries to remove federal financial protections (like the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau) and tries to convert to unregulated cryptocurrency. Hypocritically, Musk has received billions in financial aid from the government he is now deconstructing while also trying to take away the federal support promised to the citizens who paid their own taxes to the government, into Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid and for public services, like the Veterans' Administration, the CDC and public land management. The eventual goal is to privatize services the federal government provides. Private owners will be able to control who gets those services, with no obligation to treat the rest of us (or the environment) with respect or equitability.

Trump and the GOP are also weakening the judicial system and

Notice of Planning Commission Vacancy

The Town of Pagosa Springs is seeking applications from individuals interested in volunteering to serve as an alternate member for the Planning Commission. This position will be appointed by the Town Council.

Members are appointed for a four-year term and generally meet on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 5:30 pm at Town Hall. There may be interim meetings and work sessions on specific planning and development topics. Interested individuals must be a Town resident.



For more information, member qualifications, and application to serve, visit www.mypagosa.org or contact ktunnell@pagosasprings.co.gov or 970-585-8636.



known for her warm heart, vibrant spirit and love for life.

L a V o n d a was truly the definition of a trophy wife elegant, devoted and full of love. She found joy in



the simple pleasures of life, whether it was enjoying a delicious meal at her favorite restaurant, immersing herself in the Word of God or spending precious time with her family.

LaVonda's family was her greatest treasure. She is survived by her devoted husband, Steve; her children, Brooklyn and Preston; her siblings, Amanda, Dana, Darla, Brook and Audria; and her loving mother, Treva. LaVonda's kindness, laughter and grace will be deeply missed by all who knew her.

She was preceded in death by her father, Larry, who she is now reunited with in heaven.

LaVonda's legacy of love, faith and family will live on forever in the hearts of her loved ones.

She will be remembered for the joy she brought into every room and the peace she shared with those around her.

A visitation will be held at 1:30 p.m., with a service following at 2:30 p.m. on Feb. 22, 2025, at Charles W. Smith Funeral Home, 2343 Lake Road, Lavon, Texas. At 3:30 p.m. there will be a short walk or drive to the graveside, which will be finished by 4:30 p.m.



are printed free in The Pagosa Springs SUN and can be submitted to:

PO Box 9 Pagosa Springs, CO 81147 e-mail: editor@pagosasun.com fax: (970) 264-2103 Deadline is 1 p.m. Tuesday for the following Thursday's edition. The SUN reserves the right to edit all submissions.

Elon Musk

Dear Editor:

Unelected Elon Musk has assumed control in DC, allowing his techbro gang of young incels (DOGE) full access to our personal information at Treasury and hitting the delete button on people's livelihoods — even holding a weird presser in the Oval Office while our titular president sits quietly immobile at the Resolute Desk, leaning on his elbows,

nary working people and the poor is on the block. All to pay for MORE tax cuts for corporations and wealthy people. This. Is. Not. Normal. It's unconstitutional. It is illegal for unelected ketamine junkie Elon Musk to be in charge. Concerned? Call your US representative and senators. Call them a lot.

Lee Stopher

DOGE Dear Editor:

Elon Musk, wealthiest man in the world, donated \$250 million to

our relationship with the rest of the world, making our country less safe from within and without. Courts are fighting these unlawful actions, but the Trump administration is threatening to ignore the rule of law. Our only hope lies with Congress or the Supreme Court, but currently the majority of both houses have relinquished their power of checks and balances and the Supreme Court ruled the President has immunity to do what he wants, greenlighting this attack on the foundations of our nation.

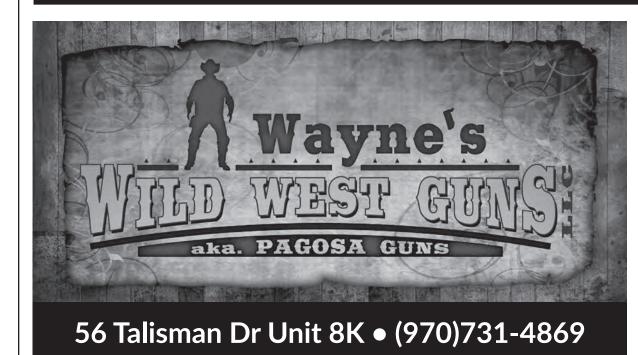
Lisa Tedder



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Business

Tourism board hears about community assessment

By Clayton Chaney Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs Area Tourism Board met Wednesday, Feb. 5, with the board hearing an update from Dave Santucci, a principal consultant of Mission2Mission Marketing.

Santucci's company has been paired with the Pagosa Springs Area Tourism Board through the Colorado Tourism Office's (CTO's) Destination Stewardship Strategic Planning Initiative that is aimed at advancing destination stewardship and adopting recommendations identified by the initiative.

Santucci explained that he was presenting key findings and recommendations that came out of a community workshop held in Pagosa Springs in November 2024, along with additional stakeholder and resident survey findings.

He also noted that the tourism board is not paying for any of this work, as the Destination Blueprint Initiative is being funded through the CTO.

"All this is covered by the CTO," he said.

Santucci explained that part of the scope of his work with the board is to provide a destination assessment in order to "really understand what's going on in the community."

He also noted that 100 consulting hours are covered by CTO to work on advancing initiatives.

Santucci went on to mention that he has helped with 50 community assessments across the state in the last three years.

"So, we have a lot of data," he said, explaining that seven priorities have been identified by the CTO from

Training and hiring opportunities announced

By Mary Jo Coulehan Pagosa Springs Area Chamber of Commerce

There are quite a few training opportunities that have come to our community and region recently or are

specific priorities were identified through the Pagosa Springs workshop.

Those four priorities are advancing off-peak season tourism, championing the value of tourism, promoting local businesses and experiences, and developing/enhancing visitor experiences, Santucci explained.

He went on to describe the information gathered from resident surveys as a "yellow light" noting that, "more respondents agree that tourism is headed in the right direction than the wrong direction."

Santucci also mentioned that there was a "chunk" of respondents who said tourism is not moving in the right direction, as well as a percentage that was unsure.

"It's not a red light," he said, describing the results from the resident survey as a "yellow light," noting that as a caution to the tourism board.

Santucci also specifically noted that responses from the survey indicate that the majority of residents are "good with growth in winter, spring and fall," but feel the community is at capacity for summer and holidays.

"When we look at the stakeholder interview, it's a different story," Santucci said, explaining that businesses have an interest in growing tourism as well as the community.

Some of the top concerns voiced by business owners include impacts

\$600,000

\$50,000

\$40,000

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\$20,000

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those 50 communities and four from the upcoming reconstruction project of U.S. 160 through downtown, Santucci mentioned, noting that tourism is essential for local businesses.

Business owners were "generally positive about their businesses and their outlook over the next year," he added.

Santucci went on to explain that a common finding across residents and business owners is that "they're more aware of [the tourism board's] efforts to market the community than they are to manage tourism," noting this as one of the biggest takeaways from the community assessment.

Santucci also noted that businesses are concerned about the "sentiment" against tourism in the community and that there is a percentage of residents who feel tourism is not good for the community.

For this reason, Santucci suggested that championing the value of tourism is a top priority for the tourism board to focus on in order to address the "mixed signal" of residents cautioning against growing tourism and business owners who are ready for more business.

Santucci commented that residents "don't understand the management efforts that you have towards tourism as a board and what you do to invest in the community," noting there is a "very negative" group of residents in regard to tourism in the

community.

He noted that business owners are also unaware of the tourism board's efforts to manage tourism, expressing similar concerns as residents.

Santucci explained that with the recent hot topic of preventing wildfire disasters, that is one way the tourism board could work to show how it is managing tourism with its efforts in promoting safety messages to both visitors and residents to make sure people are educated before recreating in the national forest.

Santucci also explained that he plans to audit the communication challenges the tourism board currently has in engaging residents in the community and intends to "beef up" communication channels.

"That helps champion the value of tourism efforts that you all do," he said.

Event funding

During the same meeting, the tourism board voted unanimously to approve a total of \$50,750 in event funding that will contribute to nine community events planned throughout the summer.

Those events include a farmers market, multiple concerts, a disc golf tournament, an education series at Chimney Rock, a river rafting event and other community fundraising events.

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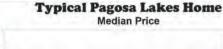
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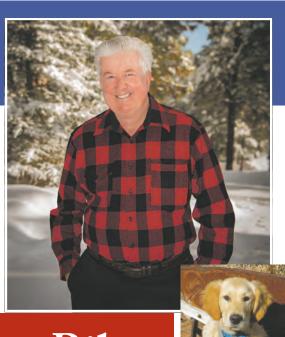
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coming up soon. If you have thought of obtaining a new skill in some of the up-and-coming industries, there is no better time.

Pagosa Springs started this week with the opportunity to be trained in broadband and fiber splicing. This may have been a difficult class for some to attend as it required two weeks of commitment from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. However, the outcome for the student would have been a certification in the industry and the opportunity to walk right into a job. If you are still interested in pursuing this type of career and want to make the commitment, there is still another class; however, it will be held in Mancos, Colo., March 3-14. It is the same training, just a different location. To find out more, contact Emily Lashbrooke at (970) 264-3023.

Fort Lewis College is also offering some free or competitively priced courses from management to technology.

Through a Project RUN grant, there are three free courses being offered: Fundamentals of Leadership and Management, where you will learn strategic planning, budgeting, decision making and more; Essential Tech and Workplace Skills, where you will learn to create, manage and share information online and professional communication and computer skills; and AI in the Workplace, which teaches you AI literacy, data literacy and automation skills.

Each of these courses have a training time associated with them; however, you can access the courses online, you do not need to travel to Fort Lewis College.

These next two courses are much more detailed-oriented and focus on another very targeted industry: Photo Voltaic and Solar Fundamentals. These two courses are offered at a self-paced timeframe and there is a cost involved. For more information about these classes, visit www. gowork.fortlewis.edu.

More courses will be becoming available, so check back at this site to see what has been added.

For our employers, Fort Lewis will also be hosting a hiring expo on

See Chamber A6



2004 2006 2008 2010 2012 2014 2016 2018 2020 2022 202

Typical Pagosa Lakes Lot is defined as under 1/2-acre in Pagosa Lakes

2021

504

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PAGOSA SPRINGS

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Stats are intended to show trends in the area; t

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YTD Properties Sold

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5

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PLPOA board, county commissioners discuss proposed archery range

By Clayton Chaney Staff Writer

During a joint work session held by the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) and the Pagosa Lakes Owners Association (PLPOA) board on Feb. 3, a representative of the Wolf Creek Gun and Bow Association (WCGBA), Greg Dykstra, gave a presentation on an archery range being proposed in PLPOA boundaries at the intersection of Trails Boulevard and Bonanza Avenue.

Dykstra explained that the WC-GBA was awarded a "provisional grant" from Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) in the amount of \$63,140 to construct the archery range, noting that terms of the grant are for the WC-GBA to cover the costs of constructing the range with the CPW grant reimbursing the association.

He mentioned that WCGBA is expecting final approval of the grant in March.

Dykstra also noted that the WC-GBA is partnering with the PLPOA and plans to lease the land for the proposed archery range from the PLPOA.

He explained that the land is located within one of the PLPOA's greenbelts. Dykstra further explained that the PLPOA is not contributing any funds to the project.

"The PLPOA is not paying a dime for this," he said.

Dykstra presented a conceptual design for the range, illustrating the entrance to the range coming off of Bonanza Avenue.

He added that part of the inspiration of this project came from being approached by a WCGBA and PLPOA member about providing a safe space for beginner and youth shooters to practice and develop their skills.

Dykstra also gave an overview of the layout of the proposed archery range, noting there would be a range with targets from distances of 20 to 80 yards, a beginner/youth range, along with a pavilion and shaded area with picnic tables. He also mentioned the range would be compliant with the American Disabilities Act.

Dykstra acknowledged there is another archery range in the county, the Larry Fisher Range, located near Stevens Field Airport, but commented that it does not get much use due to the terrain and accessibility.

"Our range ... is very well acces-

sible," he added.

He went on to explain that the original design had the driveway entrance to the range coming off of Trails Boulevard.

"We were trying to do our due diligence in reducing the cost of developing this range while keeping the natural landscape as natural as possible," he said.

Dykstra explained that if the driveway entrance were to come off of Trails Boulevard, it would have to be paved, according to the Archuleta County Planning Department.

"The proposed driveway is now a concern," Dykstra stated in regard to the Bonanza Avenue entrance.

He explained the county engineer suggested two other locations for the entrance, one off of Trails Boulevard and one farther up the hill on Bonanza Avenue.

Dykstra also commented that the WCGBA requested to meet with the county engineer to discuss the driveway entrance options, but were told that meeting cannot take place until a building permit for the archery range is issued.

"I think [that] is very unprofessional, in my opinion," he said.

Pargin O Mountain Chimney Roc COLORADO Department of Transportation CO 151 Resurfacing and Culvert Improvement Project oject End MP 26 Mesa Tiffan roject Begin MP 12.8

Map courtesy Colorado Department of Transportation

A map image shows the Colo. 151 work zone area east of Ignacio, from mile point 12.8 to mile point 26.

Resurfacing and culvert improvement project underway on Colo. 151

mile point 12.8, east of Ignacio at

Colorado Department of Transportation

The Colorado Department of Transportation and contracting partner Elam Construction will begin resurfacing and culvert improvements on Feb. 17 along Colo. 151 east of Ignacio from the La Plata/Archuleta county line to south of the "old coal mine.

the La Plata/Archuleta county line, to mile pint 26, south of the old coal mine. Work will include milling old asphalt, paving with new asphalt, shouldering, rumble strip installation, guardrail replacement and road sign replacement. Additional work will consist of six culvert improvements, including repairing one

culvert, cleaning out two culverts and

replacing three culverts throughout

The new asphalt will add approxi-

mately 10 years of life to the highway,

provide a smoother road surface and

increase durability by increasing the

resistance of ruts and road damage.

of new guardrail that will be 31 inches

high, designed to meet new safety

It will also include the installation

remain on the road more effectively, making the highway safer for the traveling public. The former standard height of guardrail was 27 inches.

Improvements and replacement of culverts will accommodate higher accumulations of rainfall and lower the risks associated with flooding to maintain safe driving conditions.

Dykstra also expressed concerns about future plans to pave Bonanza Avenue, meaning the archery range entrance would then have to meet the county's standards in terms of paving and parking for the Bonanza Avenue entrance as well.

"We would like to leave it as natural as possible," he added, citing concerns of landscaping requirements.

Dykstra went on to indicate that the WCGBA will likely turn down the grant if a variance from the county in regard to paving and parking standards is not received. "If we don't get a variance, this

project's dead," he said.

Commissioner John Ranson asked County Attorney Todd Weaver if the BoCC could ask questions about bringing the matter before the board at a later meeting, noting they were in a work session at the time.

"This really isn't the proper forum for it," Weaver said, explaining that there is nothing to seek a variance on at this point in time and that the conversation held during the work session may cause all members of the BoCC to need to recuse themselves from the matter at later meetings.

"I was worried about that," Commissioner Veronica Medina stated. "I am too," Weaver replied, indicat-

ing he would "have to look into that," noting that the BoCC can only consider information presented at a hearing. **Development Director Pamela**

Flowers was in attendance and explained that the WCGBA would need to start by submitting an application with its final plans to see if variance is even required.

She noted that the WCGBA submitted a permit request for the archery range, "but that's not enough for us to operate off of."

Medina interjected stating that she was "really worried" about the county attorney's concerns on the matter being discussed in the appropriate forum.

"I feel like we many have shot all of ourselves in the foot on this one, and I hope we haven't done that," she said. clayton@pagosasun.com

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Chamber.

students, but you can also apply for account and preview applicants. You can reserve a table at Fort Lewis to conduct multiple interviews or have a presence for your company.

Whether it be a career and technical skill, management position or specific trade like accounting or communications, this would be a great opportunity to get in front of students who are interested in staying in our region of Colorado. You can also post your positions on their platform so students can learn about your business.

Visit www.careers.fortlewis.edu/ blog-events/upcoming-events/career-intership-expo-6 for more information and to register through its hiring platform.

Many businesses are looking for dedicated students or graduates, and students are looking for a good match for their skills. You can also contact Janae Hunderman, director of career and workforce at Fort Lewis College, to find out more about what career trainings are on the horizon. She can be reached at jhunderman@ fortlewis.edu or (970) 247-7321.

Take advantage of both of the hir-

Again, if you are looking to change careers, now may be the time.

Continued from A5

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Celebration

Continued from front rade, that would lead into the town's fireworks display. (A fireworks show depends on the fire danger around that time.)

• To have a "stationary parade" on 6th Street, where the floats can line up along the street for spectator viewing.

Lewis explained that staff sought direction from the council, as well as ideas about "other things we might want to consider for the Fourth of July."

He noted that last year's parade down Hot Springs Boulevard was a test run at moving the parade off of U.S. 160 through downtown, necessitated by Colorado Department of Transportation's (CDOT's) looming main street reconstruction project.

Development Director James Dickhoff said that, this year, he was "sure" CDOT's construction project would be happening in early July, with Lewis adding, "they will be closing everything from 1st to 8th Street."

Last year's parade met mixed reviews from spectators, Lewis explained, with the main complaint coming from people not being able to enter or exit The Springs Resort, as well as impacted access to the Chamber of Commerce-sponsored arts and crafts event.

A parade along this route would face even steeper challenges this year, with CDOT's construction beginning in mid-March and running through the summer season, Lewis suggested.

The main problem, compared to last year's event, would be that no parking will be available to spectators on main street within CDOT's construction zone, he explained.

In addition, town staff would need to shut down Hot Springs Boulevard, in the hours before the parade, causing access problems to the Town Park event and The Springs Resort, he added.

"Main street was available for parking" last year, but this year main street parking will not be available, "none," he said.

Council member Mat deGraaf asked about positive and negative "feedback" from last year's parade, with Gadomski replying, "A lot of people complained that it was too short and the pace of the parade was too staggered."

She added that there wasn't too much negative feedback about the parade itself. Most of the complaints came from a desire for "better park-

Water districts set meeting schedules

ing arrangements" and access to the businesses along the parade route, she said.

"It sounds like it was a win in that we landed right in the middle. We got some great comments on one side and negative comments on the other ... which isn't a bad place to be," deGraaf commented.

But Lewis chimed in to explain that "the big difference this year will be main street and people getting there [to the parade] and finding parking."

Gadomski added that town staff already had a problem last year with getting "the floats there on time" to stage for the parade.

She expressed worry that, with main street being under construction this year and causing a more limited traffic flow, the problem would be exacerbated.

She added that Hermosa Street would also be shut down due to the arts and crafts event at Town Park, and "all of the vendors" for this event would be parking at "the Mary Fisher lot."

Lewis explained how a stationary celebration could work, saying that the event could start in the afternoon, adding "that would bring the crowd down, and now they are here for the celebration and they are not trying to go back home and come back for the fireworks," with the reduced traffic flow from the main street construction being a concern.

During public comment, Shawna Snarr suggested that, if the parade does not happen this year, "the American Legion, Daughters of the American Revolution and Vets for Vets would all be willing to work with the town to try to create a party in the park, or something along those lines."

She added, "We're trying to figure out if we can get a good amount of community support down to Yamaguchi Park and if the town and the nonprofits within our community can come together to create this," mentioning the possibility of food and beer vendors at the event.

Council member Brooks Lindner said, "I think you guys came up with some really good options."

He added that if the town decides to go with either a "stationary" parade or celebration, he does not want this to become a "normal" thing.

He suggested it is important to go back to the "regular parade" once the CDOT construction project is completed.

Council member Leonard Martinez noted he wanted to make sure that whatever the council decided, the event would be accessible to the elderly and to "people who are not as mobile."

Mayor Shari Pierce expressed worry about the future of the event, saying the parade "is something our community has done for decades" and that "if it goes away, it might not return."

Martinez agreed, saying that he does not "want to give up the parade. We need to fight to have a parade."

Lewis emphasized that town staff is in favor of putting on a parade in the future, once CDOT completes its project.

"In two or three years from now, when main street's done and we have new light poles with flowers hanging from them and it's all irrigated with beautiful new trees," new concrete and wider sidewalks, "having that parade? Oh my goodness, it's going to be great," he said. "In the meantime, though, we are showing you the difficulty of putting on a parade" while CDOT's project is ongoing.

