



U.S. 160 reconstruction project to start March 17

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

The U.S. 160 reconstruction project is set to officially begin on Monday, March 17, “weather permitting,” according to the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT).
The press release indicates that work beginning in mid-March will include “removal of existing stripping, setting up concrete barriers on Main Street, then moving traffic onto the existing eastbound lanes (one lane each direction),” with two-way traffic continuing to be maintained.
Following the traffic shift, “crews will excavate the existing westbound roadway surface and remove side-

walks, curbs and gutters.”
The first phase of the project will begin work on utilities from 2nd Street to 8th Street.
“The utility work beginning in March will include replacement or enhancements to water lines, sanitation sewer lines, gas lines, geothermal lines, communications and electrical conduit, and storm drainage system,” the press release states.
CDOT notes that motorists should expect traffic delays through 2025 as work is done on the westbound lanes, with the process being reversed in 2026.
Periodic closures and stops should be expected, the press release adds.
■ See Project A8

BoCC presses water, fire districts for plan to service fire hydrants

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

An unusually dry winter in Pagosa County, paired with wildfire disasters occurring in California recently, have many concerned about this upcoming summer with local governments, service and protection districts discussing plans and how to take steps to prepare for a potential fire event.
The Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) met with Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD) Manager Justin Ramsey during a work session on Tuesday, Feb. 25, to discuss the status of fire hydrants throughout the community, mainly located within Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Association

(PLPOA) boundaries.
The topic stemmed from a joint work session between the BoCC and PLPOA board last month on Jan. 30 at which commissioner John Ranson inquired about when the hydrants were last serviced.
Ranson updated the BoCC on the matter during a BoCC work session on Feb. 14, noting he had spoken with representatives of the Pagosa Fire Protection District (PFPD) and PAWSD, finding that neither entity knew whose responsibility it was to service fire hydrants.
“Just seems like there’s real confusion,” he said.
During the same work session, commissioner Warren Brown also
■ See Hydrants A8

PAWSD sets fees for 2025

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

At its Feb. 13 meeting, the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD) Board of Directors approved increases in rates and other fees for 2025.
The increases include a 3 percent increase on water rates and fill station charges and a 10 percent increase on wastewater rates, with wastewater availability of service and wastewater hauler charges rising by 30 percent.
The monthly service charge for water increased from \$32.38 to \$33.35 with the volume charge per 1,000 gallons growing from \$5.81 to \$5.98 for 2,001 to 8,000 gallons of usage, from \$11.63 to \$11.98 for 8,001 to 20,000 gallons of usage and from \$14.60 to \$15.04 for more than 20,001 gallons of usage.
Water fill station charges per 1,000 gallons rose from \$12.55 to \$12.93, and water availability of service fees increased from \$14.73 to \$15.17.
Monthly service charges for wastewater increased from \$42.64 per equivalent unit (EU) to \$46.90 per EU while the short-term rental monthly service charge rose from \$59.70 to \$65.66.
Wastewater availability of service fees increased from \$16.25 to \$21.13 per month, and wastewater hauler charges per 100 gallons of waste rose from \$17.26 to \$22.44.
Water and wastewater capital investment fees also increased by 3 percent, taking the water capital investment fee from \$8,958 to \$9,227 and the wastewater capital investment fee from \$15,697 to \$16,168.
At the meeting, PAWSD Business
■ See Fees A8



SUN photo/Randi Pierce
The Pagosa Springs Middle School choir takes the stage alongside the Colorado Christian University symphonic band on Friday, Feb. 21.

PAWSD files response to water conservancy claims

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

In a Feb. 21 filing, the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD) filed its response to the counterclaims raised by the San Juan Water Conservancy District (SJWCD) as part of the ongoing lawsuit between the two districts concerning the potential sale of Running Iron Ranch.
The SJWCD counterclaims include allegations that PAWSD’s attempts to sell the ranch are a breach of the 2015 agreement between the two districts and the Colorado Water Conserva-

tion Board (CWCB).
It also requests a declaratory judgment that PAWSD is not allowed to sell the ranch during the planning period specified in the 2015 agreement unless it makes “every effort” to retain the property, as stated in the agreement. The agreement designates the planning period as extending for 20 years from 2015 to 2035.
The counterclaims also request an injunction from the court preventing PAWSD from taking actions to sell the ranch, acting in a manner that diminishes the SJWCD’s and CWCB’s ability to find partners for the reservoir project, or making unilateral decisions

concerning the management of the property.
The PAWSD response broadly denies the claims made in the SJWCD counterclaim and presents a variety of affirmative defenses, including failure to state a claim, immunity, duress, mistake, a failure by the SJWCD to mitigate damages it may have suffered, prior breach of contract and inducement of a breach of contract by words or conduct.
The response concludes by requesting that the court deny the SJWCD’s counterclaims and award costs and attorney’s fees to PAWSD
■ See PAWSD A8

Renovations or new construction? Committee weighs pros and cons for school district master facilities plan

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

The Archuleta School District (ASD) Master Plan Advisory Committee (MPAC) recently discussed the pros and cons of a major renovation versus constructing a new building for the district’s master facilities plan.
Representatives from RTA Architects, as well as ASD Superintendent Rick Holt and MPAC chair Lisa Scott, facilitated the most recent committee meeting held on Monday, Feb. 24, in which committee members discussed in groups the pros and cons of either a major renovation or a new construction project.
Scott clarified that the MPAC is an advisory group, and that the ASD Board of Education will make the final decision as to what the district will pursue in terms of a renovation or new construction project and the appropriate funding needed.

“We are an advisory committee to the school board,” Scott said, explaining the committee’s purpose through the end of this spring is to “understand the status of our school facilities and the options for ... remedies. These buildings are old — doesn’t mean they’re horrible — but we do seriously need some remedies.”
Scott encouraged committee members to view the project through a lens that addresses the district as a whole while being totally student-focused and “providing an optimal learning environment for our students.”
Some of the comments for pros of a renovation project included a less expensive upfront cost, though that was countered by some comments that hidden costs in a renovation project may not be cheaper over time compared to a new build.
Doug Abernethy of RTA noted that
■ See Plan A8


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Opinion



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OUR VIEW

Get your patient pants ready

It's finally almost here.
For years we've been hearing talk of a major Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) reconstruction project on U.S. 160 through downtown Pagosa Springs.
It began with conceptual talks at Pagosa Springs Town Council meetings and progressed over the years, leading to last year's postponement, public meetings, meetings with representatives of the business community and now, finally, a start date: March 17.
This project has been nothing short of controversial over that time, and continues to be so.
Many have voiced genuine concerns over the functionality of the project and how it will be carried out, and CDOT representatives have spent a lot of time discussing the project with the community, trying to increase understanding and dispel fears.
But, despite all that, hesitations remain, and concerns persist over how our community will weather the construction this year and next given our dependence on visitors to our community, and if the new alignment through town will help reduce crashes or lead to more safety concerns.
We understand those fears and con-

cerns, and have some of our own still.
But, ultimately, we won't know how it will all play out until the project is complete, and we can only focus on the now.
The project will obviously greatly affect traffic downtown, just as the McCabe Creek project did (on a smaller scale, of course). It will be annoying. It will be frustrating. We'll be right in the thick of it to get to work and school, and we're sure we'll gripe about it. But we'll put our patient pants on and get through it.
And we, as a community, will get through it together, one day at a time.
We at The SUN have plans to meet with project staff this week to formulate the best way to continue to provide timely, useable updates to the community on a regular basis.
We hope that information will help make the project a little less frustrating and provide information that will make it easier to support our friends, neighbors and fellow community members with businesses, especially those along the affected route.
Supporting each other throughout this project will be critical to successfully weathering it.
One thing that will, without a doubt, make the entire situation worse, though,