He stated he anticipates "pushback" from The Springs Resort if the town chooses to have a parade this year and shuts down Hot Springs Boulevard for several hours, restricting access to the resort.

Pierce stated she understood that last year's parade created "a not so good situation down there," but she still wanted to "explore what we can do" to have a parade.

She then suggested that if a celebration is held at Yamaguchi Park, instead of a parade, she wants to make sure "there was enough room there" if a big crowd showed up.

Martinez suggested that staff should explore other parade route options for this year, but Lewis was adamant that it would have to be along the same route as last year.

"There's really no other good route," Lewis said. "I appreciate the input and the perspective about the 8th Street" idea, presented earlier by Martinez, but "it's hard to visualize that going through the high school parking lot."

Pierce asked to see a show of hands among the council that indicated who was ready to make a decision "tonight."

The council had no appetite to make a final decision at the meeting and decided, instead, to ask staff to go back and explore the event options further.

The issue will be considered again at the council's March 4 regular meeting.

"I think this parade is very important to the community, and we'll see what we can come up with," Pierce said.

derek@pagosasun.com

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By Josh Pike Staff Writer

At recent meetings, the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD) and San Juan Water Conservancy District (SJWCD) boards of directors set their meeting schedules for the upcoming year.

SJWCD

At a Jan. 20 meeting, the SJWCD board approved a resolution stating that it would hold regular meetings on the third Monday of every evennumbered month at 4 p.m.

The meetings will be located at the district's administrative offices 46 Eaton Drive Suite 5 or on Zoom.

Notice of meetings will be posted to the SJWCD website and, in the event of any issues with the website, the meeting notice will be posted on the door of the SJWCD offices.

The resolution adds that the board may call special meetings according to its bylaws, for which notice will also be posted to the district's website.

PAWSD

At a Jan. 30 meeting, the PAWSD board also approved a resolution designating the location for where its meeting notices will be posted.

According to the resolution, notices for regular and special meetings for the district will be posted on its website or at the PAWSD administrative offices at 100 Lyn Ave. if posting electronically is not possible.

The PAWSD website states that regular board meetings will be held on the second Thursday of the month at 5 p.m. at the district administrative offices all months except July and November, when no regular meeting is scheduled.

josh@pagosasun.com

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Renderings courtesy Reynolds, Ash and Associates

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Incidents

Continued from front

The Trailblazer, the press release notes, was pushed northbound and hit the guardrail on the northbound side of the road. The Ford F250 traveled into the southbound lane, colliding with the guardrail on the south side of the highway.

The driver of Trailblazer died at the scene, according to the CSP. The back-seat occupant of the Trailblazer, a child, was transported to an area hospital and pronounced dead.

According to Archuleta County Coroner Brad Hunt, the man is identified as Aaron Tenorio, 24, of New Mexico, while the child, the man's nephew, is identified as Dante Tenorio, 7, of Pagosa Springs.

The CSP reported the front-seat passenger of the Trailblazer was transported to an area hospital with serious injuries.

The driver of the Ford 250 was transported to a medical facility with moderate injuries, the press release adds.

A later update by the CSP states that the suspect, Justin McCelvey, a 37-year-old out of Texas, was arrested and charged with two counts of vehicular homicide-DUI, one charge of vehicular assault-DUI, driving under the influence and alcohol-possess open container in vehicle.

McCelvey appeared in person in Archuleta County Court Wednesday morning for a bond hearing, with relatives of the victims speaking out in favor of an increased bond for Mc-Celvey, who is currently out on bond.

The court also heard from parents

whose children lost a friend.

In addressing the court, the relatives of the victims stated the deaths have "devastated" three communities - Pagosa Springs; Dulce, N.M.; and Acoma Pueblo, N.M.

Parents of children who were friends with Dante Tenorio also addressed the court, discussing how their kids have handled the news.

Judge Justin Fay also addressed the officers who responded to the crash have ties to the elementary school Dante Tenorio attended and noted for transparency that he also has ties to the school and that he signed the blood-draw warrant the night of the crash.

No decision was made regarding bond during the hearing.

A GoFundMe for the other victim, identified by her stepmother in court as Anjelica Talamante, can be found at https://bit.ly/41oiArm.

Tuesday crash leaves five injured

According to the CSP, the agency responded to a two-vehicle crash at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 18, on U.S. 160 near milepost 164.7.

"The two vehicles involved were a 2018 Lincoln Navigator and a 2016 GMC Yukon," a Wednesday email about the incident states.

It explains the Lincoln Navigator was traveling westbound on U.S. 160 at milepost 164 in the right lane. The GMC Yukon was eastbound on U.S. 160 and milepost 164 in the right lane. The Lincoln lost control on a left-hand curve and traveled across

the centerline into oncoming traffic and hit the GMC head-on.

The driver of the Lincoln, the email states, was a 24-year-old male out of Texas who received minor injuries.

The driver of the GMC was a 63-year-old male out of Texas who received minor injuries.

"The passenger of the Lincoln Navigator had moderate injuries and was transported to the hospital by ambulance," the email states, adding, "The passengers of the Yukon were all transported to the hospital by ambulance. Two of them had serious injuries. One had moderate injuries. One had minor injuries."

On Tuesday, the CSP reported that one minor was being air lifted to the hospital.

The CSP reported Wednesday the cause of the crash remains under investigation, but at this time drugs or alcohol are not suspected to be a factor.

Pedestrian killed in Tuesday night incident

On Tuesday, Feb. 18, at approximately 11:19 p.m., the Archuleta Combined Dispatch Center received a report of a pedestrian possibly struck by a motor vehicle on U.S. 160 near the intersection with Great West Avenue, the Pagosa Springs Police Department (PSPD) reported Wednesday morning via press release.

PSPD, Pagosa Springs Medical Center EMS and Pagosa Fire Protection District personnel responded to the scene, according to the press release.

Upon arrival, it notes, PSPD police officers located a male subject partially in the roadway. Officers immediately administered lifesaving efforts until EMS arrived. Despite attempts to revive him, the male subject was pronounced deceased at the scene.

The pedestrian has been identified as 46-year-old Phillip Montoya, of Pagosa Springs, according to the press release.

The vehicle involved in the incident fled the scene," the release states adding that, through a "detailed investigation, officers identified the type of vehicle involved."

Subsequently, it notes, officers located the vehicle and identified the driver as 42-year-old Merenda Romine, of Pagosa Springs.

Based on the investigation, there is probable cause to believe alcohol was a contributing factor, it notes.

Romine was taken into custody and charged with multiple offenses, it states, including:

• CRS 18-3-106: vehicular homicide. • CRS 42-4-1601: leaving the scene

of an accident involving death. This investigation remains ongo-

ing, according to the PSPD. Anyone who may have witnessed the accident is urged to contact PSPD

Assistant Chief Brooks Brown at (970) 264-4151, ext. 246 or the Archuleta County Combined Dispatch Center at (970) 264-2160. randi@pagosasun.com

Outage

Continued from front no power.

According to an email to The SUN from La Plata Electric Association (LPEA) Strategic Communications Officer Amanda Anderson, outages were first reported at 6:37 a.m. on Friday, Feb. 14, affecting 11,229 members in Archuleta County.

LPEA's website showed the outage affected 96.1 percent of meters in Archuleta County.

She explains the outage was caused by heavy, wet snow.

"As always, heavy snow has the potential to weigh down power lines and tree branches or break equipment, causing widespread outages," Anderson states.

Power was restored to all members by 5:14 p.m. on Feb. 14, accord-

ing to Anderson.

LPEA has two ongoing projects that will help prevent widespread outages and allow for faster restora-

tion times, Anderson explains. "We continuously analyze outages to identify opportunities for system improvements and enhance reliability for our members," she wrote.

Anderson explains that a Bayfieldto-Pagosa Springs line rebuild is a major capital project that, once completed, "will provide a redundant power feed, reducing the risk of widespread outages."

The rebuild is expected to be complete by 2030, Anderson indicates.

She also notes that a new Trujillo substation addition will "help redistribute electrical load and expand

our switching capabilities, allowing for faster restoration and improved system resilience."

Anderson also notes that the Trujillo Substation is set to be considered for approval by the Pagosa Springs Town Council next month, and that LPEA expects to complete the project within 12 to 18 months after receiving approval.

Forecast

Mostly warm and dry weather is expected to return this weekend after a slight chance of snow showers tomorrow morning, Friday, Feb. 21, according to the National Weather Service.

For today, Thursday, Feb. 20, the high is forecast to be 50 degrees with mostly sunny skies and the low is forecast at 12 degrees with partly cloudy skies.

For Friday, Feb. 21, there is a 30 percent chance of snow showers, mainly before 11 a.m., with a high of 47 degrees. The low is forecast at 11 degrees with mostly clear skies.

Sunny skies are expected to return on Saturday, Feb. 22, with a forecast high of 51 degrees and sunny skies. The low is forecast at 15 degrees with mostly clear skies.

For Sunday, Feb. 23, the forecast is sunny with a high of 56 degrees. The low is forecast to be 20 degrees with mostly clear skies.

clayton@pagosasun.com

Call for Artists: Pagosa Springs Mural Project

The Town of Pagosa Springs invites artists to leave their creative mark by designing a mural for the Geothermal Building along the riverwalk and main street. This highly visible location offers a unique canvas to create an inspiring work that captures the spirit of Pagosa Springs. Imagine your art flowing with the energy of the town's world-famous hot springs, symbolizing renewal, vitality, and a deep connection to place.

The project budget is up to \$15,000, and the submission deadline for Round 1 is March 5, 2025, at 5:00 PM (MT). To apply, visit https://mypagosa.org/2025-call-for-artists.

For questions, email agadomski@ pagosasprings.co.gov.

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Allegations

■ Continued from front there is a controversy concerning each

taxpayer's first. The counterclaim continues, re-

ership of the property as stated in the agreement and without "meaningful" consultation with the SJWCD and the CWCB, as outlined in the agreement.

party's obligations under the 2015 agreement, but denies and contests PAWSD's interpretation of the 2015 agreement and its arguments for why declaratory judgment should be made in PAWSD's favor.

The response denies and contests that PAWSD has the right to request partition of the property and states that both parties agreed to not partition the property under the terms of the 2015 agreement.

The response also denies and contests claims by PAWSD that the CWCB is not a necessary party to the lawsuit that were included in the original filing.

The response then asserts a variety of defenses against PAWSD's claims, including PAWSD failing to state a claim upon which relief can be granted, failure to join indispensable parties, applicable statutes of limitations, laches, waiver, estoppel, consent, unclean hands and waiver of partition.

The response closes by asking the court to rule in the SJWCD's favor and to dismiss the claims which prejudice while awarding the SJWCD attorney's fees and costs.

The SJWCD counterclaim against PAWSD begins by outlining the history of the purchase of Running Iron Ranch and highlighting that, at the time of the 2015 agreement, the president of the PAWSD Board of Directors characterized the agreement as a costsaving measure that put the district's

counting the recent history of the reservoir project and PAWSD's efforts to sell the ranch.

The first claim for relief in counterclaim accuses PAWSD of breach of contract concerning the 2015 agreement, stating that PAWSD has failed to cooperate with the SJWCD in planning for a reservoir at Running Iron Ranch and unilaterally sought to end reservoir planning and sell the ranch 10 years before the end of the planning period for the reservoir outlined in the agreement.

It adds that PAWSD's efforts to sell the ranch occurred without the district making "every effort" to maintain own-

The breach of contract claim also accuses PAWSD of impairing SJWCD's efforts to build a reservoir by displaying "regular and public animosity" toward the district and of making decisions on technical issues without seeking information and advice from qualified professionals.

It also notes that PAWSD publicly endorsed a sale agreement that would have sold water rights for the reservoir that PAWSD does not own for "effectively no consideration."

The claim adds that the SJWCD See Allegations A9

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Continued from front force optimization initiative."

That order states, in part, "Agency Heads shall promptly undertake preparations to initiate large-scale reductions in force (RIFs), consistent with applicable law, and to separate from Federal service temporary employees and reemployed annuitants working in areas that will likely be subject to the RIFs. All offices that perform functions not mandated by statute or other law shall be prioritized in the RIFs, including all agency diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives; all agency initiatives, components, or operations that my Administration suspends or closes; and all components and employees performing functions not mandated by statute or other law who are not typically designated as essential during a lapse in appropriations as provided in the Agency Contingency Plans on the Office of Management and Budget website. This subsection 4 shall not apply to functions related to public safety, immigration enforcement, or law enforcement."

The SUN requested numbers of layoffs within the San Juan National Forest and Pagosa Ranger District, as well as if there are any changes or delays for projects planned on the San Juan National Forest due to the layoffs, but was told by local officials the requests were forwarded to the USFS Washington, D.C., office.

As of press time Wednesday, no responses had been received.

Polis' Feb. 14 statement notes that, while firefighters were spared from the cuts, other jobs that do important wildfire prevention work such as road maintenance, forest management and watershed restoration were "slashed."

"It's reckless endangerment to Coloradans and could increase homeowners insurance costs further for the Trump Administration to take a hammer to those who help protect us against wildfires through

watershed protection and forest management, tipping the scale toward more fire danger with potentially devastating consequences. It's fine if they don't like how the federal government works today, but risking our health and safety with no replacement is reckless," Polis said.

Polis is one of several elected officials from Colorado speaking out against the cuts.

Colorado U.S. Sens. Michael Bennet and John Hickenlooper; and U.S. Reps. Joe Neguse, Brittany Pettersen and Jason Crow urged U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins via letter to reinstate the 3,400 employees.

"We write with significant concerns about the decision to fire 3,400 US Forest Service (USFS) employees in accordance with Executive Order 14210: The Department of Government Efficiency 'Workforce Optimization Initiative,' and urge you to immediately reinstate them," wrote the lawmakers. "The USFS is already critically understaffed, and further employee cuts will have real and immediate consequences for Colorado's economy, rural communities, and wildfire resilience."

The letter also points out the employees "steward and manage nine national forests and two national grasslands in Colorado, including some of the most visited forests in the country. These public servants not only maintain the health of our headwaters and wildlife habitat but help keep our communities safe by decreasing the risk of wildfire destroying homes and critical infrastructure. They put out campfires, clear trails, clean bathrooms, and manage trailheads. They also help businesses with the permitting process to use Forest Service lands, including grazers, guides, outfitters, ski resorts, and oil, gas and mining operations."

The letter also suggests the is an "enormous" return on investment for the American people from USFS

employees.

"With just 35,000 employees, the USFS manages over 193 million acres of forests and grasslands, or about one employee for every 5,500 acres of land. Using visitation data alone, national forests produce nearly \$400,000 in economic activity for every USFS employee. These employees also live in and contribute to many of our country's most rural communities, keeping downtowns vibrant and critical services intact," it states.

The letter further outlines the lawmakers' offices have "heard for years about chronic understaffing at the USFS. Today, the agency's workforce is nearly 30% less than it was three decades ago. This significant reduction in staff has occurred even as the country's population grew by over 100 million people, visitation to national forests exploded, and wildfire risk increased drastically."

The letter also notes the employees entered public service despite low pay and the frequently seasonal nature of the job, as well as limited housing in remote areas where they serve.

"With the rising cost of living across the state, Colorado communities are already challenged with limited USFS staff to confront land management challenges, it states, adding that, combined with the hiring freeze, the staff reductions "will stretch the agency to its breaking point and place an enormous burden on Colorado communities."

It concludes, "Importantly, Forest Service employees are trusted and dedicated public servants, neighbors, and friends in communities across Colorado. The decision to terminate these employees reveals a complete disregard for the value of these public servants and the roles they fill. The decision will destabilize the agency and the rural communities they serve. Therefore, we urge you to reinstate these employees immediately." randi@pagosasun.com

Allegations.

■ Continued from A8

damages from these actions, including delays and impacts on the SJWCD's reservoir project, added expenses for the project and legal expenses due to the ongoing litigation.

The second claim for relief asks for declaratory judgment from the court concerning PAWSD's ability to sell the ranch under the 2015 agreement, requesting that the court find that PAWSD is prohibited from abandoning the reservoir project during the planning period, that it cannot sell the ranch unless it is has made every effort to retain it during the planning period and that it cannot sell the ranch without "meaningful consultation" with the SJWCD and the CWCB, among other findings The third claim for relief asks the court to issue an injunction enjoining PAWSD from taking actions to sell the ranch, acting in a manner that diminishes the SJWCD's and the CWCB's ability to use water rights and

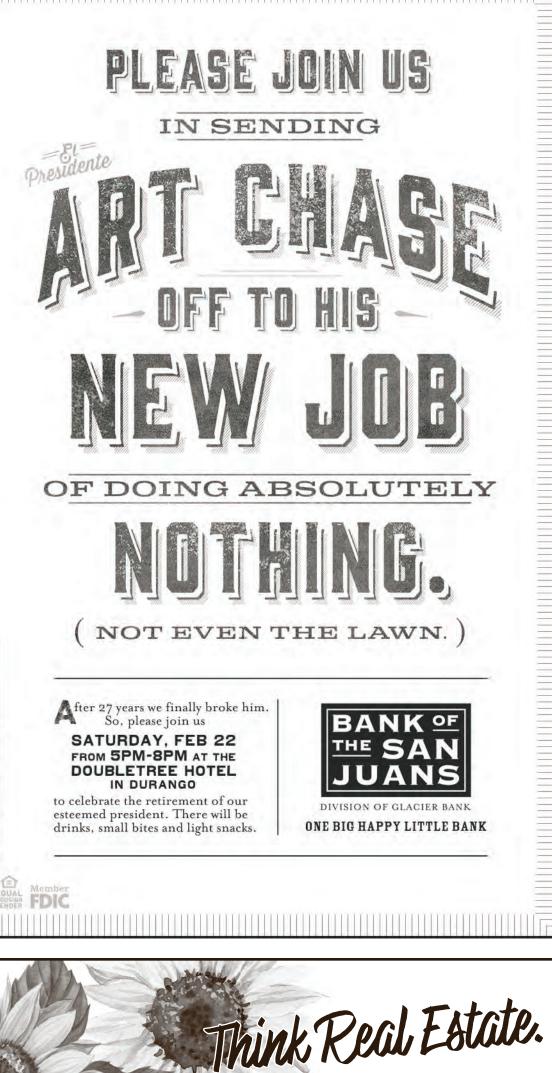
find partners for the reservoir project, and acting unilaterally concerning the party's shared ownership of the Running Iron Ranch.

The claim also asks that PAWSD be required to defend the CWCB and the SJWCD from any third-party claims caused by PAWSD's actions in breach of the agreement.

The counterclaim concludes with a prayer for relief summarizing the actions and items which the SJWCD requests that the court require, including damages for breach of contract in an

amount to be determined at trial, an order clarifying the party's rights and obligations under the 2015 agreement, an injunction concerning PAWSD's efforts to sell the ranch and other items, and an award of attorney's fees and costs to the SJWCD.

According to discussions at the Feb. 17 SJWCD board meeting, a PAWSD response to these counterclaims is expected by Feb. 21, after which the setting of timelines for discovery and other elements of the case can begin. josh@pagosasun.com



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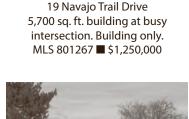
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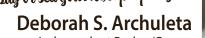


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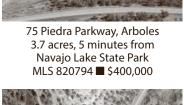
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Education



Rendering courtesy Pagosa Peak Open School

The new Pagosa Peak Open School playground is slated to include a cliff rider climbing structure, swings, diggers, spinners and embankment slides. The team was intentional about the setup allowing access for a diverse population, as well as offering a collaborative play experience for all using the space.

Charter school playground design complete, scheduled to open in August

By Emily Murphy Pagosa Peak Open School

Pagosa Springs is only six months away from having a brand-new, uptown community playground.

Thanks to the hard work of Pagosa Peak Open School (PPOS) volunteers Cady Allione and Elly Osmera, PPOS received a \$680,000 grant from the Colorado Health Foundation to fund this project. The new playground will sit on PPOS property and will be accessible to the public outside of school hours.

The design is unique, including multiple levels and hills, embankment slides, boulders, a sand pit and a "cliff rider." It will be the town's only park that is not foundationally flat, giving it an intriguing look and design.

The original idea, "The Playground for the People," is meant to be a place where everyone feels welcome, Osmera said.

During the past seven months, Allione and Osmera have worked alongside Courtney King, Kerry White at in Denver, the PPOS school director and Mike Davis. David Pribble has been the team's project manager along the way. Together, the team looked for beautiful, fun and unusual playground pieces as well as native landscaping for the space.

The design plans were recently submitted to the state for permitting, and the project is on target to be ready for the start of the 2025-2026 school year.

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Aspen House/Aspen Services, A Safe Place in Pagosa, Inc., a recognized 501(c)(3) corporation TIN: 46-4975570 — Donations are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law.



By Jane Lewis and Katrina Thomas Pagosa Springs Middle School

Pagosa Springs Middle School (PSMS) is proud to congratulate Lillian Jones on her historic achievement in the Colorado Middle All State Chair

State Choir.





Jones is only the second student in Pagosa Springs history to receive this honor.

Eighth-graders Lily Peck and Lillian Jones undertook the rigorous audition process for the prestigious state-level choir.

"Making it through the audition process is the choir equivalent of qualifying for a state-level sports competition," said PSMS Choir Director Katrina Thomas. "I am so proud of them both. They dedicated countless hours of practice and preparation into the audition, then had to wait for over seven weeks to get the results."

When the selections were announced, Thomas was thrilled to notify Jones that she had earned a spot in the Triplo Ensemble in the Colorado Middle All State Choir Festival.

"All music must be memorized before the festival, so Lillian diligently practiced the repertoire every day," Thomas shared.

The challenging repertoire included three foreign-language selections — the Baroque "Dixit Dominus" by Vivaldi, the Serbian Roma dance "Nishka Banja" and the lively Cuban Spanish "Sigue" — along with a moving arrangement of the spiritual "Peace Like a River," the powerful "Song for Justice" accompanied by a live string quintet and the rhythmic contrapuntal masterpiece "Sing Alleluia, Clap Your Hands."

On Feb. 6, Jones and Thomas trav-See Choir A11



Miles Baker

Miles Baker was named to Biola University's Dean's List for academic excellence.

Baker, a cinema and media arts major from Pagosa Springs, was one of approximately 1,700 students who were named to the dean's list in fall 2024.

Biola students are placed on the dean's list to honor those with a GPA of 3.6 or higher while enrolled in 12 or more credits and whose cumulative GPA is at least 3.2. Photo courtesy Pagosa Springs Middle School

Lillian Jones stands at the Bellco Theater. Jones was selected for the Colorado Middle All State Choir and performed at a two-day festival in Denver Feb. 6 and 7.



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Annual school district audit sees improvement

By Garrett Fevinger Staff Writer

While Archuleta School District (ASD) has improved internal controls over financial reporting since 2023, room for improvement remains a "significant deficiency" for the district, according to a 2024 audit finding presented to the Board of Education on Feb. 11.

"Even though 'significant deficiency' still sounds like a terrible word, it is a lot better," said Jessica Bogner, summarizing her firm's unmodified opinion of the district's 2024 financial strengths and weaknesses.

The same firm found ASD's internal controls to be a "material weakness" in 2023, resulting in the district being disqualified from a "low-risk" auditee designation.

As of June 30, 2024, the latest audit recognized ASD's progress but noted the district has yet to implement a "complete system of internal controls over year-end reconciliation procedures."

According to the audit document, those controls help prevent, detect and correct financial misstatements.

"This is a repeat finding of 2023," Bogner explained, "meaning that it is very similar in nature. But we did go from being a material weakness to a significant deficiency, so things were improving."

The auditing team attributed the 2024 finding primarily to ASD's accounting "system conversion" that took place in fiscal year 2024, which "caused financial reporting difficulties.

"We still had to make some material audit adjustments," to journal entries, Bogner said, "but [the adjustments] were because of the change in the system — it reported differently than the other system."

Bogner also pointed to personnel changes within the district, say-

change systems we typically always see a finding, just because you're not where you were. And it takes a while to get back to knowing how the system works."

ASD Finance Director Eric Burt was promoted to his current position in July 2024 after almost three years as assistant director under Michael Hodgson, who retired at the end of the 2024 school year.

During the Feb. 11 meeting, Burt explained that discrepancies unearthed in the 2023 finding have since been "resolved, and we have balanced to the penny every month since January of 2024."

With the improved finding, ASD can again qualify as a low-risk auditee, according to Bogner, providing the 2025 audit does not find any material weaknesses

"You can have significant deficiencies and still qualify as low-risk," Bogner said. "You cannot have material weaknesses."

A low-risk designation means that 20 percent of a district's federal award spending is scrutinized during the annual audit. As a high-risk auditee, 40 percent of ASD's federal spending is subject to testing.

In his corrective action plan, Burt writes that ASD will "continue to expand its reconciliation processes to include all balance sheet accounts ... on a monthly basis effective immediately."

ASD Superintendent Rick Holt applauded that approach during the meeting, adding, "We're just going to add that as regular practice. I think the idea of only looking at that annually is problematic. So, thanks to Eric for increasing the frequency by which we're checking things."

Bogner likewise praised the ASD financial team for its cooperation and efficiency.

"If we had any difficulties encountered while performing the audit, we

ing, "Anytime you have turnover or would have to disclose that to you," she said. "We had no difficulties. Everybody here is really easy to work with and gets us all the information that we request very timely."

Thanking the auditing team, Burt added, "It's been a very intense learning experience."

2024 financial overview

Throughout its 83 pages, the 2024 audit offers an overview of ASD's financial condition.

"We can't look at 100 percent of the items that flow through the district," Bogner told the school board. "We do what's called a test basis. Based on that, we are able to say that we have gained enough information to provide you with that unmodified opinion."

In its summary, the audit document offers the following insights into ASD's financial operations, as of June 30, 2024:

• The general fund experienced a \$230,752 surplus in fiscal year 2024, recording a \$9.82 million fund balance.

"This amount is 47.5% of the District's total General Fund expenditures and transfers" for the fiscal year, and represents a decrease of 1.9 percent from 2023, it states.

• When considering all governmental funds, but excluding fiduciary funds, ASD recorded a \$10.67 million fund balance — an increase of \$200,578 from the previous year.

• ASD's long-term debt was \$418,875 — about \$490,000 less than long-term debt in June 2023.

· ASD's total combined net position was \$3,567,675 — a reduction of \$108,135 from 2023.

"So, pretty much a break-even," Bogner said.

• During fiscal year 2024, the district spent \$3.36 million in 11 federal grants and awards.

"This spending amount includes Food Service and Secure Rural School

spending," according to the audit document. • Total current assets in the district

amounted to \$13.94 million, with noncurrent assets totaling \$17.93 million.

• The district had total current liabilities of \$2.79 million.

• Total expenses for ASD amounted to \$24.22 million - with \$19 million in property taxes and other government funds helping to pay them. "That shows that the district can-

not operate without property taxes and state [funds]," Bogner said. "This is a really good statement for the public to see, that we really do need that funding to operate."

• In reviewing the district's internal controls over federal funds from three COVID-19-related Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief grants, the audit team did not identify any material weaknesses or significant deficiencies.

garrett@pagosasun.com





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Local reporting that matters.



Choir

■ Continued from A10

eled to downtown Denver for the two-day festival held in the Colorado Convention Center.

There, Jones rehearsed alongside more than 500 of the best seventhand eighth-grade choir students from all across the state under the direction of expert clinicians from around the country. The festival then culminated in a public concert at the Bellco Theater the evening of Feb. 7. Jones was also selected as a fea-

ture soloist during the event.

"It's really hard to put into words the experience we just had at Colorado Middle School All State Choir. The amount of work that the kids put in to even get there is huge. And I had no idea how absolutely incredible and emotional this whole experience would be," commented Bethany Jones, mother of Lillian Jones and chaperone at the event. "To say I'm grateful feels small. This was so phenomenal. Truly the memory of a lifetime. The experience of singing with a group of kids that are willing to

put in this amount of work and effort, and love music like you, coupled by being mentored by the best of the best was just amazing."

"This is truly a rare and exciting opportunity," Thomas added. "We are thrilled to be restoring high-quality choir programming at the middle school, giving our small-town students access to incredible musical experiences like this. As a teacher, there is nothing more rewarding than pushing your students to excellence and watching them soar."

The Springs Resort awarded the Kathy Clark Access Award

The Springs Resort

The Balneology Association of North America (BANA) has awarded The Springs Resort the Kathy Clark Access Award. The Springs Resort is one of only two places in 2024 to receive this award, which recognizes businesses that go above and beyond to connect people with the therapeutic benefits of natural hot springs.

Established in honor of Kathy

resort's healing waters are accessible to all. Affordable local pricing, flexible memberships, multi-day passes, and community initiatives make it easier than ever to connect, relax, and enjoy the benefits of natural hot springs.

This commitment to inclusivity extends beyond the resort and into the community. In 2024, The Springs Resort donated over a thousand soaking passes to local and regional organizations such as Healthy Archuleta, the Pagosa Fire Protection District, The Special Talents High School, Pagosa Springs Middle School, Wounded Warrior and Vets for Vets. Fatherless Teens. Dust2, and other scholastic teams. These contributions ensure that even more members of the community can experience the healing power of the water.

Above all, The Springs Resort aims to help locals and visitors from across the state, nation, and world connect with and benefit from Pagosa's healing waters. These waters are renowned globally for their exceptional mineral content and are sought after by hot spring enthusiasts everywhere.

Resort member Michelle Juneau is just one of many locals who feels the love: "I love the versatility of the Springs Resort. There is a pool and temperature for everyone - from tiny kids to older folks! I recently brought my friends from Germany here; they absolutely loved it! Plus, you can drink coffee, an adult beverage, or have some lunch. It's really great for the whole day!" It's no surprise that this impressive hot springs resort was honored with the Kathy Clark Access Award from BANA. Thanks to the dedicated efforts of its team, the Springs Resort is truly accessible to all. Behind the scenes, employees work tirelessly to ensure that everyone feels welcome to experience the profound benefits of therapeutic bathing in its natural hot spring waters. This special resort exemplifies its purpose of enhancing the well-being of all who visit.

Chimney Rock Interpretive Association to hold volunteer information event Feb. 27

By Ana Murray

Chimney Rock Interpretive Association

Do you enjoy any of the following? • Meeting people from all over the U.S. and the world.

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• Helping visitors appreciate the amazing natural and cultural wonders of Southwest Colorado.

 Sharing your expertise and skills with visitors and other volunteers.

• Learning about an ancient and accomplished civilization that lived in the area you call home.

Opportunities are varied and appeal to a large range of interests. Positions available include: • Tour guide: archeology/culture, astronomy, geology and birding.

- Plaza and mesa hosts.
- Retail (gift shop).
- Education: school week and youth workshops.
- Maintenance.
- Life at Chimney Rock.
- Lecture series.
- Many others.
- Anyone can be a volunteer.

The Chimney Rock Interpretive Association (CRIA) will offer volunteer orientation on May 2 and 3 and throughout the season by working with ad hoc mentors.

You can volunteer as often as you like. You can set your own schedule at the beginning of each year and pick up other opportunities later in the

season when you realize how much you enjoy being a part of the Chimney Rock family.

To learn more about volunteering at Chimney Rock National Monument, please come join us at the Ruby Sisson Library from 1 to 2 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 27. We will be there to visit with you, explain our volunteer offerings, answer questions and welcome you to the Chimney Rock family.

CRIA and the San Juan National Forest of the U.S. Forest Service, Department of Agriculture are working in partnership to preserve and develop educational opportunities about the significant archaeological, cultural, geological and biological resources at Chimney Rock National Monument.

Clark, the award has only been granted to five hot springs since 2022. During the pandemic, Kathy Clark recognized the therapeutic benefits of hot springs and worked tirelessly to keep Charles Hot Springs open, ensuring access to its healing waters.

The Springs Resort is the first hot springs in Colorado to receive this prestigious award. BANA fosters and maintains deep connections with hot springs all over the nation.

The Springs Resort takes pride in creating an inclusive and welcoming experience for everyone. from local community members to individuals on retreats, couples, families, children, the elderly, and those with physical or developmental disabilities. Whether it's a first-time visit to the hot springs or a cherished local tradition, the

The Springs Resort and Spa is currently undergoing a massive expansion. This expansion, expected to be completed in Spring 2025, will result in even greater accessibility. The number of hot springs pools at The Springs Resort and Spa will double with this expansion, offering more space and opportunities for people to enjoy therapeutic bathing in a soothing, relaxing, and uncrowded atmosphere.

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WRESTLING Pirates battle at state tournament

By Clayton Chaney Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Pirate wrestling team had four grapplers compete in last week's state finals tournament held at the Ball Arena in Denver Feb. 13-15.

"I thought we wrestled pretty well," coach Dan Janowsky said in an interview, despite having to adjust to a newly reconfigured schedule compared to years past.

Janowsky mentioned that the Pirates' assistant coaches were "crucial in coming up with solutions."

He explains in an email to The SUN that "leading the way" was junior Colton Lucero, who competed in the 144-pound weight class, taking second place.

Janowsky notes that Lucero was the 38th Pirate in the school's history to reach a state final first-place match.

Janowsky explained that Lucero was "dominant" in his early matches, winning his opening match on a 17-0 technical fall in one minute and 17 seconds. "So, that was a great start," Janowsky

said. Lucero then defeated his opponent in the quarterfinal match by a major decision of 11-2, and went on to pin his opponent in the semifinal match in 3:24.

He then lost his first-place match by a major decision of 11-0.

Janowsky explained that Lucero was down in the first-place match by a narrow score of 1-0 before giving up seven points in 10 seconds.

Janowsky mentioned that Lucero is "one of the best our program has had," adding that he has an "impressive style of wrestling" that draws lots of attention from opponents in preparation for matches.

Lucero finished the season with an overall record of 32-7.

Three senior Pirates competed at state, with Anthony Manzanares competing in the 106-pound weight class, Taylor Hancey in the 165-pound weight class and Antonio Quezada in the 285-pound weight class.

Manzanares earned sixth place in a division Janowsky described as having some of the best wrestlers in the state.

He noted that Manzanares faced some adversity and had to work through some mistakes in his earl matches "I thought he did an awesome job there," Janowsky said.



Photo courtesy Allison Wylie

Colton Lucero battles with an opponent in the 144-pound weight class during last week's state wrestling tournament in Denver. Lucero took second in his division, becoming the 38th Pirate to reach a state final championship match.



Photo courtesy Allison Wylie

Taylor Hancey gets his hand raised after defeating his opponent in the opening round of the 165-pound weight class at last week's state tournament.



FOR PLANNING COMMISSION HEARING ON Febru-

ary 27, 2025 257 View LLC has applied for a REZONE on the Parcel in RURAL Sec: 6 & 7 Twn: 35 Rng: 1W A PARCEL OF LAND BEING LOCATED IN GLO LOT 6 & 7 AND RURAL Sec: 1 Twn: 35 Rng: 1W E2SE4 AND RURAL Sec: 12 Twn: 35 Rng: 2W NE4NE4, at X County Road 200, Pagosa Springs, CO (PLN25-012). The property is zoned AGRICULTURAL RANCHING (AR).

Comments regarding this case may be submitted to Archuleta County Development Services-Planning De partment, P.O. Box 1507, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147-1507, telephone: (970) 264-1390 or to Planning@ archuletacounty.org prior to the public hearing by the Archuleta County Planning Commission on February 27, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. in the County Commission eting Room, 398 Lewis Street, Pagosa Springs and via Zoom Link.

Published February 13 and 20, 2025 The Pagosa Springs SUN. (257402)

A CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

(NOTICE BY PUBLICATION OF) §1-13.5-501, 1-13.5-1102(3), 32-1-905(2), C.R.S. TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN, and, particularly, to the electors of the Los Pinos Fire Protection District of La Plata and Archuleta Counties. Colorado. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an election will be

held on the 6th day of May 2025, between the hours of

7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. At that time, 2 directors will be elected to serve 4-year terms. Eligible electors of the Los Pinos Fire Protection District interested in serving on the board of directors may obtain a Self-Nomination and Acceptance form from the District Designated Election Official (DEO): Rebecca Flinders of the Los Pinos Fire Protection District at 275 Bro Ignacio, Colorado, 81137 (970) 563-9501

The Office of the DEO is open on the following days Monday - Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The deadline to submit a Self-Nomination and Accept

tance is close of business on February 28, 2025 (not less than 67 days before the election Affidavit of Intent to be A Write-In-Candidate forms must be submitted to the office of the designated election official by the close of business on Monday, March 3,

2025 (the sixty-fourth day before the election). NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN, an application for an absentee ballot shall be filed with the designated election official no later than the close of business on Tuesday April 29, 2025. Los Pinos Fire Protection District

DEO Published January 30, February 6, 13, 20, and 27, 2025 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (255640)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Estate of DAVID FRANCIS BLAKE, vid F. Blake, Deceas

Notice

Notice of a change in the tariffs of La Plata Electric Association, Inc.

You are hereby notified that the above-named Cooperative has proposed the following changes in its tariffs which will become effective on April 1, 2025, following approval by the LPEA Board of Directors at its regular meeting on March 26, 2025.

Summary of Proposed Changes:

The proposed changes include an average rate increase of 7.72% across all rate schedules. This adjustment reflects rising operational costs, including fuel, materials, labor, and infrastructure maintenance, as identified in a third-party cost-of-service study. The average residential member

will see an increase of 6.7% or \$7.54 on their monthly bill. Specific changes include modifications to the base, peak power and energy charges for residential, commercial, and industrial members.

Proposed 2025 Rates:

Rate Schedule	Description	Component	Rates	
A-10	General Service	Base Charge	\$25.30	/ month
		Peak Power Charge	\$5.73	/ kW / month
		Energy	\$0.1156	/ kWh
GSD-10	Large Single Phase	Base Charge	\$25.30	/ month
		Demand	\$11.68	/ kW / month
		Energy	\$0.0970	/ kWh
OPT-10	General Service AMI Opt Out	Base Charge	\$52.80	/ month
		Energy	\$0.1227	/ kWh
RTOU-15	General Service Time of Use	Base Charge	\$25.30	/ month
		On Peak	\$0.2828	/ kWh
		Off Peak	\$0.0690	/ kWh
B2-21	Small Commercial Three Phase	Base Charge	\$55.00	/ month
		Demand	\$6.23	/ kW / month
		Energy	\$0.1050	/ kWh
LP-30	Large Commercial	Base Charge	\$100.00	/ month
		Demand	\$18.34	/ kW / month
		Energy	\$0.0700	/ kWh
B5-28	Three Phase Time of Use	Base Charge	\$55.00	/ month
		Demand	\$7.71	/ kW / month
		On Peak	\$0.2345	/ kWh
		Off Peak	\$0.0650	/ kWh
EV-28	Three Phase EV Time of Use	Base Charge	\$150.00	/ month
		On Peak	\$0.2828	/ kWh
		Off Peak	\$0.0650	/ kWh
LP-31	Primary Service	Base Charge	\$1,300.00	/ month
		Demand		/ kW / month
		On Peak Energy	\$0.1100	
		Off Peak Energy	\$0.0600	/ kWh
CP-34	Snow Making	Base Charge	\$11,420	/ month
		On Peak Energy	\$0.1264	/ kWh
TOP 4(Off Peak Energy	\$0.0690	/ kWh
TCP-36	Transmission Coincident Peak	Base Charge	\$1,300.00	/ month
		Coincident Demand	\$27.38	/ kW / month
		Energy	\$0.0445	/ kWh
C-40	Irrigation	Demand	\$19.74	/ kW / month
		Energy	\$0.1350	/ kWh
SR-41	Sale for Resale	Base Charge	\$200.00	/ month
		Demand	\$10.00	/ kW / month
		Energy	\$0.1311	/ kWh
SL-50	Street Lighting	Service Light	\$12.57 \$14.84	/ month
		Small Light Medium Light	\$14.84 \$23.38	/ month / month
		Large Light	\$23.38	/ month
		Large Light	\$52.55	/ 11101101

Public Notices

Case Number 2025PR30004

All persons having claims against the above named estate are required to present them to the personal representative or to District Court of Archuleta. County Colorado on or before June 6, 2025, or the claims m be forever barred

Pilar Krawchuk, Personal Representative 1134 Charles Street Clearwater, Florida 33755

(727)434-7007 Published February 6, 13, and 20, 2025 in The Pagosa Springs SUN. (257098)

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

Estate of Warren Joseph Grams, AKA Warren Grams Deceased

Case Number: 2024PR30067 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 March 13, 2025, or the clair may be forever barred

Published February 6, 13, and 20, 2025 in The Pago

Springs SUN. (257099)

Roxanne Lattir P.O. Box 1385

Pagosa Springs, CO 81147

Manzanares won his opening match on a 12-8 decision to move on to the quarterfinal match, where he defeated his opponent by a decision of 7-3.