is misinformation.
We've heard a lot of misinformation this week alone, ranging from another postponed start date to allegations the entire project is a conspiracy to kill downtown businesses and relocate everything to the west side of Pagosa Springs.
We don't foresee either of those things happening, for so many reasons.
SUN staff has worked with those in charge throughout the project in efforts to disseminate helpful, accurate information to our community, and we will continue to do so throughout its duration.
We also encourage you to seek answers instead of relying on unchecked social media comments, today and every day.
More about the project can be found in this week's front-page article.
We also encourage everyone with concerns to attend the upcoming informational sessions where they can find answers to their specific questions.
This evening, Feb. 27, project representatives will be hosted by the local Cone Zone Care Committee for a 6 p.m. session at Motel SOCO.
On Monday, CDOT will host a project open house in the exhibit hall at the fairgrounds (located at 344 U.S. 84) at 6 p.m.
Randi Pierce

LOOKING BACK



From the Feb. 19, 1970, Pagosa SUN — WHO CARES — If you can't grab the ball, grab somebody! Who cares who! These two men, both members of the Sinners ball team, are out for action and to heck with each other.

LEGACIES

By Shari Pierce

100 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
February 27, 1925

The 16-month-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Bradford Hallett, who reside at the Wm. Schoonover sawmill on Four Mile creek, fell into a well near the home on Thursday of last week but was fortunately rescued by the mother who was at home alone at the time. The child stated he was trying to get a drink from the well, which is about seven feet deep, when he tumbled in. However, there being only about eighteen inches of water in the well, the baby's head remained above water. Hearing his cries, the mother discovered his plight and secured a long plank. Placing it in the well, she slid down the plank and successfully returned with her baby, apparently not the worse for its experience.

One of the largest steers ever raised in this county was a white-faced Hereford which was butchered Saturday by Assessor Louis Montroy and sold to the Dickerson market, six years old, and when dressed tipped the scales at 913 pounds.

75 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
February 24, 1950

George Yamaguchi and Dave Goodman have been at Aspen the past two weeks attending the World Ski Championships and doing some skiing. They report the skiing by the contestants as excellent and both sport a little snow burn. George returned Sunday night and Dave visited a few days in Denver before coming home.

The newly installed Coffee Shop in the rear of the Hotel Pagosa Lobby was opened for business this week with Mrs. Albert Petry in charge. The Coffee Shop is modernly equipped throughout, with lunch counter, booths and tables. New equipment has been installed in the kitchen.

According to the opening ad elsewhere in the SUN the establishment will serve lunches, short orders, meals and sandwiches.

The ad also states that the restaurant will specialize in home made pies and good coffee during the mid-morning and mid-afternoon periods. The Hotel Pagosa is also the bus depot, with the east bound bus making a noon meal stop there.

50 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
February 27, 1975

Snowfall on Wolf Creek Pass this past week was just another chapter, same book. Snowfall for the week totaled 33 inches, according to Ed Team's records. That brings total snowfall for the winter to date to 464 inches.

Average snowfall for the entire winter on Wolf Creek Pass is 460 inches. With several weeks of the snow season still ahead this winter, more than average snowfall there is a certainty. Precipitation this past week totaled .79 inches. That brings the winter's total precipitation to date to 20.86 inches. That is a bunch of water.

The annual Fireman's Ball, sponsored by the Volunteer Fire Department, will be held March 15 this year. The dance is to be held in the high school gymnasium and good music is assured.

Volunteer firemen will be selling tickets prior to the dance but they may also be purchased at the door. This year the price of admission is \$3 per couple or \$2 per person.

All proceeds from the annual affair are for the benefit of the fire department. The money is used to buy training equipment and to participate in training programs. It is also used to purchase some special equipment, including safety equipment.

25 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
February 24, 2000

About \$2.9 million in revenue bonds will be offered for sale next week by the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation district. Proceeds of the sale will be used to finance renovation of the district's sewage treatment plant.

Plant renovation should begin during April or May, according to Carrie Campbell, the district general manager.