Janowsky commented that Manzanares "had a really nice win" in the quarterfinal match, despite being "dinged" for some "strict" stalling calls.

Manzanares then lost in the semifinal match against the eventual 106-pound champion by a 19-3 technical fall in 5:10, sending him to the consolation semifinals.

"We wrestled tough and competitively," Janowsky added.

Manzanares lost his following match by a narrow decision of 4-3, which sent him to the fifth-place match, where he lost by a decision of 11-4.

"He's held down that 106-pound spot for three years," Janowsky said, explaining that Manzanares "provided a lot of fun" for the fans during that time.

Manzanares finished the season with an overall record of 29-12.

Hancey got a "nice win" in his opening match in the 165-pound weight class, Janowsky noted.

Hancey pinned his opponent in the opening round in 1:44, and then lost in the quarterfinal match by getting pinned in 1:40.

Hancey was pinned in the following match in 3:50, finishing the season with an overall record of 16-10.

Janowsky explained that Hancey has dealt with a number of injuries throughout his career and that it's a "great achievement" for Hancey to make it within the top 16 wrestlers in the state for his division.

Quezada lost his opening match in the 285-pound weight class by getting pinned in 36 seconds. He then lost his following match by getting pinned in 1:15, finishing the season with an overall record of 16-16.

Janowsky explained that Quezada is a "light" heavyweight and has competed against larger opponents all season long.

"He made the most of it," Janowsky added

Photo courtesy Allison Wylie

Antonio Quezada works to earn points against an opponent in last week's state wrestling tournament. Quezada represented the Pirates in the 285-pound weight class.



Photo courtesy Allison Wylie

Anthony Manzanares flies through the air with an opponent from the state wrestling tournament in Denver last week. Manzanares earned sixth place in the 106-pound weight class, ending his high school career with 63 varsity wins.

Janowsky also commented that by the time wrestlers reach the state final tournament, most of their peers have been eliminated.

"They're in there and they're competitive," Janowsky said of the Pirates.

He mentioned that the seniors were affected by COVID as middle schoolers and weren't able to get as much mat time, but that "they grew by leaps and bounds."

He noted that the junior high wrestling programs are a huge part of the

Pirate wrestling program as a whole, and that he is "grateful" for those Pirates "hanging in there despite the challenges of the times" and "finishing the best they could."

Samuel Kelly also traveled with the Pirate wrestling team, competing in the Unified division and winning his first-place match by pinning his opponent in 2:31.

Janowsky noted that Kelly "has good skills," both mentally and physically. clayton@pagosasun.com

The proposed and present versions of these tariffs are available for examination on the Cooperative's website (lpea.coop) and at each business office of the Cooperative: 603 S 8th St. Pagosa Springs, CO, and 45 Stewart St. Durango, CO.

Anyone who desires to submit comments about the proposed changes shall file a written comment with the Cooperative at 45 Stewart Street, Durango, Colorado, 81303, or by email to comments@lpea.coop, on or before March 16, 2025. The LPEA Board of Directors will consider the written comments at its March meeting. The changes ultimately authorized by the board may or may not be the same as those proposed and may include changes different than those tariffs proposed or currently in effect.

IS/ Chris Hansen, LPEA

Chief Executive Officer Published in the Pagosa Springs Sun February 20, 2025 Published February 20, 2025 in The Pagosa Springs SUN. (258222)

PUBLIC NOTICES: YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW

WRESTLING

Lady Pirate wrestling program notches first state medalist

By Clayton Chaney Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Lady Pirate wrestling team has experienced multiple firsts this season, with winning its first tournament to hosting its first home dual, and now Laykyn Baxstrom becoming the first Lady Pirate to earn a podium place at the state tournament.

The Lady Pirates traveled to Denver last week to compete in the state finals tournament held at Ball Arena Feb 13-15.

Coach Dan Janowsky wrote in an email to The SUN that Baxstrom "made history for the girl's program, becoming the first state medalist" in the program's history after earning fourth place in the 190-pound weight class.

Janowsky notes that Baxstrom "won three tough matches on the way to her historic medal."

Baxstrom won her opening match by pinning her opponent in two minutes and 35 seconds.

She then defeated her opponent in the quarterfinal match by a major decision of 13-1, sending her to the semifinals, where she was defeated by a decision of 8-4.

Janowsky mentioned in an interview that Baxstrom was "very capable of winning it" and that he felt Baxstrom controlled the majority of the match, being the more aggressive wrestler, but "wasn't able to put those points on the board."

He noted that Baxstrom took a few risks late in the match to go for some points, but fell victim to some quality counterattacks.

"I felt like we controlled most of the time and the action in the match," he said.

Baxstrom went on to pin her opponent in the consolation semifinal match in three minutes, sending her to the third-place match where she lost in double overtime by a decision of 6-1.

"She did awesome," Janowsky said, noting the last match was tied at 1-1 after almost eight minutes of wrestling. He noted those were, "very close,

competitive matches." Baxstrom finished the season with

an overall record of 17-6.



Janowsky explained that the Lady Pirates dealt with some "nerves" with the exception of Baxstrom in that the other Lady Pirates had not been to the state tournament before.

"Its such a different experience," he said, adding, "We had some opportunities to score," along with losing some leads.

Janowsky explained that the Ball Arena poses a larger atmosphere than the Lady Pirates may have been used to with 12 mats and lots of crowd noise.

"That is one of the big factors," he added.

Janowsky mentioned that it can be a common problem to feel some nerves in your first state tournament appearance.

"Although I feel like our girls, even in defeat, showed some really good physical skills," he said.

Madisen Stretton competed in the 105-pound weight class and lost her opening match by a decision of 14-8 after jumping out to a 6-0 lead, Janowsky explained.

"She's got good skills," he added. Stretton then won her following match by a major decision of 12-0, and then lost her third match by a decision of 6-0, being eliminated from the tournament.

Stretton finished the season with

an overall record of 25-11.

Bella Jackson wrestled in the 100-pound weight class, losing her opening match by pin in 1:17. She was pinned in her following match in 27 seconds.

Jackson finished the season with an overall record of 22-13.

"She had an awesome season," Janowsky said, noting that Jackson is a "great prospect" for the program, and "typically wrestles with a lot of energy, and a lot of heart."

Kylie Matyniak competed in the 130-pound weight class, losing her opening match by pin in 1:58.

Janowsky mentioned that Matyniak handled the big stage well and was involved in "competitive matches."

Matyniak finished the season with an overall record of 18-13.

"Our girls were super excited to qualify and move into that level," Janowsky said, noting that the team has mostly resolved handling its nerves and is looking forward to getting back to the state tournament next season.

"The size of the mat is the same whether you're in the Ball Arena or Pagosa's gym," Janowsky said, explaining how it can be easy to get swept up in the atmosphere of a larger tournament.

clayton@pagosasun.com

BASKETBALL Pirates focusing on the road ahead

By Garrett Fevinger Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Pirate basketball team fell to Montezu.

"Year-in and year-out, they're a very good basketball team, and it's no different this year," Lewis said of the Mustangs. "Our hands are completely

That contest is now scheduled for 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 25, at Alamosa High School.

The Pirates defeated the Mean Moose at their last encounter Jan. 24, prevailing 45-44 at home.

SUN photo/Chad Richardson Laykyn Baxstrom battles with her opponent from Las Animas during last week's state wrestling tournament in Denver. Baxstrom became the first Lady Pirate to earn a state finalist medal in the program's history, placing fourth in the 190-pound weight class.



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ma-Cortez while on the road Saturday, 62-36, logging their second defeat this season to the league's No. 2 team.

"I thought we'd been playing really good in probably our five games before Cortez," coach Wes Lewis said. "For whatever reason, we just didn't play well that afternoon and Cortez played pretty well."

Lewis added that the Pirates struggled with turnovers early against the Panthers as the team continues to fine-tune its form as the regular season approaches its final games.

"I think we've done a better job of executing our sets," Lewis said. "I'd like to continue to improve on our shooting. We're still focusing on that. I think our defense has been good — it wasn't on Saturday afternoon - but it's been improving."

With the result, the fourth-ranked Pirates are now 4-5 in 3A/4A Intermountain League (IML) play with three conference games remaining on the schedule.

Those will follow Friday night's home game versus the Sanford Mustangs, the top-ranked team in the 2A/3A Southern Peaks league.

Lady Pirates still undefeated in league play

By Garrett Fevinger Staff Writer

The top-ranked Lady Pirate basketball squad stunned the Montezuma-Cortez Panthers on Saturday afternoon in Cortez, defeating the hosts 66-16 in a result that extended the team's undefeated record to 9-0 in 3A/4A Intermountain League (IML) play.

With the win, the Lady Pirates remain atop the IML standings and are now the No. 3 team in Colorado 4A girls' basketball.

In Cortez, the Lady Pirates sprinted to a 17-point lead by the end of the first quarter and at halftime led by 27.

Pagosa would go on to enjoy a 30-point second half while holding the Panthers to seven. See Basketball A14

full this weekend with Sanford.

Friday's game is scheduled for 7 p.m. at Pagosa Springs High School.

On Saturday, the Pirates will travel to La Jara to face the Centauri Falcons, who are still undefeated in the IML and who bested the Pirates 54-39 when the teams last battled Feb. 1.

The Falcons are the No. 6 team in the state's 3A standings.

Saturday's game is scheduled for 4 p.m. at Centauri High School.

Following the weekend play, Pagosa is scheduled to make-up a game versus the Alamosa Mean Moose that was originally scheduled for Valentine's Day but postponed due to weather.

Assessing the road ahead, Lewis emphasized the importance of the Pirates moving beyond last weekend's result and regaining the strides made in recent weeks.

"Hopefully we can just move on and forget about the Cortez game and look in the windshield and not the rearview mirror, and hope to get better each and every day," Lewis said. "We've got to keep trying to improve with our shooting, with our defense, and taking care of the basketball to give ourselves a chance."

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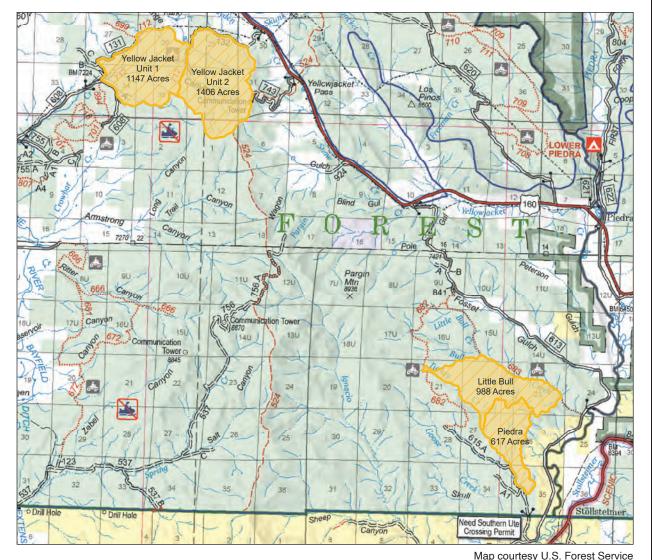
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The above map shows the areas of planned burns that could begin this month in the Columbine Ranger District.

Prescribed burns planned in HD Mountains

These burn units are part of the

larger Fossett Gulch and Southern HDs

Integrated Vegetation Management

projects aimed at reducing hazardous

ground fuels and long-term risk of

catastrophic wildfire, as well as restor-

ing ponderosa pine ecosystems and

Daytime smoke is expected to travel

to the north/northeast. Nighttime

smoke is expected to travel downslope

into the Piedra River drainage. Smoke

will be heavier in the mornings follow-

ing burning operations, although it will

Smoke will be visible from Arboles,

The forests in Southwest Colorado

Bayfield, Pagosa Springs, as well as the

U.S. 160 and Colo. 151 corridors near

ground and aerial ignition.

improving wildlife habitat.

clear by mid-day.

those towns.

U.S. Department of Agriculture

The Columbine Ranger District is planning to burn 4,150 acres in the HD mountains of the San Juan National Forest

From the town of Bayfield, the project areas are approximately 6 miles (Yellow Jacket units) east and 12 miles southeast (Little Bull and Piedra units). Operations may begin as soon as February and may continue into May, depending on weather conditions and availability of fire personnel and other resources.

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

Burning operations will be conducted by district personnel and other fire resources from the Forest Service and partner agencies, using both

Boarding

an interview.

to stay in control, noting that falls or ■ Continued from A1 68 points to place fifth in the competi-"butt checks" usually result in points tion out of 13 riders, he explained in being deducted. In the Austria and Canadian competitions he competed "It was pretty sweet," Lamoreaux in, judges give more points for bigger said, explaining he was able to meet air, and drops and falls don't necessar-

and ride with professional athletes. Lamoreaux then traveled to Canada on his first solo trip out of the country,

maintained. Lamoreaux competed in his first

are part of a fire-adapted ecosystem, which has historically experienced frequent, low-intensity fires on a large scale. Prescribed fire replicates that fire regime under controlled conditions. Prescribed fires will only be ignited when all weather, fuels and smoke requirements are met.

Learn how smoke from prescribed fire may affect your health by visiting the Colorado Department of Public Health website at https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/wood-smokeand-health.

For more information, please contact District Assistant Fire Management Officer (fuels) Noah Daniels at noah. daniels@usda.gov.

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

Of the competitions Lamoreaux has

He explained that although being

competed in so far this season, he men-

tioned he felt the best about his perfor-

mance in Austria, noting the competi-

fatigued from traveling, the time

change and an intense hike up to the

tion had good snow conditions.

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Gennette Erickson

describing it as a "learning experience," from navigating traveling logistics to learning different styles of judging depending on the competition.

He explained that U.S. competitions typically focus on riders being technical with their runs and their ability

Basketball

■ Continued from A10

The Lady Pirates finished with 16 assists in Cortez, along with nine steals, three blocks and six turnovers.

Elizabeth Currier led the day's offense with 19 points, followed by Kaila Limebrook with 15 points and Karsyn Shahan with 13.

Limebrook led the team's rebounding effort with 13 total, including 10 offensive, followed by Currier's eight and Lexi Campbell's seven.

The Lady Pirates sunk five of eight free-throw attempts on Saturday.

The Lady Pirates are next scheduled to face the Sanford Mustangs in a nonleague contest this Friday, Feb. 22 in Pagosa Springs.

Sanford is currently 6-0 and the topranked team in the 2A/3A Southern Peaks League.

The game is scheduled to begin at 5:30 p.m. at Pagosa Springs High School

On Saturday, Feb. 22, the Lady Pirates hit the road to face IML rival Centauri at 2:30 p.m. at Centauri High School.

The two teams last faced off Feb. 1 in Pagosa Springs, with the Lady Pirates winning 30-27 and handing the now 8-1 Falcons their only league loss of the season.

Centauri is currently ranked second in the IML standings and third in the state's 3A girls' standings.

Pagosa was originally scheduled to travel for a Valentine's Day bout against the Alamosa Mean Moose, but due to inclement weather, that game was rescheduled for 5:30 p.m. on Feb. 25 at Alamosa High School.

The Lady Pirates won their last encounter with the Mean Moose, No. 3 in the IML, on Jan. 24, winning 59-38.

Coach Sarah Osborn could not be reached for comment as of press time Wednesday.

two four-star adult FWT qualifying competitions while in Canada, taking part in the Kicking Horse and Revelstoke qualifying events, placing 15th and sixth, respectively.

ily deduct points so long as "fluidity" is

Remaining competitions on the list for Lamoreaux this season include stops at Snowbird in Utah this week, Crested Butte and Taos, N.M.

He explained that riders are judged based on their top three scores from qualifying competitions in hopes of receiving an invite to the FWT Challenger series. From there, the top two riders from the FWT Challenger series are invited to the FWT World Tour the highest level of competition under the International Freeskiers and Snowboarders Association (IFSA).

"Definitely hoping to make it to the Challengers this year," Lamoreaux said.

As of Feb. 18, Lamoreaux was the 33rd-ranked snowboarder in the world, according to the FWT and IFSA, he indicates in a message to The SUN.

starting point, Lamoureux had the most fun throwing down his line in Austria.

"Which was the goal going into it," he said, explaining he did not want to ride conservative and aimed to "go big."

The lack of snow locally at Wolf Creek Ski Area this season has kept Lamoreaux from missing home too much, though he was able to ride his home mountain a couple of times in between competitions, noting it's "fun knowing where to go."

Lamoreaux also acknowledged the community's support in his adventures.

"I could not have done it without the Pagosa community, that's for sure," he said, explaining a fundraiser was held earlier.

"That helped so much," he added, mentioning he's been enjoying traveling, learning and competing with some of the best snowboarders from around the world.

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Dreview ARTS & ARE Healthy Archuleta Food Drive

10 a.m. to 1 p.m. • Saturday, Feb. 22 • City Market



Page 2 - Section 1 - The Pagosa Springs SUN - PREVIEW - Thursday, February 20, 2025



Photo courtesy Healthy Archuleta

Healthy Archuleta recently purchased two additional hydroponic towers to grow fresh vegetables and herbs to be distributed to the community through the local food pantries.

Healthy Archuleta growing hydroponic vegetables for local food pantries

Healthy Archuleta

Recently, Healthy Archuleta purchased two additional hydroponic towers to grow fresh vegetables and herbs to be distributed to the community through the local food pantries.

This project began in the spring of 2023 with the purchase of a single tower that can grow up to 280 heads of lettuce every 35-45 days.

Since then, the greens produced by this tower have

increased the amount of fresh, local produce available through the food pantries, with the food pantry coordinators' hearty approval.

Based on the learning from the first pilot program in 2023, Healthy Archuleta was able to expand the program through the purchase of three more towers. One of these three was brought into operation in 2024, and two more arrived this past month.

In early February, Healthy Archuleta team members See Growing on next page

Live Performers

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

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

Saturday

Thursday

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

Tuesday

The Springs Resort lodge atrium: Dustin Burley, 5 p.m.

The PREVIEW is a publication of

The Pagosa Springs

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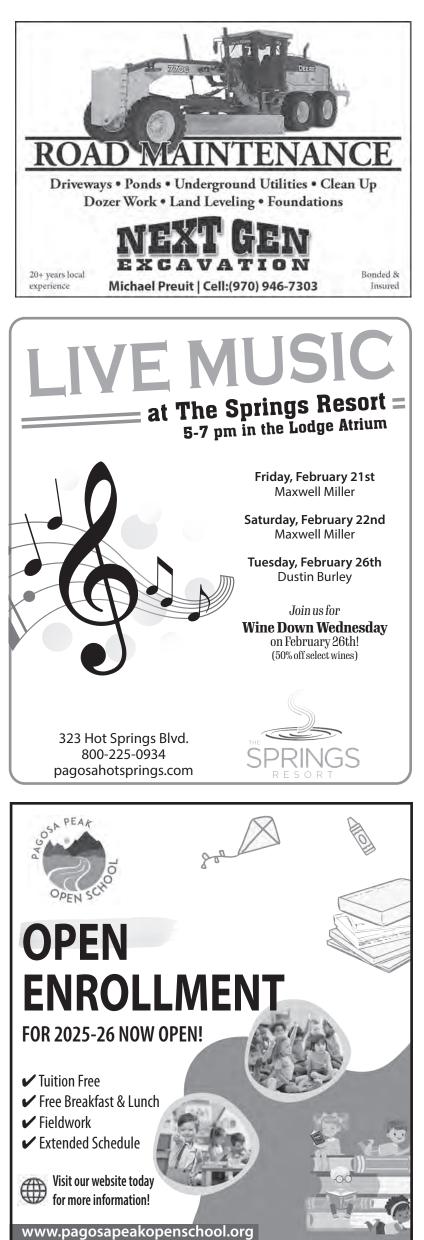
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Growing

■ continued from previous page and volunteers gathered to assemble the two new units to get them ready to start production.

Today, these towers operate on an almost year-round schedule, growing fresh greens, including several types of lettuce, spinach, chard, beet greens and herbs such as basil. These greens grow fairly quickly, within 35-45 days, depending on the variety.

During the growing period, a number of local volunteers tend to the towers, checking water and pH levels, administering nutrients as needed, and overseeing the health and development of the plants. Data is collected daily to ensure that the towers are functioning properly. After the plants have reached maturity, they are harvested on-site, bagged and refrigerated until picked up and distributed among the local food pantries.

Typically, hydroponically grown food is much the same as farm crops grown in soil with similar nutrient and fertilizer needs, and growing time. However, the beauty of growing in an indoor environment is the ability to control temperature, water flow, and the lack of exposure to pests and most plant diseases.

In a mountain community like Pagosa Springs, the typical growing season is short. Unpredictable temperature fluctuations can hamper growing and crop success for the average backyard gardener. Fighting off pests and wandering wildlife can also be frustrating. Growing food in hydroponic structures eliminates the cons of outdoor gardening and with better results.

The towers are now providing additional nutritious, healthy vegetables that are being shared with the community during those times

WHIPS luncheon set for Feb. 25

By Nancy Ford

Women Helping in Pagosa Springs

WHIPS, Women Helping in Pagosa Springs, will have their monthly luncheon Tuesday, Feb. 25, at 11:30 a.m. at the San Juan Eatery.

The cost is \$20. We must have you RSVP to (970) 946-1895 by Sunday, Feb. 23.

All women are welcome.



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of the year when locally grown fresh vegetables are not always available for those who truly need them. In this way, Healthy Archuleta continues its mission to support healthy food access in our community.

Healthy Archuleta invites the community to support the Archuleta Food Pantry Network at the next Food Drive this Saturday, Feb. 22, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in front of City Market. Please stop by the Healthy Archuleta table, pick up a shopping list and fill a bag to support our neighbors accessing food through the food pantries this winter.

To learn more about the food drive, please visit https://www. foodcoalition4archuleta.org/fooddrive.html.

Additionally, if you are interested in other volunteer opportunities, including supporting the maintenance of the hydroponic towers, please visit www.foodcoalition4archuleta.org or email fsfearchuleta@gmail.com.

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The 2025 Curtains Up Pagosa Board of Directors is, from left, Gus Palma, Heather Simpson, Anika Thomas, Ricardo Martinez, Nora Martinez, Krisha Doocy and Tony Aldwell.



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Curtains Up Pagosa selects 2025 board of directors, announces 'Matilda, the Musical' to be staged in June

By Anthony Aldwell Curtains Up Pagosa

Our community theater, Curtains Up Pagosa (CUP), has elected its 2025 board of directors, who will guide the production of two musical shows this season.

Led by its veteran board members, Ricardo Martinez as president and Nora Martinez as treasurer, the board includes newly elected members and CUP favorites Krisha Doocy, Gus Palma and Anika Thomas. They join current board members Heather Simpson and Tony Aldwell.

CUP's mission is to "Nurture, educate, inspire, and strengthen Pagosa's artists through the power of the performing arts, and to entertain our community by providing a superior theatrical experience." We do so by utilizing a broad selection of Pagosa Springs community members as actors, technical crews and the Pagosa Springs Community Band, thereby utilizing 75-100 Pagosans to produce our shows.

The 2025 season will feature sum-

mer and fall shows, starting with "Matilda, the Musical," with four performances, June 26 to 29, followed by a holiday-themed show in late fall. Both shows will be staged at Pagosa Springs High School.

"Matilda, the Musical" is based on the 1988 novel "Matilda" by Roald Dahl, the acclaimed author of "James and the Giant Peach."

The musical's narrative centers on Matilda Wormwood, a precocious young girl who loves reading and possesses a keen sense of justice. She uses her wit and telekinetic powers to right the perceived wrongs in her life and the lives of those closest to her.

Auditions for "Matilda" will be held in the high school band room on April 24 and 25 from 5:30 to 8 p.m., and will require candidates to present a 30-60 second monologue and 30-60 second song. All community members are invited to join this production as recent casts have included Pagosans from ages 7 to 75.

CUP is a volunteer organization and, in addition to cast members,

relies on community members to assist with the production tasks of set construction, costume creation and stage management. Unlike many community theaters, CUP productions feature a pit orchestra providing live music, courtesy of the Pagosa Springs Community Band.

As a nonprofit and volunteer entity, CUP fully relies on community participation to stage its productions, including financial support. As such, CUP welcomes show sponsors and donations, all of which directly support show production, as well as providing two annual scholarships awarded to younger community members pursuing music or theater studies.

CUP looks forward to presenting a highly entertaining performance of "Matilda" in June, featuring a stage and pit full of talented Pagosa Country performers, with lively Pagosa audiences cheering us on.

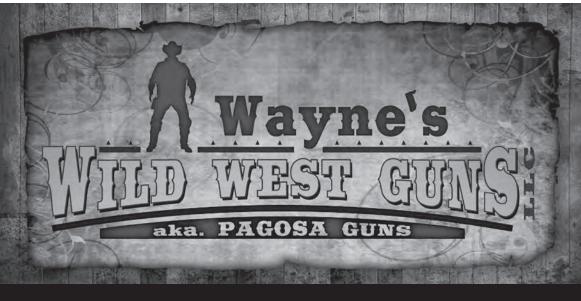
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Photos courtesy Joanne Irons

A group from Pagosa Springs attended Tim Tebow's Night to Shine at Hills Church in Farmington, N.M., recently. According to the Tim Tebow Foundation's website, "Night to Shine is an unforgettable worldwide celebration event, centered on God's love, honoring and valuing people with special needs."



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The Town of Pagosa Springs is seeking applications from individuals interested in volunteering to serve as an alternate member for the Planning Commission. This position will be appointed by the Town Council.

Members are appointed for a four-year term and generally meet on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 5:30 pm at Town Hall. There may be interim meetings and work sessions on specific planning and development topics. Interested individuals must be a Town resident.



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Library plans fraud protection talk, puzzle swap

Bv Carole Howard

PREVIEW Columnist, and the library staff

Advice on how you can protect vourself from fraud will be offered by Deidre, Bank of the San Juans manager, at a free session at your library next Tuesday, Feb. 25, from noon to 1:15 p.m.

Among the topics she will discuss are signs of a scam, ways to avoid scammers, how to report fraud and what to do if your identity is compromised.

Puzzle swap tomorrow

From 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. tomorrow, Friday, Feb. 21, puzzle fans are invited to come trade, take or donate puzzles to enhance your puzzle fun.

Craftapalooza tomorrow

All ages are invited to create a variety of crafts tomorrow, Friday, Feb. 21, from 2 to 3:30 p.m. at this free session for all ages and abilities.

Adult knitting Saturday

Join new and experienced knitters Saturday, Feb. 22, 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.

Music fun Monday

Pagosa Unplugged is free from 4 to 6 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 24, for amateur musicians who would like a safe, supportive, non-bar setting to play, sing or both with other people. For information, contact Susan at (970) 946-3396.

High school math tutoring

Free high school math tutoring for ages 14 and up takes place Mondays from 4 to 5:30 p.m. Registration is

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Library News

required.

Family storytimes

Wednesdays from 10 to 11 a.m., join a free educational hour of reading, singing and free play to build early literacy skills.

Elementary tutoring sessions

Children ages 6 to 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.

Ruby's Writers Guild

Every Thursday 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

LARGE & SMALL ANIMAL MEDICINE AND SURGERY

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

SEE OUR FULL LIST OF SERVICES ONLINE!

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 See Library on next page

TUESDAY: CLOSED WEDNESDAY: CLOSED THURSDAY: 11AM - 10PM FRIDAY: 11AM - 11PM SATURDAY: 11AM - 11PM SUNDAY: 11AM - 10PM

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CAN WATER INTAKE AFFEC YOUR BLOOD PRESSURE?

While others you may know may run to the pharmacist to fill their blood pressure prescriptions, research is showing that proper water intake can do much to regulate blood pressure.

See today's excerpt. When you think about water and blood pressure the link between dehydration and low blood pressure probably comes to mind.

Dehydration is a potential cause

of low blood pressure (hypotension) due to resulting decreased blood volume leading to reduced pressure against artery walls.

However, did you know not drinking enough water can lead to high blood pressure?

When you do not drink adequate water the body will compensate by retaining sodium.

That should be a red flag. Sodium is directly related to high blood pressure.

While this sodium retention takes place, the persistent dehydration will lead the body to gradually 'close' some of the capillary beds. This leads to increased pressure places on arteries and a rise in blood pressure.

Source: "High Blood Pressure and Water Intake." By Lisa Nelson. http://www.healthcentral.com

Bonus Tip: Visit http://www.AmazingFacts.org for spiritual refreshment every week! "Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters..." Isaiah 55:1

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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Seventh-day

Adventist[®] Church

Library

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sessions Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:30 to 8 p.m. to help with high school equivalency, GED, college prep, financial aid, tutoring and more. No appointment is necessary.

How-to and self-help

'The Disengaged Teen" by journalist Jenny Anderson and education specialist Rebecca Winthrop offers advice to help apathetic teens learn better, feel better and live better. "Raising An Emotionally Intelligent Child" by psychologist John Gottman is a guide to teaching children to understand and regulate their emotional world. "The Artist's Way Toolkit" by Julia Cameron is an interactive, practical guide with a 12-week checklist. "The ADHD Focus Friend" by Grace Koelma is a planning productivity workbook that provides science-backed tests and insights. "Science of Yoga" is a DK guide to understanding the anatomy and physiology to perfect your practice.

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.

Other nonfiction

"100 Nights of a Lifetime" by Stephanie Vermillion is an illustrated National Geographic guide to the world's ultimate adventures after dark. "How Birds Fly" by Peter Cavanagh uses photography, graphics and prose to explore avian movement. "Why Taiwan Matters" by Kerry Brown explores the importance of this island to America's national security. "An African History of Africa" by Zeinab Badawi is a sweeping narrative of the continent's extraordinary legacy from the African perspective. "Dark Brilliance" by Paul Strathern is a history of the Age of Reason from Descartes to Peter the Great. "American Oasis" by Kyle Peoletta is a geographic and historical account of the cities and deserts of the Southwest, "What Truth Sounds Like" by Michael Eric Dyson documents the thinking of Black leaders in contact with Robert Kennedy in 1963 to reflect on and change policy.

Large print

"The Highest Calling: Conversations on the American Presidency" by David M. Rubenstein blends history and anecdotes to chronicle arguably the single most important position in the world. "Fort Buzzard" by William W. and J.A. Johnstone is a Preacher and Jamie MacCallister western. "The Trackwalker" by Robert Vaughan is a Faraday western. "The JFK Conspiracy" by Brad Meltzer and Josh Mensch reveals the secret plot to kill President John F. Kennedy and why it failed.

Mysteries, suspense and thrillers

"The Big Empty" by Robert Craig is an Elvis Cole and Joe Pike mystery. "Cloaked in Beauty" by Karen Witemeyer follows a Pinkerton agent and his recluse client returning to Houston to claim a birthright. "The Stolen Queen" by Fiona Davis is a mystery set in the Metropolitan Museum of Art. "The Oligarch's Daughter" by Joseph Finder is a spy novel. "Good Dirt" by Charmaine Wilkerson revolves around an unsolved crime — a child's death — and a shattered heirloom.

Other novels

"The Autumn of Ruth Winters" by Marshall Fine features a retired reclusive woman when three massive events change her life. "The Sojourn" by Andrew Krivak, a National Book Award finalist, takes a 19th century Colorado mining town man to rural Austria-Hungary at the start of World Way I. Another Krivak novel called "The Bear" is set in an Edenic future. "We Do Not Part" by Nobel Prize Winner Han Kang illuminates a powerful friendship and a forgotten chapter in Korean history.

Thanks to your donors

We are grateful to Ray and Karen Diffee for creating such beautiful bookmarks for us to give away to our library visitors.

New donations guidelines

The Friends of the Library have announced new guidelines for donations to the library.

Books on time-sensitive topics that can quickly become out of date are wanted only if they have been published within the last five years. These subjects include politics/current events, health and medicine, sports/exercise, business, technology, science, education, and travel guides. Not accepted are reference materials, textbooks and nonprint material like CDs, DVDs, Blu-ray,

How much fruit when a seed sower sows seed that lands by the wayside, by the rocks, by the thorns, or good ground? Sunday, 10am. 246 Harman Park Dr. trinityanglicanchurch.org VHS or cassette tapes because they do not sell at Friends of the Library sales.

When the library is open, highquality used book donations are gratefully accepted at the front desk — not down the outside returns slot at the library or the drop box at City Market, please.

No more than two boxes at a time because of space constraints and all books should be in excellent condition, please.

See Library on next page



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

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

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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!

Level: Advanced

Here's How It Works:

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

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Unitarian Universalists to hear about Pagosa Outreach Connection

By De Anna Hoyle

Pagosa Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

Pagosa Unitarian Universalist (UU) Fellowship moves into the new year with renewed energy to "Make Friends, Grow in Spirit, Do Good" - our current motto for building beloved community.

To this end, we added Action Sunday on each fourth Sunday. This week we will gather to hear from Jean Smith, our representative to the Pagosa Outreach Connection (POC)

The UU Fellowship has been involved with POC for many years, and we are grateful to Smith for her dedication to this important local program.

The following is information posted on the Community United Methodist Church's Facebook page: "POC is a collaborative multi-sector group of concerned citizens including non-profit, business, faith based and governmental agencies who gather weekly to screen, advocate and provide financial assistance to residents in need.... The goal of POC is to assist an individual and/or family in moving forward toward greater self-sufficiency and to alleviate an immediate financial hardship or financial crisis."

Come learn a bit about POC's work in the community.

continued from previous page

"Everybody wants to get an A on

the math test, but not everybody wants to do the homework. Scottie

is willing to do the homework day in and day out, not to skip any steps,

to get fully prepared. It makes taking

the test a lot more fun." — Ted Scott,

Library

Quotable quote

Along with this local focus on doing good, we will explore ways to connect and live out our values in the wider world

The nonprofit organization 5Calls. org can help people connect to their members of Congress easily by providing contact phone numbers, issues and scripts of what to say. We gather to share tools for advocacy and get creative with a craft project.

The program will begin at 10:30 a.m. this Sunday, Feb. 23.

Find us in Unit B-15 of the Greenbriar Plaza 301 N. Pagosa Blvd., on the north side facing the Pagosa Peak. Join us. For more information about the fellowship, please see the website www. pagosauu.org and find our current newsletter.

In addition to our regular programming, we offer in-person meditation practice held each Sunday starting at 9 a.m

Our next dharma talk and practice is this Feb. 23. Dan Dempster, an authorized dharma teacher and certified meditation instructor, states, "Buddhist meditation practice will delve into the world of extraordinary beauty that shimmers just beneath the surface of our apparently mundane and fearful existence. With guidance and practice, learning to recognize the

for 124 weeks

Website

impermanence and interdependence of our sacred web of life is both liberating and inherently joyful."

You are encouraged to arrive a bit early to get settled. All are welcome, join us from 9 to 10:15 a.m. Sunday, Feb. 23, at the Pagosa UU Fellowship.

Order of the **Eastern Star** Peace and Harmony Chapter 158 no Masonic affiliation required Meets second Wednesday 7 p.m. 227 Lewis Street • Masonic Lodge For more info, call (970) 946-8201 or (505) 927-9182



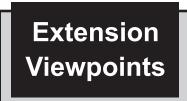
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Creating a winter windowsill garden

By Cindi Galabota **PREVIEW** Columnist

Have you begun dreaming about the beautiful garden that you will plant this coming spring? Are you thinking about those fresh fruits and veggies you will get to enjoy? Are you combing through your seed catalogs, looking for the perfect new plant?



Of course planning your future garden is fun, but there is nothing better than fresh herbs to enhance your meals in the middle of winter, especially if you have the joy of growing those herbs yourself.

Why grow an indoor herb garden? Well, it's easy to do; green plants in your home help to clean your air; growing indoor plants brings lush greenery to your home; and you can eat fresh, homegrown salads all year long

Webster's Dictionary defines an herb as a seed-producing annual, biennial or perennial that is valued for its medicinal, savory or aromatic qualities.

Most culinary herbs that we enjoy are of Mediterranean origin, so they like lots of sun. A south-facing windowsill for your indoor garden is your best option, with west-facing windows coming in close behind. You want to make sure your plants are getting the most light possible.

Many culinary herbs such as rosemary and oregano require at least four hours of direct sunlight each day to continue growing throughout the winter. When the sun is low on the horizon, light is less direct, so sun-loving herbs may require more light than they receive even on a south-facing windowsill. Because of this, some indoor gardeners elect to use supplementary grow lights. Grow lights can be purchased at garden centers and most major hardware stores.

The soil you use is another important factor in your container herb garden. Generally, the best option is to use a soilless medium that is light weight and holds water and nutrients well. If you use a soil mix, you will want to make sure it is free of weeds, insects and diseases. Using soil directly from the ground into a container does not work well because it will not provide adequate drainage and air movement.

Containers tend to dry out more quickly than ground soil. Therefore, containers require more frequent watering. Water routinely each time the soil begins to dry out. Be sure to water the plants at the base in their



Photo courtesy Cassidy Phillips via Unsplash A woman waters a windowsill garden. Indoor herb gardens are easy to grow and offer several benefits

BJ Jones and Lars Schneider, owners, have spent a

As long-time locals, we operate with small-town

hospitality without the "Pagosa-time mentality." Your

time is as valuable as ours, so we operate with

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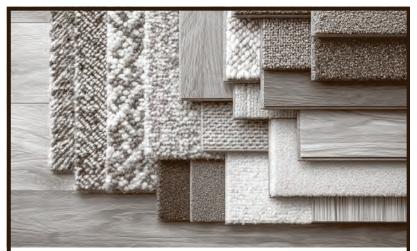
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See Viewpoints on next page

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End of Life Education group announces upcoming speakers

By Joan Mieritz End of Life Education

People interested in end-of-life education will meet the third Thursday of each month at the Community United Methodist Church at 434 Lewis St.

Use the convenient parking lot with the side-entrance into the kitchen and fellowship hall. The main doors into the church will remain locked.

Programs will begin at 1 p.m. with time for coffee, tea and treats, if people bring something to share.

It was decided that the official program should end around 2:30 p.m., but people can remain in the fellowship hall for socializing, discussions, support, etc. until 4 p.m. We are a casual group, so feel free to come and go as needed. Attendance varies for each program. Feel welcome to come anytime.

Our programs are free, but people attending can bring canned food for the church pantry or make a cash donation toward using the room.

On Thursday, Feb. 20, we will have a speaker, Pete Albo, a funeral director. Albo has had much experience and will answer all of our questions with love and some laughter. He is a caring kind of person and has an outstanding background as a funeral director.

On March 20, we will be introduced to the very latest concepts in funerary practices, called natural funerals. The presenter will be Karis Meskimen. She is from the Denver area. The new process that Meskimen will be sharing with us is called terramation, or body composting. I do not want to say too much here because it is new to me and seems quite interesting. It warrants an expert explanation and extra time for questions. After this session, you will be in on the newest practices for the end of life so you can "go out in style."

On April 17, we will have a guest speaker, Sam Conti, who is a counselor. She will help us figure out how to be most helpful and supportive of people in the grief process. We are encouraging people to share their experiences with situations that worked and perhaps some that didn't. This will be a great opportunity to improve our personal communication skills.

On May 15, we will be hearing from a local woman, Dr. Pam Kircher, who I have known for years and have great respect for. She worked for years as a doctor with the aged and dying in the Four Corners area. After retiring, she led wonderful classes called "Conscious Aging" at the Pagosa Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. Earlier in her life she also wrote a book about a neardeath experience.

If we can get copies of her book and there is interest, we may have additional sessions in May and/or June. I have wanted for a long time to learn more about her experiences, and I am so pleased that she has agreed to take the time to share with us.

As we approach summer, we will have one or two sessions like we had last year on filling out the recommended paperwork needed for the end of life, such as requesting or denying cardiopulmonary resuscitation, levels of medical interventions and artificially administered nutrition. We will meet to read the paperwork together and discuss these forms which are available at our local medical center and, when completed, require a doctor's signature. I have heard the saying that when

the student is ready the teacher will ap-

Viewpoints

■ continued from previous page containers, not the top of the plant. Herbs with similar water requirements can be placed together. For example, dill, cilantro and parsley like similar amounts of water, so they can be planted together. Or, plants can be individually planted in separate containers.