One result of renovating the plant will be expanding its capacity from 1.2 million gallons per day to almost 2 million gallons per day. The plant discharges into the Martinez Creek drainage. The maximum discharge permit parameters are 30-30, which translates into 30 parts per million of total suspended solids and 30 parts per million of biological oxygen demand.

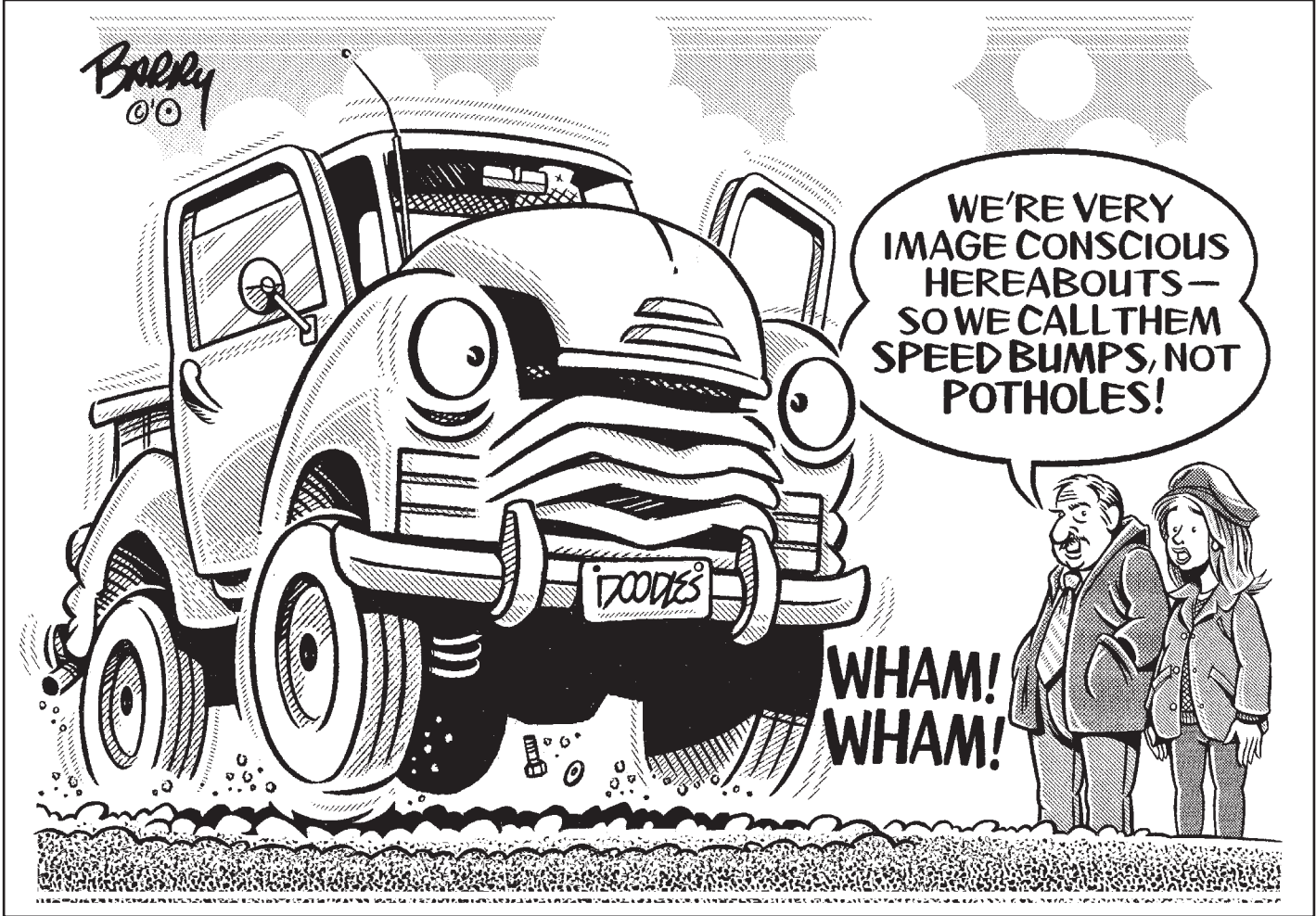
Revenue bonds do not require prior voter approval. They are repaid from revenues generated by the entity issuing the bonds.