The way herbs are prepared and used can vary widely and this can influence their culinary use. For best flavor results, add dried herbs near the beginning of the cooking process to provide sufficient time for the herbs to rehydrate. Fresh herbs are usually added during the last part of cooking. Herbs in uncooked foods, such as salad dressings, dips and fruit mixes, need time to blend flavors, so add them as far in advance of serving as possible.

With a little planning and maintenance, you can enjoy an indoor herb garden all year long. For more information about growing herbs indoors, please visit https://extension. colostate.edu.

Information from this article was taken from: https://cmg.extension. colostate.edu/Gardennotes/731.

pdf and https://extension.colostate. edu/topic-areas/nutrition-foodsafety-health/herbs-preserving-andusing-9-335/.

CPR and first aid classes

CPR and first aid certification classes are offered every other month at the CSU Extension office, generally on the third 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.exten-sion.colostate.edu/.

Pruning workshop

Join Colorado State University Extension Director Cindi Galabota for a pruning workshop at the Yellow Jacket Southwest Colorado Research Station (northwest of Cortez) on March 13, leaving Pagosa Springs at 6:30 a.m. The cost is \$15 per person. Space is limited.

Call the Extension office at (970) 264-5931 or email cindi.galabota@ colostate.edu to register.

pear. We have many teachers lined up to improve the end-of-life experience for all members of the Pagosa Springs community.

You just need to show up at the Community United Methodist Church at 1 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month.

If driving conditions are unsafe, we will not meet and the program will be rescheduled.

H&R BLOCK is happy to announce that JOANNHOWEII has joined our office! *Call or visit her at* (970) 731-1080 • 100 Country Center Drive, Ste H

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To Cultivate and Environment of Success for Adults with Developmental Disabilities and their Community.

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Aspen House/Aspen Services, A Safe Place in Pagosa, Inc., a recognized 501(c)(3) corporation TIN: 46-4975570 — Donations are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law.

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 black-billed magpie.

Magpies are familiar birds. In their western range in North America, black-billed magpies have associated with people for centuries. They are common resident birds in cities, agricultural areas, grasslands and open forested habitats.

We are so used to seeing them that we sometimes fail to appreciate just how beautiful these large birds are. The upperparts are mostly black and the belly is white. In sunlight, feathers in the wings and tail reflect blue-green iridescence which makes them shine. Their extra-long tails and white wing patches make them identifiable in flight.

Black-billed magpies are entertaining. They may work together to steal food, with one bird sneaking up behind a victim and pulling its tail to distract it while the other sneaks in and flies off with its dropped food. Tail pulling by magpies seems to include an element of fun, and they also do it for no apparent reason.

Black-billed magpies love to get in the birdbath and splash around, even in winter, and will follow the bath with a roll in the snow. They walk with a swagger and on the ground mix short flights with hops. Try to feed your dog or cat outside and from out of nowhere fearless magpies will show up and empty the bowl one piece at a time, right under the nose of your pet.

Magpies are social. Outside of breeding season they tend to live in colonies. The discovery of a dead magpie attracts a gathering of others that call loudly and take turns circling the body. These "funerals" may last 10-15 minutes until the birds quietly disperse.

Black-billed magpies are vocal. They don't produce what we would call a pleasing song, but have a repertoire of recognizable harsh calls. They can also fool you by producing a variety of squeaks, murmurs and musical sounds that make you wonder who is there. People that talk too much to the point of being bothersome are referred to as "chattering like a magpie."

Look at these birds through the lens of a visitor who has not seen one before and you will see just how remarkable black-billed magpies are. For information on events, visit www.weminucheaudubon.org and www.facebook.com/weminucheaudubon/.



Your source for community news. The Pagosa Springs SUN 264-2100



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Press on to the top of the hill

By Betty Slade PREVIEW Columnist

The family called, excited over a feel-good film they had just watched. My Sweet Al and I must see "The Hill" with Dennis Quaid.

"The Hill" is a 2023 American biographical sports drama film about baseball player Rickey Hill overcoming degenerative spinal disease to chase his major league dreams.

A movie about a young man with hopes and dreams. He had a gift for hitting balls. Not running with braces on his legs, but hitting. God gave him the gift and the desire; he was driven to achieve that goal, but everything and everyone worked against him. Hill's dreams were dashed into the ground. His father, a good man, tried to prevent him from hurting his body. He believed Hill would follow in his footsteps, serve in the pulpit and preach for God.

Every step up the hill, his father stood with his big black Bible in hand, blocking his way. He wouldn't give him permission to join the high school baseball team. He wouldn't support him in any way or watch him play. The hill became harder and harder to climb. Why was his father so blind-sighted?

As I watched "The Hill" and the heartbreak he was suffering, I wailed like a baby. Loud, mournful, guttural sounds came from me. My Sweet Al looked at me as if a monster had raised its head. Maybe it had. I saw a well-meaning preacher bringing his family to what he thought was right and killing his son's dreams.

I had no idea what brought the crying on. Had my own dreams been dashed by some thoughtless person? Had the things I pursued become a disappointment now in my later years? Did life stand in my way each time I tried to climb my hill? What did I want that I didn't get? I had no answers. Maybe it was too close to home.

Surprised at this mournful cry, I must have some unresolved issues in all of this. I knew I had to talk to the Lord. He would give me wisdom and understanding. It might be a small thing, but it was hidden deep in my soul.

I saw his unmovable father, so religious and ruling his family with "thus says the Lord." His father's warped vision of a demanding God played into how he made decisions for his family.

His family was very obedient and respectful. No one pushed back, only Hill when he stayed after school for baseball practice.

In 1963, our family followed what we knew, very close to Pastor Hill's views. We joined a hellfire, damnation church where the pastor brought his congregation under the law, and stripped away everything that represented the world to prepare us for King Jesus.



Every step up the hill, his father stood with his big black Bible in hand, blocking his way.

I signed a contract wherein I could teach. I agreed I wouldn't wear shorts in public, dance, play cards or go to movies on Sundays. We had weekly potlucks, and entertained the pastor and other church members for many Sunday dinners.

Our pastor taught us to fear God. He preached works. We were young and gullible. How could we have a loving relationship with someone we feared? God was waiting in the wings to take us up His hill to calvary where Jesus hung on that cross so we could be set free to dream, to live out the abundance of His life He promised.

Rickey Hill managed to climb his hill with no help from his father. He overcame more than a degenerative spinal disease to pursue his dream of playing professional baseball.

I changed hills and learned about the hill of grace. I saw a loving God with so much grace. It's a shame if people are sitting under the heavy hand of law with a stern and cold look at what they think is God. We did it for years.

God desires an intimate relationship with each of us. He begs us to know Him. This is one reason I have written a devotional.

I wrote about my bruises and disappointments in people, and how God was with me at every turn.

With His help, I have reached my dreams. The Holy Spirit is so powerful that He draws us and God won't let us go until we reach the top of the hill.

Final brushstroke: God wants us to seek Him in spirit and truth. Don't let shortsighted people dash your dreams. God is faithful to take care of them. God has put those dreams in our hearts and will bring them to fulfillment. Send your comment to bettyslade.

author@gmail.com. Views expressed do not necessarily represent those of The SUN.

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The Springs Resort awarded the Kathy Clark Access Award

The Springs Resort

The Balneology Association of North America (BANA) has awarded The Springs Resort the Kathy Clark Access Award. The Springs Resort is one of only two places in 2024 to receive this award, which recognizes businesses that go above and beyond to connect people with the therapeutic benefits of natural hot springs.

Established in honor of Kathy Clark, the award has only been granted to five hot springs since 2022. During the pandemic, Kathy Clark recognized the therapeutic benefits of hot springs and worked tirelessly to keep Charles Hot Springs open, ensuring access to its healing waters.

The Springs Resort is the first hot springs in Colorado to receive this prestigious award. BANA fosters and maintains deep connections with hot springs all over the nation.

The Springs Resort takes pride in creating an inclusive and welcoming experience for everyone, from local community members to individuals on retreats, couples, families, children, the elderly, and those with physical or developmental disabilities. Whether it's a first-time visit to the hot springs or a cherished local tradition, the resort's healing waters are accessible to all. Affordable local pricing, flexible memberships, multi-day passes, and community initiatives make it easier than ever to connect, relax, and enjoy the benefits of natural hot springs.

This commitment to inclusivity extends beyond the resort and into the community. In 2024, The Springs Resort donated over a thousand soaking passes to local and regional organizations such as Healthy Archuleta, the Pagosa Fire Protection District, The Special Talents High School, Pagosa Springs Middle School, Wounded Warrior and Vets for Vets. Fatherless Teens. Dust2, and other scholastic teams. These contributions ensure that even more members of the community can experience the healing power of the water.

The Springs Resort and Spa is currently undergoing a massive expansion. This expansion, expected to be completed in Spring 2025, will result in even greater accessibility. The number of hot springs pools at The Springs Resort and Spa will double with this expansion, offering more space and opportunities for people to enjoy therapeutic bathing in a soothing, relaxing, and uncrowded atmosphere. Above all, The Springs Resort aims to help locals and visitors from across the state, nation, and world connect with and benefit from Pagosa's healing waters. These waters are renowned globally for their exceptional mineral content and are sought after by hot spring enthusiasts everywhere.

Resort member Michelle Juneau is just one of many locals who feels the love: "I love the versatility of the Springs Resort. There is a pool and temperature for everyone – from tiny kids to older folks! I recently brought my friends from Germany here; they absolutely loved it! Plus, you can drink coffee, an adult beverage, or have some lunch. It's really great for the whole day!"

It's no surprise that this impressive hot springs resort was honored with the Kathy Clark Access Award from BANA. Thanks to the dedicated efforts of its team, the Springs Resort is truly accessible to all. Behind the scenes, employees work tirelessly to ensure that everyone feels welcome to experience the profound benefits of therapeutic bathing in its natural hot spring waters. This special resort exemplifies its purpose of enhancing the well-being of all who visit.

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Preview Calendar

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

Thursday, Feb. 20

- 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.
- End of Life Education. 1 p.m., Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St. Funeral Director Pete Albo will speak
- 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
- T'ai Chi Chih. 2:30-3:30 p.m., Senior Center. Free for those 60 and better.
- 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.
- Game Night. 5:30-7 p.m., Sisson Library. Play a myriad of games like Scrabble, cribbage, cards or bring your own. Popcorn will be provided.
- 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, Feb. 21 Indoor Pickleball. 8-11:30 a.m., Ross

- Aragon Community Center. Puzzle Swap. 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Sisson Library. Trade, take or donate puzzles of your choice.
- Good News Club. 1:15-3:15 p.m., Pagosa Springs Elementary School. A weekly club for kids in kindergarten through the fourth grade where the Bible is taught with songs, stories, object lessons, games and more. For more information, email Frank and Connie Porter at ceflittlekids@gmail.com.
- Craftapalooza. 2-3:30 p.m., Sisson Library. Join for a variety of crafts for people of all ages and abilites.
- Pagosa Springs Varsity Girls' Basketball. 5:30 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School. Pagosa Springs vs. Sanford.
- Pagosa Springs Varsity Boys' Basketball. 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School. Pagosa Springs vs. Sanford

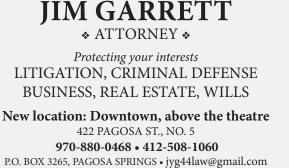
Saturday, Feb. 22

- Healthy Archuleta Food Drive. 10 a.m.-1 p.m., City Market. For more information on the food drive, please visit www.foodcoalition4archuleta.org/food-drive.html.
- Knitters Circle. 1-3 p.m., Sisson Library. Join new or experienced knitters to get help with your project, or sit and knit.
- Boy Scout Troop 807 Fundraiser Dinner. 5:30 p.m., Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St. Those interested in attending are asked to RSVP to (970) 946-8687.

Monday, Feb. 24

- Indoor Pickleball. 8-11:30 a.m., Ross Aragon Community Center.
- Line Dancing. 9:30-11:30 a.m., PLPOA Clubhouse, 230 Port Ave. Beginners meet at 9:30 a.m. and the advance group meets at 10:15

- a.m. If you haven't attended before, please call Beverly at (970) 264-2064 for more information.
- a.m., Senior Center. For anyone 21 and older.
- Brain Fitness and Mobility. 10-10:45
- Archuleta County Democratic Club.
- See Calendar on next page





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Preview Calendar

- continued from previous page 11:30 a.m., Coyote Moon. Pagosa Peak Open School Director Emily Murphy will speak.
- Senior Conversations. 1:15 p.m., Senior Center.
- Healthy Aging and Yoga Therapy Class. 2:30-3:30 p.m., Senior Center
- Shakespeare Read Aloud Club. 3:30-5 p.m., Sisson Library. Join in reading "The Comedy of Errors" aloud together. For more information, call Jenny at (240) 426-7887.
- High School Math Tutoring. 4-5:30 p.m., Sisson Library. Math tutors are available for ages 14 and up. Registration is required.
- Pagosa Unplugged. 4-6 p.m., Sisson Library, Musicians of all abilities are invited to jam and sing with others. Call Susan at (970) 946-3396 for details
- Deepening the Faith Classes. 6-8 p.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church classrooms.
- The Alpha Course. 6:30-8:30 p.m., Pagosa Bible Church. A series of video talks with discussion breaks about questions of life. Dessert. coffee and child care will be provided. Register at pagosabiblechurch.org.

Tuesday, Feb. 25

- Stretching and Mobility Class. 9:30-10:30 a.m., Senior Center. A stretching and mobility class for those age 55 and up.
- 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.

- Veterans for Veterans of Archuleta County. 10 a.m., Pagosa Bible Church, 209 Harman Park Drive. Veterans and family members are invited to share experiences with vets of all ages. Find out about the latest in vets benefits, vets news and community-focused events. Contact (970) 880-8387 for more details.
- 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.
- WHIPS (Women Helping in Pagosa Springs). 11:30 a.m., San Juan Eatery. The cost is \$20. All women are welcome. An RSVP to (970) 946-1895 by Feb. 23 is required.
- **Protecting Yourself from Fraud:** Before and After. Noon-1:15 p.m. Sisson Library. The Bank of the San Juans manager will present information on this important topic. 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 lanquage 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 stu-
- See Calendar on next page

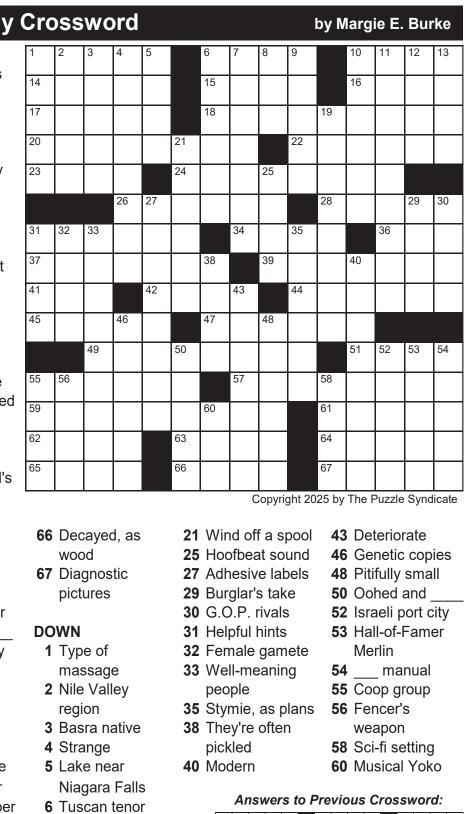


The Weekly Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Take potshots (at)
- 6 First-rate
- **10** Word with fry or crazy
- **14** Doctor, ideally 15 At no time,
- poetically
- 16 Estimator's phrase
- 17 You can count on them
- 18 2019 Margot Robbie film
- 20 Kahlúa and Sambuca
- 22 Makes impure
- 23 Milkmaid's need
- 24 They stretch across tennis courts
- 26 Mount Carmel's country
- 28 Traffic circle sign
- **31** As yet
- 34 "The lady _ protest ..."
- 36 Country singer David Allan
- **37** Teeth, slangily
- 39 "Music of the
- 41 Wrinkled-face
 - pooch
- 42 Blockage
- 44 Takes by force
- 45 Painter's wear
- 47 Whopper topper

- 59 Unionless
- **61** Pop up
- 62 "Now talking!"
- 63 Chemical ending
- 65 More or





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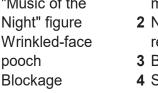
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- 64 More prevalent

Preview Calendar

continued from previous page

dents 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.

Wednesday, Feb. 26

Indoor Pickleball. 8-11:30 a.m., Ross Aragon Community Center.

- Introduction to Pickleball. 8:30-11 a.m., Ross Aragon Community Center. Register on the Pagosa Springs Parks and Recreation page at https://secure.rec1.com/CO/ pagosa-springs-co/catalog.
- Kids Kare. 9:30-11:30 a.m., Pagosa Bible Church, 209 Harman Park Drive. A weekly club for 3- to 5-year-olds where the Bible is taught with songs, stories, object lessons, games and more. For more information, email Frank and Connie Porter at ceflittlekids@ amail.com.
- Family Storytime. 10-11 a.m., Sisson Library. Join us for great stories, fun songs, and plenty of reasons to get up and move. It's a great way for kids to have fun while building the skills they need to become independent readers. 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. After-school tutoring in reading and math for grades 1-3. Registration required. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information or to sian up.

Thursday, Feb. 27

- 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.
- 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.

- T'ai Chi Chih. 2:30-3:30 p.m., Senior Center. Free for those 60 and better.
- 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.
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Friday, Feb. 28

- 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.
- Steam Engines. 2-3:30 p.m., Sisson Library. Science fun for ages 6-10. 'The Odd Couple (Female Version).'
- 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts. For tickets and show information, see pagosacenter.org or call (970) 731-SHOW (7469).

Saturday, March 1

GriefShare. 10-11:30 a.m., Centerpoint Church, 2750 Cornerstone Drive. A 13-week program to assist with the healing process, regardless of how long it is since your loved one passed. For more information, contact Marie Rasco at marierascoe67@gmail.com or Centerpoint Church at (970) 731-2205. You can also register and learn more at www.griefshare. ora

LEGO Play. 11 a.m.-noon, Sisson

Community news. The Pagosa Springs SUN

264-2100

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Library. For kids 6-11 years old. Bring your own or use the library's LEGOs to free build. Contact the library at (970) 264-2209 for further information.

- Pagosa Springs Varsity Girls' Basketball. 5:30 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School. Pagosa Springs vs. Bayfield.
- Pagosa Springs Varsity Boys' Basketball. 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School. Pagosa Springs vs. Bayfield.
- 'The Odd Couple (Female Version).' 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts. For tickets and show information, see pagosacenter.org or call (970) 731-SHOW (7469).

Sunday, March 2

- 'The Odd Couple (Female Version).' 3 p.m., Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts. For tickets and show information, see pagosacenter.org or call (970) 731-SHOW (7469).
- Submit your calendar items to editor@ pagosasun.com; mail them to The Pagosa Springs SUN, P.O. Box 9, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147; or deliver them to The SUN office by noon Monday.



Call for Artists: Pagosa Springs Mural Project

The Town of Pagosa Springs invites artists to leave their creative mark by designing a mural for the Geothermal Building along the riverwalk and main street. This highly visible location offers a unique canvas to create an inspiring work that captures the spirit of Pagosa Springs. Imagine your art flowing with the energy of the town's world-famous hot springs, symbolizing renewal, vitality, and a deep connection to place.

The project budget is up to \$15,000, and the submission deadline for Round 1 is March 5, 2025, at 5:00 PM (MT). To apply, visit https://mypagosa.org/2025-call-for-artists.

For questions, email agadomski@ pagosasprings.co.gov.

Don't miss this opportunity to contribute a lasting symbol of community pride and artistic vision!



COMMERCIAL OPPORTUNITIES

11

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2 buildings and one parcel. The front of the building is a gallery and workshop. The back unit is an office set up which was a clinic in the past. There is also a Quonset hut on the back of the property. The gallery fronts Highway 160 and parking is on Eagle Dr and Trinity Ln. Included with the gallery are gallery lights, display fixtures, refrigerator and office furniture. There are 2 offices in the gallery, the back unit has a formal reception area with 2 larger offices, 2 smaller offices and 2 more small flexible rooms. Also, the roof was recently replaced.



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Mountain & Meadow



Weatherization Assistance Program informational session set

By Rose Chavez PREVIEW Columnist

In partnership with the Colorado Energy Office, the community is invited to join together for an informational meeting on Thursday, Feb. 27, at 1:15 pm at the Pagosa Senior Center in the Ross Aragon Community Center to learn about Colorado's Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP), which includes no-cost weatherization services for qualified residents and homes.

The WAP helps income-qualified Coloradans save money, increase comfort, and improve their homes and the environment with proven energy conservation solutions.

What is weatherization? Weatherization protects homes from the elements, including cold, heat, water and wind. It also reduces energy use and improves your home's energy efficiency.

For example, weatherizing your home can include installing insulation and sealing air leaks to help maintain a comfortable indoor temperature and improve indoor air quality. Together, these measures can reduce your energy bills, make your home more comfortable and



increase residents' safety.

Join your hosts, Archuleta Seniors Inc. (ASI) and District 1 LPEA Archuleta County Representative Holly Metzler, to learn more about this essential program. A local who has benefited from this program will be present to provide their testimony and discuss their experience.

If you aren't able to make the presentation in person, more information can be found at https:// energyoffice.colorado.gov/weatherization-assistance-program.

Community vaccine clinic slated for mid-March

In partnership with the Archuleta County Public Health Department and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), ASI will host a community vaccine clinic at the Ross Aragon Community Center in mid-March.

This clinic will be open to community members of all ages and will take place in the CDPHE vaccine van parked outside the Senior Center at the rear of the community center at 451 Hot Springs Blvd. The van is equipped to process various types of insurance. However, uninsured community members will have access only to flu, COVID and meningococcal vaccines at this time.

More information, including time of the clinic, will be provided soon, so please stay tuned.

For further details, please contact the Archuleta County Public Health Department at (970) 264-2409.

New caregiver support group starting in March

The Senior Center will be hosting a new support group beginning in March.

If you are caring for a family member or friend with physical/mental disability, emotional health needs or cognitive decline, this group was created for you.

Note: This group is not limited to only caregivers of older adults. Caregivers of all types are welcome. This group offers a safe, welcoming space for care See Senior on next page

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donna@gracegoldencountryhomes.com www.gracegoldencountryhomes.com





Senior

continued from previous page

givers seeking connection, empathy and encouragement. Whether you're looking for understanding during difficult times or just need a community to lean on, we're here for you.

These sessions will also offer educational resources to grow you in the knowledge and skill to strengthen self-care, to care for your loved ones and empower you to navigate your role as a caregiver, one day at a time.

Dates for the monthly caregiver support gathering in 2025 include: March 27, April 24, May 22, June 26, July 24, July 24, Aug. 28, Sept. 25, Oct. 23, Nov. 20 and Dec. 18.

All meetings will be held at the Ross Aragon Community Center in the West Conference Room (except the August gathering will be in a local park) from 10:30 a.m. to noon.

If you have questions or would like to be added to our announcement list, please contact Yeun Fiedler at (970) 946-5810 or Madeline Sutton at (970) 507-1574.

T'ai Chi Chih

The Senior Center offers T'ai Chi Chih with accredited instructor Patti Popovich each Thursday from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. to support older adults who want to discover purpose and fulfillment in this transitional phase of life. Meet in the Senior Center dining hall.

T'ai Chi Chih is not a martial art, but rather a tool for self-healing. Softness, flow and effortlessness are the guiding principles in this practice.

All classes will be free for older adults (age 55 and better) and will last approximately one hour.

No special clothing or equipment is required.

For more information, call (970) 264-2167.

Brain fitness and mobility program

Join us Mondays, Feb. 24 through March 24, from 10 to 10:45 a.m. at the Senior Center for a free six-week

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new Ageless Grace exercise program, taught by Judy, a trained facilitator who will support and help you learn gentle movements to enhance brain health and mobility.

We will spend 30 minutes in a chair exercising and stimulating five areas of our brain functioning. Yes, it is possible to strengthen our neural connections even as we age.

Anyone age 21 and older is invited and encouraged to participate in this program.

It is a cutting-edge brain fitness program based on neuroplasticity that activates all five functions of the brain — strategic planning, memory/ recall, analytical thinking, creativity and imagination, kinesthetic learning — and simultaneously addresses all 21 physical skills needed for lifelong optimal health functioning.

Meals on Wheels volunteers needed

For more than 50 years, the Senior Center (established in 1971)/ASI (established in 2013) has been meeting the social and nutritional needs of older adults (age 60 and better) in our community.

We serve thousands of nutritious meals annually in Archuleta County, and volunteers deliver Meals on Wheels and friendly visits/wellness checks to homebound older adults.

We depend on more than 55 volunteers annually to help us serve and deliver meals and provide other wrap-around services.

The cost of each meal is \$10.50, but we only ask for a suggested donation of \$6 per meal. Meal recipients are asked to contribute what they can afford, and no one is ever turned down.

Meals are delivered Monday through Friday. Participants must be at home to receive meals. Meals will not be left.

Meals on Wheels volunteers receive background checks and training prior to delivery. Typically a volunteer shift is one day a week from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. depending on the size of the route. Staff works closely with volunteers to allow for periodic breaks.

If you are interested in volunteering, please stop by the ASI office at 451 Hot Springs Blvd. to pick up an application. Questions? Please call ASI at (970) 264-2167.

See Senior on next page

Veterans Crisis Line

free, confidential support to veterans in crisis, as well as their family and friends 24/7/365.

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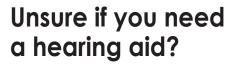


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Senior

continued from previous page Senior Conversations

Join us Mondays at 1:15 p.m. for a series of Senior Conversations with local Bill Salmansohn.

Salmansohn brings to our conversations a variety of topics designed to stimulate discussions within a safe and comfortable environment as we explore our well-being and shared experiences.

This is a unique opportunity to connect with others living within the Archuleta community for friendship and togetherness.

Snacks will be provided.

Afterward, hosted by Robin Williams, is a get-together created for those who wish to continue the conversation. This opportunity is typically from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m., following Senior Conversations.

The group occasionally reconvenes as an informal gathering at various local restaurants.

Share lunch Monday through Friday

Open to all. Join us at the Silver Fox's Den, aka the Community Cafe, in person for daily hot/cold meals Mondays through Thursdays at the Community Center between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. It is open to all. Pickup is available all week.

Our dining hall is open to all ages and welcomes you all with kindness and warmth. We provide hot/cold meals for anyone in the community interested in a nutritious and delicious meal. For those 60 or older we request a suggested donation of \$6, but no one will be turned away. There is a \$10.50 charge for guests under the age of 60.

Meals include a main course, side dish, fruit/dessert, garden salad plus beverage.

To reserve your meal for the day, please make your reservation via text or phone call to (970) 264-2167 by 9 a.m. weekdays.

Community Cafe menu

Thursday, Feb. 20 - Chicken fajitas with peppers, guacamole, sour cream, tortillas, Spanish rice, garden salad, fruit and milk.

Friday, Feb. 21 — Thai coconut shrimp soup, rice, chicken dumplings, garden salad, fruit, almond croissant and milk.

Monday, Feb. 24 — Korean beef over brown rice, sugar snap peas, garden salad, fruit, chocolate royals and milk

Tuesday, Feb. 25 — Crispy cod with tartar sauce, broccoli hollandaise, garden salad, fruit, orange cake and milk.

Wednesday, Feb. 26 - Pork tenderloin with cranberry ginger sauce, scalloped potatoes, garden salad, fruit, muffin and milk.

Thursday, Feb. 27 — Greek spanakopita pie, roasted squash medley, garden salad, apple crisp and milk.

Friday, Feb. 28 - Chicken piccata, rice pilaf, broccoli, garden salad, fruit, vanilla yogurt and milk.

Text reservations

Don't forget that we offer a convenient texting service for you to communicate with us. Text us at (970) 264-2167. When texting, please include your name, phone number and the days you want a meal. If you are canceling a reservation, please include your name, phone number and the days you want to cancel.

Texting services are available for dine-in meal reservations, Grabn-Go meals and Meals on Wheels recipients.

Mahjong

Mahjong is a 19th century Chinese tile-based game that is commonly played with four players. Each player receives 13 tiles with a goal to make matching sets and pairs (like poker). To win, a player must form four sets and one pair.

Come to the Senior Center to learn or play every Tuesday at 1:15 p.m.

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-tolearn, relaxing and fun way to create beautiful images by drawing structured patterns. Join our friendly instructor, Roberta Strickland.

Classes are every Wednesday at 1:15 p.m. in the Senior Center. This activity is open to all ages. Help us create an intergenerational community. For those under 18 and/or with disabilities, you are welcome to join us, but we kindly ask you to please bring an adult chaperone with you.

Bridge

The longest-played bridge game in Archuleta County takes place on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 1:15 p.m.

Bridge is a four-player card game with partners sitting opposite each other around a table. It is a tricktaking card game using a standard 52-card deck. Come alone or bring a partner.

Hand and foot card game

Whether you are new to hand and foot or interested in learning, please join us most Tuesdays at 1:15 at the Senior Center.

This card game involves four rounds of playing until the final round is reached — some two to three hours later. Plan to stay and meet some new friends or catch up with those you have missed over the last couple of years.

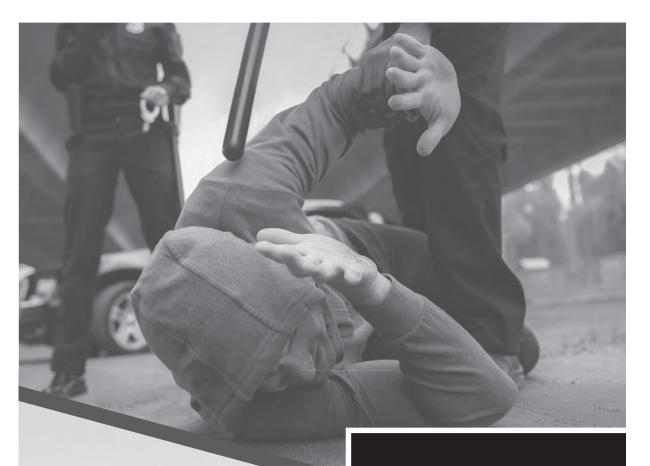
No experience is necessary, so come willing to learn.

Board vacancies

The ASI Board of Directors has multiple vacant positions open. The terms are three years with an option to renew for an additional term.

Potential candidates should be at least 21 years of age or older and must have a passion for adult and aging services.





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Trump's policies put us in economic danger

By Dave Marston PREVIEW Columnist

Donald Trump's platform was clear when he was running for president. He promised to make bold improvements — quickly raising revenue by imposing tariffs on foreign goods, slashing prices at grocery stores, and ending fraud and wasteful government spending through greater efficiency.

None of this is happening.

After a few short weeks, inflation is rising, potentially crushing economic growth. In January 2025, inflation expectations were 3.3 percent. February's reading was a shock, with expectations rising to 4.3 percent, according to Barron's Business Journal. A jump of this magnitude has happened only five times in 14 years.

Though he tabled early Mexico and Canada tariffs, China's are in place. To make matters worse, on Feb. 10, Trump unveiled tariffs on steel and aluminum. The next day, the European Union, home to 450 million people, vowed retaliatory tariffs.

Meanwhile at home, so-called "eggflation" is on the rise in the United States. It is most pronounced in the state of Colorado after a law passed in 2020 mandates that all eggs sold in the state must now come from "cage free" hens, meaning that they get to spread their wings and roam a bit each day.

The law went into effect last month, and combined with avian flu, Coloradoans now pay up to a \$1 per egg. In recent years it was \$2 per dozen. Labor shortages from frightened undocumented workers staying home are also hurting egg prices.

Although deporting undocumented workers apparently pleases many supporters of the president, the government's roundups could have an inflationary impact on basic living costs. Migrant workers do our toughest jobs, whether it's picking fruit, processing proteins like eggs and meat, or building Tesla's Gigafactory.

Fake news narratives paint undocumented workers as a drag on America. The facts show that they pay into our retirement system and Treasury to the tune of \$76 billion annually, according to the Council on Foreign Relations. These workers receive no benefits in return.

We are at 4.1 percent unemployment — a tight labor market. If we lose millions of these workers we will see a dramatic rise in labor costs and a lessening of productivity.

Combined with tariffs, these actions are stagflationary, contributing to cost increases while slowing growth.

Vulnerable Americans, those who rent and who live paycheck to paycheck, have few options when goods rise rapidly in cost. We import more than 80 percent of our aluminum. Are we prepared for soaring prices on automobiles, electronics and packaged food products?

Trump won the presidency in part on his promise to fix what he labeled



Trump won the presidency in part on his promise to fix what he labeled a horrible

a horrible economy. But thanks to his unnecessary tariffs, the only way to achieve lower prices here at home now is through a recession.

economy.

Recessionary periods are hard on people. Job losses, home foreclosures and drug use typically spike during tough times. A recession combined with a trade war hark back to the 1970s, a time when high prices and high unemployment — plus two energy shocks — battered Americans' wallets and psyches.

Americans were so frustrated during that time that they elected Ronald Reagan, who cut taxes for the rich, emptied our mental institutions and gutted protections for labor. He also ushered in the billionaire class that today includes Trump and many in his cabinet.

Yet there was a time of hope instead of empty promises at the start of Trump's first presidency. Steve Bannon, a conservative media executive, initially served as chief strategist to the president. His advice to Trump: Shake things up by raising taxes on billionaires and cutting taxes for working people.

Bannon was fired seven months later as Trump passed broad tax cuts, up for renewal soon, for the wealthy. His policies continue to favor the richest in America.

Running for office for the second time, Trump singled out the migrant community for persecution, demonizing them for exaggerated ills in the economy. What never got communicated clearly was that our economy was on a steady keel, with prices steadying along with interest rate declines. Now we're primed for an inflationary spiral.

Who will do the jobs that migrants do? Where will we source necessary foreign-made goods? How will we build needed housing? Undocumented workers make up 20 percent of the construction force.

And what is government efficiency when Trump allows people without

security clearances to fight fraud by eviscerating federal agencies mandated by Congress?

Dave Marston is the publisher of Writers on the Range, writersontherange.org, an independent nonprofit dedicated to spurring conversation about Western issues. He lives in Durango, Colo. Views expressed do not necessarily represent those of The SUN.







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Free colorectal cancer tests: 2,782 residents remain unscreened in the Archuleta County

By Daniel Pacheco and Lauren Zimmaro

CU Cancer Center

The American Cancer Society states that colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of death nationwide and the No. 1 cause of cancer death in men under 50.

In 2024, approximately 153,020 Americans were diagnosed with colorectal cancer, with 52,550 dying from the disease. In Colorado, the impact is just as striking, with an estimated 2,130 diagnoses and 820 deaths reported last year.

Fortunately, there are several ways to check (or "screen") for colorectal cancer, even before any symptoms appear. Colorectal cancer screenings are simple tests for disease before symptoms occur, when it is easier to treat or even prevent. However, colorectal cancer screening rates remain very low in small towns.

The latest data shows that around five people are diagnosed with colorectal cancer in Archuleta County each year, but what is concerning is that residents of rural counties like Archuleta are more likely to die from the disease than those in urban areas.

Despite these concerning trends, the screening rate for colorectal cancer in Archuleta County is only 59 percent, compared to around 70 percent in urban areas. This means approximately 2,782 residents are missing the potentially lifesaving opportunity to prevent or detect the disease early.

There are several risk factors for developing colorectal cancer. These include being over the age of 45 or having a family history of colorectal cancer or large colorectal polyps, which are abnormal growths in the colon that could become cancerous. An inactive lifestyle, a diet low in fiber but high in red and processed meats and sugar, along with smoking and alcohol consumption, can significantly increase your risk.

The good news is that colorectal cancer is highly preventable and curable when caught and treated early.

In the early stages, colorectal cancer may not show noticeable symptoms. That's why regular screening is so important — it helps find cancer early when it's harder to detect, and it's easier to treat or even prevent by finding and removing polyps.

The American Cancer Society recommends that adults over the age of 45 complete colorectal cancer screening on a regular basis until age 85. This screening age was recently lowered due to the increasing number of younger adults diagnosed with colorectal cancer.

Several effective colorectal cancer screening options are available.

The most common test is a colonoscopy, which is a medical procedure you can complete at your doctor's office. Other simple tests that do not require a procedure inside the body and can be completed at home are also available. These at-home tests use a sample of your stool to check for hidden signals of colorectal cancer in your body, such as the fecal immunochemical test (FIT), or DNA and RNA tests, like Cologuard or ColoSense. If your athome test finds something unusual, you will need a colonoscopy to check for cancer, while negative results may eliminate the need for one.

To help increase screening rates and support the 12 percent of residents in the area who are uninsured, the University of Colorado Cancer Center's Office of Community Outreach and Engagement is offering free FIT kits to uninsured and underinsured residents.

The process is simple: Eligible individuals can request a kit, complete the test at home, and return it using a prepaid envelope. Those who test positive will receive a colonoscopy at no cost, funded by the Colon Cancer Coalition.

To order a colorectal cancer screening test, visit https://bit.ly/ FreeFIT or call us at (720) 441-2529. You can also email coe@cuanschutz. edu. Voicemail messages are available in both Spanish and English.

If you do have insurance, take this article with you to discuss screening with your doctor to help reduce colorectal cancer rates in Archuleta County. Early detection saves lives.

If you would like to find out how you can support the Colon Cancer Coalition's activities in Colorado, please visit https://coloncancercoalition.org.

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THERE IS A SOLUTION GROUP of Alcoholics Anonymous meets Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, 5:30-6:30p.m. Pagosa Bible Church, 209 Harman Park Drive. Questions? Richard: (970)903-1456. Diamond: (970)264-1073. More resources: www.aa.org, www. aa-westerncolorado.com, (970)245-9649, (888)333-9649 (24 hours).

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Why Join Us?

Competitive salary + performance-based incentives. Access to professional development and growth opportunities. Be part of a collaborative, innovative, and supportive team.

O'Rourke Media Group is a family-owned, diversified media company that was formed in 2018. Originally just a holding company that owned a few newspapers, O'Rourke Media Group (OMG) has established itself as an industry-leading, digital media company comprising a cutting edge digital agency and an impressive group of award-winning, hyper-local print newspapers and niche magazines. OMG now operates in eight states, 36 markets with over 50 publications and hyper-local websites. In Pagosa Springs, we publish The SUN, Preview and a number of niche publications.

> Ready to take the next step in your career? Send your resume and a brief cover letter to CEO Jim O'Rourke at jorourke@orourkemediagroup.com.





TERRY'S COLORADO HOME SUPPLY AND ACE HARDWARE IS SEEKING A **MOTIVATED, DEPENDABLE, DETAIL ORIENTED INDIVIDUAL FOR SALES IN**

Product or home design familiarity is a plus; proficient computer skills, exceptional communication, people and customer service skills are a must have.

Job requires working in a team atmosphere, high level of professionalism, and building long term

OUR FURNITURE DEPARTMENT.

customers through a dynamic service repertoire Starts at \$18/hr with benefits. Full time/40hr week. Applicants will need to be available for weekends and holidays. Apply in person at 525 Navajo Trail Drive.



We are looking for a great coworker 4 days per week. We are looking for a permanent addition to join our fun work family. We are not a corporate dental practice.

We are a growing private practice with a fantastic reputation for our quality care and exceptional friendliness. Our patients enjoy their time with us and especially with our team. We are a boutique practice with a close-knit work family. Our reputation in the community is stellar.

Pay rate will be determined based on experience, \$23+.

Benefits may include:

- Paid time off
- Holiday pay
- Health benefits Uniform Allowances
- Dental benefits for you and your
- immediate family

Our Core Values are behind everything we do, including hiring. We are committed to:

Care, Commitment, **Communication and Compassion**

> Weekly hours are CONSISTENT. (M-Th 7:45am-4pm with an hour lunch break. Requirements for employment include: • Remarkable friendliness and

- personality
- Knowledge of oral health and ability to educate in a kind manner
- Team-based attitude, willingness to cooperate and nitch in
- Competent in digital charts, typing 50+ WPM and navigating computer software
- Taking health histories and
- medical records • Making people laugh!

Please email resume to drsmith@pagosa.dentist or stop by 308 Pagosa St.

BWD Construction is NOW HIRING!



Office Assistant: Detail oriented, tech savvy, must be able to lift incoming orders.

NORTH PAGOSA MARATHON is hiring a full-time cashier nights and weekends. Competitive wages. Please apply in person at 30 N. Pagosa Blvd.

SEEKING AN OFFICE ASSISTANT to help with various tasks. Experience helpful, but willing to train. Basic bookkeeping skills a plus. Monday thru Thursday. Apply in person at 505 County Road 600 or call Susan (970)731-3335 to set an appointment.

OWNERS, THERE IS A LONG TERM RENT-AL 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.

REACH TOURISTS COMING TO PAGOSA SPRINGS with the Pagosa Springs Official Visitor Guide, summer edition. Promote your business to your customers in 30,000 copies of the guide. These will be distributed locally at The Springs Resort, Walmart, Wyndham, the visitor center and other area establishments, at welcome centers throughout Colorado and mailed to SUN subscribers. View the guide on pagosasun.com, explorepagosa.com and visitpagosasprings.com. Deadline for advertising is February 21, 2025. Distribution of the guide will begin in late April. Call The Pagosa Springs SUN today for rates and information at (970)264-2100 or email shari@ pagosasun.com

ROOF LABORER NEEDED with some construction experience. Will train. \$20-\$25/ hour to start. (970)749-0830.

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

SECRETARY/ FRONT DESK team member wanted. Willing to train. What we do matters! We make people's lives better through excellent customer service. We show up every day, work hard, and make a great living serving our patients. We are blessed to have weekends and holidays off! We work in a beautiful facility with great pay, 401K, & bonuses. Gain a sense of fulfillment by helping people! E-mail resume to office@pagosasmiles.com.

THE RUBY SISSON LIBRARY Foundation & Friends is seeking an Executive Director to provide strategic direction and achieve fundraising objectives for the organization. Director will identify, define and develop funding sources to support existing capital campaigns as well as lead the development, writing, and submission of grant proposals. \$22/hour DOE insurance stipend and PTO available. Email resume to: foundation@pagosalibrary.org

THE TOWN OF PAGOSA SPRINGS is seeking energetic, fun, responsible team plavers to serve as Counselors, Assistant Leads. and Leads for the K.I.D.S. Day Camp. Staff works collaboratively to implement the program and create a positive learning, exploring, and growing experience for attendees. The K.I.D.S Day Camp program runs from June 2nd through August 1st, Monday through Friday. Training for staff begins in Mid May. For more information on the position and to apply, go to the Town's website at www.pagosasprings. co.gov and select Employment.

THE TOWN OF PAGOSA SPRINGS is seeking Referees/ Officials to officiate games or competitions for both kids and adult leagues organized by the Town to include any of the following sports: Softball, Baseball, Basketball, Soccer, Volleyball, T-Ball. For more information on the position and to apply, go to the Town's website at www.pagosasprings. co.gov and select Employment.

LOOKING FOR AN X-RAY TECHNICIAN to run occasional Saturday clinic in our Bayfield office. Ideal candidate will possess strong multi-tasking and organizational skills, a positive attitude, work independently and manage workloads, able to establish and maintain working relationship with patients, co-workers, and the public. Compensation is based on experience. Please send resume to recruiting@desexams.com

MALT SHOPPE NOW HIRING. Apply in person between 9a.m. and 2p.m.

(970) 264-2100 **Classifieds** (970) 264-2100

Office Hours: Monday — Friday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

HELP WANTED

NEWSPAPER REPORTER — We are searching for a talented reporter to fill a fulltime position in Pagosa Springs, Colorado, at The Pagosa Springs SUN. Our journalists are driven to find stories that matter to our community and are dedicated to fairness, accuracy, and ethics. The successful candidate for this position is someone who knows how to cover hard news but also loves to write about people and their passions. They know that a good interview is often a good conversation and know when to ask the tough questions, but also when to listen. The ideal candidate has exceptional writing skills and is willing to put in the extra effort and research to deliver an engaging story. Preferred qualifications for this position include: Degree or diploma in journalism, or a related field; At least 1-3 years of experience as a reporter with experience covering hard news and feature stories or experience at a college newspaper: The ability to meet tight deadlines and report the news as it happens; Superior language, writing and editing skills; Strong photography skills; Able to work a variety of schedules, including evenings, nights and weekends; Excellent critical thinking and problem-solving skills: Ability to work in a fast-paced environment: A valid driver's license and a reliable vehicle; Willingness to live in or near Pagosa Springs, Colorado. If this sounds like the perfect position for you, we would love to hear from you! To apply, please send your resume, letter of interest and relevant samples of your work to Chad Richardson, Vice President of News, crichardson@orourkemediagroup.com. Company Benefits: We offer competitive compensation plans and employees are eligible for medical, dental, vision, life insurance benefits, paid time off and our 401 (k) savings plan. This is an excellent opportunity for career development and growth within the company O'Rourke Media Group is a fast-growing company that owns and operates hyper-local, community newspapers, websites, niche publications and a full-service digital agency. We are family-owned and mission-driven to save newspapers and local media companies by investing in the people, resources and technology needed to thrive for many years to come. We believe that every community can benefit from a well-run, properly resourced, local newspaper and website. Our News teams produce hyper-local, high interest local news and accurate and trustworthy reporting. Our Sales and Digital Fulfillment teams bring omnichannel advertising solutions to local businesses in the communities we serve. O'Rourke Media Group now operates in nine states and 38 markets with 51 publications and hyper-local websites. We started from ground zero in December 2018, totally bootstrapped, confident and with an entrepreneurial mindset.

IMMEDIATE OPENING for an experienced HVAC Installer. Requirements: Valid driver's license, clean driving record, 5+ years HVAC experience, EPA universal 608 certification. Must have own tools, Ability to work in confined spaces, Reliable and self-motivated, Excellent written, verbal, and interpersonal skills, Team player, Fabrication skills a plus!! Weekly pay, Direct deposit, Bonus opportunities, Competitive pay (\$28-35+, depends on experience) Paid holidays, Sick pay, Matched IRA, Family environment, Locally owned. Area Best Heating & Cooling. Send resume to: Office@areabesthvac.com (970)946-6314.

HELP WANTED

check us out on Indeed.com.

J AND J ENTERPRISES is looking for friendly and enthusiastic people who are eager to help customers navigate the wide world of cannabis. We offer paid sick leave, product sampling, employee discounts, sales bonuses and comprehensive on-site training! Must be 21 years of age. A Marijuana Enforcement Division badge is required to start work. E-mail your resume to employment@jandjinc.net or

LAZY ONE PAJAMA SHOP looking for parttime employee. 1 -3 days/ week. Call or text (805)405-1339.

MASSAGE THERAPIST –position open at Healing Waters Resort & Spa! We are looking for someone proficient in deep tissue and therapeutic massage to join our small team of therapists – medical or sports therapy background a plus! Must be available weekends. If this sounds like you, let's talk! Email Kanaka at sales@pshotsprings.com or drop your resume by Healing Waters Resort & Spa at 140 Hot Springs Blvd. Soaking included with employment.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

OWN YOUR OWN BUSINESS IN 2025! Four year-old profitable Side-by-Side rental business with extremely high reviews on Google. 1 to 8 Polaris Rzrs, LLC, website, reservation site, customer list, insured, bonded, licensed, maintenance and safety gear included. Better location than any of our competition. Operates May- Nov. Call or text Ryan (970)946-2409.

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SMALL CRANE BUSINESS FOR SALE. National Crane truck, business, client list, and all attachments come with business. Inquire at (970)903-2381.

FOR SALE

4 SNOW TIRES. Sumitomo Ice Edge P225/60 TR18. Used one winter. \$180 cash. (917)327-7654.

4 TIRES LT285/70 R17, \$350 or best reasonable offer. 3 tires P245/55 R19, \$300. Twin mattress and box spring, \$20. Please text (970)946-8598.

DO YOU BURN FIREWOOD? Pine/ Aspen mix available. \$350 a cord or \$600 for a HUGE dump truck load! Contact Dan with FIRE&ICE at (970)582-0006.

DRY FIREWOOD- PINE. Pick up \$255 a cord. Delivery available. Call for prices. Bayfield. Gabe (970)403-2784.

FOR SALE

FIREWOOD FOR SALE. Pine and aspen. Cut about 16" long, split. Delivered by longbed truckload. Call (970)946-4450.

LOG HOME KIT For Sale: 4 bedroom /3 bath /1,032 sq. ft. of wrap around porch. \$65,000. (817)771-6261 for specs and plans. Located in Pagosa Springs, CO.

NEW 20' CONTAINERS FOR SALE or rent. We deliver to homes or businesses. Pagosa Springs Storage (970)731-0007.

OUTDOOR VEHICLE STORAGE SPACES available. 16', 20', 25', plus indoor 12'x20'. Winter specials starting at \$60. Pagosa Springs Storage. Gated with security cameras. (970)749-1500.

REACH TOURISTS COMING TO PAGOSA SPRINGS with the Pagosa Springs Official Visitor Guide, summer edition, Promote your business to your customers in 30.000 copies of the guide. These will be distributed locally at The Springs Resort, Walmart, Wyndham, the visitor center and other area establishments, at welcome centers throughout Colorado and mailed to SUN subscribers. View the guide on pagosasun.com, explorepagosa.com and visitpagosasprings.com. Deadline for advertising is February 21, 2025. Distribution of the guide will begin in late April. Call The Pagosa Springs SUN today for rates and information at (970)264-2100 or email shari@ pagosasun.com.

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).

WINDOWS FOR SALE. Assorted sizes. Text me for sizes and prices or all for one price. Mary (970)946-8598.

LIVESTOCK

MIXED GRASS HAY for sale. \$10 per small bale. Call/text (970)903-7499.

PETS

ADOPT FROM THE Humane Society. Stop by or call (970)731-4771. You'll be amazed at what we have to offer, www.PagosaHumane.org.

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.

WANTED

ROOMMATE WANTED. \$600/ month. For details, call between noon and 6p.m. (970)903-5139.

AUTOS

GUARANTEED CREDIT APPROVAL! 4X4 Auto Sales, 21698 Hwy. 160 West, Durango. (970)385-7940.

YARD SALES



BE SURE TO CHECK for more yard sales in the Too Late To Classify section.

COMMERCIAL FOR RENT

2000 SQ. FT. SHOP/ WAREHOUSE 14x 14 overhead door. Restrooms and natural gas. Good parking. Call Doug (970)946-3762 or (970)731-4792.

260 SF OFFICE at the Metro Hotel downtown on Main Street. \$469 monthly, utilities included. Jacque (970)946-7636.

4 OFFICE SPACES. Freshly remodeled, \$400-\$525. Well suited for spa services, 140-270 sq. ft. Beautiful spacious restrooms. (970)946-3232.

DOWNTOWN OFFICE SPACE in the Historic Metro Hotel. 239 SF, available Dec 2024. Call Jacque (970)946-7636.

DOWNTOWN OFFICE Upstairs with skylight. Month-to-month, \$325/ month including utilities, internet and shared kitchen. No smokers. No pets. (970)946-2728.

METROPOLITAN HOTEL. 450 SF prime location on Main St. Available January 1, 2025. Rent is \$1,150 per month. Call Jacque at (970)946-7636.

PAGOSA VALLEY PROPERTIES: Offering "Aspen Plaza ProSuites" These are Professional Office Suites available for Long Term rental from 135 SF to 205 SF, priced from \$465-\$669/ month. Also, Large Conference/ Event Room Available. Call (970)889-2022 for more information.

PRIVATE OFFICE Uptown at 543 Park Ave. 10x12 \$175 price includes utilities. (970)300-9444 or info@pagosaselfstorage.com

THREE UNITS IN UPTOWN 419, 364, and 1477 sq. ft. Available now. \$900 -\$2400. Utilities included. Call Gina (970)880-0910 for more info.

HOMES FOR RENT

COMFY 1 BEDROOM, one bath beautifully remodeled and furnished condo on golf course. Water, sewer, trash and snow removal included. 1 year lease preferred. \$1600 per month. No smoking. No pets. Available 03/01/25. (970)903-7088.

PagosaSUN.com

Classified Deadline: Tuesday 10 a.m.

VACATIOIN RENTALS

OWNERS, WE ARE BOOKED UP AND NEED MORE VACATION RENTAL PROP-ERTIES! 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

2600 SQ. FT. HOUSE with 5 acres. Large kitchen, 3 bedrooms, 2 bath. Over 80 foot deck, garage, lots of windows. Some utilities included. No smoking. Pets negotiable. Available now. \$3,500/ month. 6 month or a year. Text (970)946-7859.

3 BED/2 BATH San Juan River Village. Clean, pristine and ready for you. 3/2 in highly desirable San Juan River Village. 2 level master on first floor. 5 min to town, 20 min to Wolf Creek. Water views and beautiful mountain views, first last deposit. Local landlord with great tenant history. No pets, no smoking, lots of storage, including indoor and outdoor storage. \$2300/ month. 6- and 12-month options available. Text (970)582-0148 for application.

AVAILABLE 1ST OF MARCH. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Newly remodeled. Close to town. Propane heated and electricity not included in rent. All other amenities provided. Call Becky (970)264-6938. Application and background check required.

DOWNTOWN UNITS FOR RENT. New 3 bedroom, 2 bath unit. Granite countertops, all appliances and utilities included. Porch and patio. \$2000/ month. (318)347-6100.

LONG TERM RENTALS AVAILABLE. Call Team Pagosa (970)731-8599, 117 Navajo Trail Dr., pagosaspringsrealty.com.

LONG TERM TOWNHOUSE rental, lake/ mountain views. Lease, utilities, pets negotiable. 3 bedroom /3 bath, office space, driveway parking, fenced backyard, 3 decks, full or partially furnished. Call for details (505)250-5362.

ONE BEDROOM with good sized loft. All appliances, wood stove, ETS heating, large deck, fenced yard, private. \$1700/ month. (970)731-2010.

ROOM FOR RENT in 3.2k sq. ft. home 4 miles west of town. No pets, \$700 /month. Must have references +pass background and drug tests. (970)946-9024.

ROOM FOR RENT. \$550. First, last and security. Own bathroom. Kitchen and living room access. (970)946-2540. Available March 1st.

STUDIO CABIN, downtown, rent \$750 deposit \$750, plus utilities, no pets. Text for more information (505)319-1294.

COMMERCIAL

GAS STATION, CONVENIENCE STORE comes with nine long-term leases, high producing. \$1,650,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

PRIME BUSINESS LOCATION Large building and land. \$1,250,000. Motivated seller. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

(970) 264-2100 Classifieds (970) 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

www.RMREALTYANDRENTALS.COM

Nonn

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



HOMES FOR SALE

REAL ESTATE SERVICES

Whether Buying or Selling



3 BED 2 BATH 2 car garage. 3.9 acres. 5 shares of water. Detached 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. Great views. \$585,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

3 BED 2 BATH with office and privacy fence. Irrigation. Ignacio. \$440,500. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

3 BEDROOM 2 BATH. Workshop. 20 acres. Great views of the La Plata. Ignacio. \$475,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

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1.1 ACRE WITH RV GENERATOR and system tank, circular drive in, tall cool pines. NO HOA! \$75k. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

LAND/ BUILDING SITES

1.1 ACRE WITH TALL PINES on flat buildable land with drive in. NO HOA! \$70k. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

1.19 ACRES WITH VIEWS OF NAVAJO LAKE. All utilities nearby. \$99,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

1.48 ACRE LAND. Highway frontage. \$99,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

12.6 ACRES WITH VIEWS. HOA, Meadows 4 with water tap, tall pines, multiple building sites. Call or text (303)263-9366.

.28 ACRE LAND County Road 982 frontage \$55,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

3 FLAT BUILDABLE ACRES. Great mountain views, water cap and driveway in. Power to the property, fully fenced, corners marked. \$300k. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.



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. .35 ACRE LAND County Road 982 frontage

970.731.5515

Info@rmrealtyandrentals.com

117 Navajo Trail Dr. Ste E, Pagosa Springs

(argest local Property Management Co.

.35 ACRE LAND County Road 982 frontage \$55,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

FANTASTIC VIEWS with electricity, concrete floor garage on 1 acre for \$195,000. 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. \$450K.

LAND/ BUILDING SITES

VERY MOTIVATED SELLER. 4 acres. Great views, access to river. Electric near. \$175,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

150+ SW Colorado Property Owners Served 19+ Years. Mortgage & Real Estate Exp FULL LT TENANT SCREENING NATIONWIDE ADVERTISING ON CALL 24 HR 7 DAYS

LAND/ BUILDING SITES

PagosaSUN.com

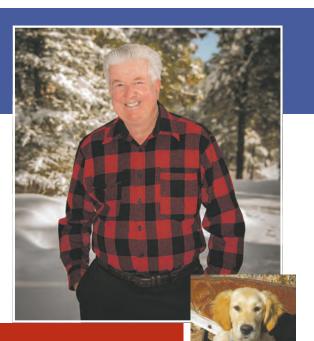
NEW! Place your classified ad online! Go to: PagosaSUN.com >> Shop Local >> Place Your Classified Ad

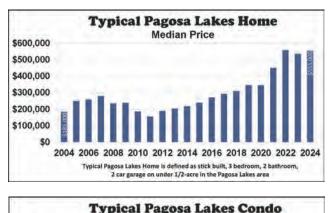
All classified line ads appear on PagosaSUN.com Regular categories deadline: Tues., 10 a.m. • Too Late To Classify deadline: Tues., 3 p.m. Holidays will have alternate deadlines.

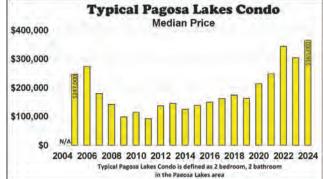
LAND/ BUILDING SITES

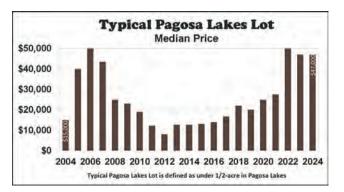
ISELL PAGOSA.COM

I have been helping Pagosa families buy and sell Pagosa real estate for over 1/3 of a century!









Hi, My name is Lee Riley and I work for Jann C. Pitcher Real Estate.

I am an expert in my field, and I'd love to work with you. Lee's newest pup — Archie!

MY FELLOW REALTORS NAMED ME "REALTOR OF THE YEAR" NOT ONCE, BUT TWICE, 2001 AND 2014.

I give the best real estate service possible by providing knowledge, hard work, aggressive marketing and excellent service. Want to know what your property is worth? Call for a FREE market analysis, no strings attached.

Contact Lee Riley today 970-946-3856 LeeRiley@ISellPagosa.com

			PA	GOSA SP	RINGS F	REAL ESTAT	E STATIS	STICS						
					Jan-Dec	of Last 5 Years	;							
				Stats c	ollected fro	m the CREN ML	S system							
	St	ats are inte	nded to sho	w trends in	the area; th	ney include activi	ty for all ar	ea agents, i	not just Lee	Riley				
			VTD Bro	perties Sol	4				Invento	rv Available				
Homes	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	% Difference	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	% Differenc		
All	531	504	368	328	313	-5%	88	50	102	106	133	+25%		
			VTD Pro	perties Sol	d			Invento	ry Available					
Condos	2020 2021 2022 2023 2024 % Difference							2022	2023	2024	2025	% Differenc		
							2021							
All	103	96	84	55	68	+24%	4	3	5	22	29	+32%		
			YTD Pro	perties Sol	d		Inventory Available							
Vacant Lots	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	% Difference						025 % Difference		
All	437	713	379	281	286	+2%	377	163	251	261	267	+2%		
			VTD Bro	perties Sol	d				Invento	ry Available				
Other	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	% Difference	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	% Differenc		
Total Commercial	13	13	13	11	14	+27%	15	19	18	16	25	+56%		
Total Ranches	3	9	3	4	5	+25%	22	10	11	8	7	-13%		
								New	House Co	nstruction	Permits			
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	% Difference	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	% Differenc		
YTD Total Sales	1087	1335	847	679	686	+1%	124	153	127	99	131	+32%		



If you are working with another Real Estate Professional, please disregard.