The current wastewater treatment plant was constructed in 1973 at a cost of \$500,000. The plant served 22 homes. Starting in 1985, the plant was expanded from its original capacity of 250,000 gallons per day to a capacity of 1.2 million gallons per day.



Weather data

Date	High	Low	Precipitation			
			Depth	Type	Moisture	
2/18	42	15	0.00	NA	0.00	
2/19	43	5	0.00	NA	0.00	
2/20	44	16	0.00	NA	0.00	
2/21	46	11	0.00	NA	0.00	
2/22	49	13	0.00	NA	0.00	
2/23	53	17	0.00	NA	0.00	
2/24	58	22	0.00	NA	0.00	





Letters

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

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

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

Habitat for Humanity

Dear Editor:

I am excited to share that Habitat for Humanity of Archuleta County will be hosting three Application Orientations on “Mondays in March” These presentations are designed for families and individuals interested in owning their own home. While Habitat Archuleta offers a wonderful route to affordable homeownership, we are certainly not the only option available. The presentation will provide detailed information about our program, including sweat equity and financial commitments, and will give attendees an idea of the kind of house we would build together. Our homes are thoughtfully equipped with rooftop solar panels, ensuring that production closely matches the household’s anticipated energy consumption.

These orientations are not only beneficial for prospective homeowners but also for interested donors and volunteers who want to learn more about our program. At Habitat Archuleta, we pride ourselves on offering a “Hand Up, not a hand out” to local workforce families. We believe that everyone deserves a decent place to live, and we are committed to making this a reality for many in our community.

The orientations will be held as follows:

- Monday, March 3rd at 5:30 PM at the Middle School Library, 309 Lewis St.
- Monday, March 10th at 1:00 PM at the Ruby Sisson Public Library, 811 San Juan St.
- Monday, March 24th at 5:30 PM at Pagosa Community Initiative’s Studios, 550 B Hot Springs Blvd.

We hope to see you at one of our “Mondays in March” sessions!

Sincerely,
Leah Ballard,
executive director, Habitat for Humanity of Archuleta County

Saving America

Dear Editor:

We have written many letters in the past. As Christians, we endured the “Biden regime”, it was terrible. Our letters were undergirded with truth, the power of prayer. Burdened by, we were losing our free USA, the heritage of our Forefathers’ pinning Christian Holy Bible ideals, the foundation of the greatest nation in the world. Millions went to mighty prayer and voted Right! We and our children & grandchildren would NOT be living under marxist-socialist Dem leftist control! Open borders and all the sin, grief, death, deadly drugs, crime, terrorism, inflation, anti-Judeo-Christian attacks, dilution of our people,...what!-males breast feeding! This became sickening. A country without borders is not a country! We were there!

Then, “Weeping may endure for a night... joy comes in the morning.”Psalm 30:5! January 20th, 2025: “Inauguration Day”, President Donald Trump, 45th now 47th, Vice-President J.D. Vance! Glorious celebration, “Saving America”! A real man for the job, qualified, based on truth. A man God spared, for such a time as this, bring America back! A man that God had spared from death with a “millimeter miracle”! He had been assaulted in every way evil Dems could think, [even feds checking his wife’s underwear drawer]; “Constitutional Crisis”! Fight, Pray , Win!!! We did! Praise God!

Rev. Franklin Graham and Rev. Lorenzo Sewell brought Holy Spirit filled messages & prayers blessing our Commander-in-Chief, as he accepted the most powerful position in the world! With God’s help, restore America! Pres. Trump’s Cabinet & staff, superb, an air of Godliness to serve.

Common sense, close the borders, deport the criminal illegals, cleanout the Wash. mess...waste, fraud, abuse. Light overcomes darkness! According to recent reports some just don’t get it! Executive branch, only the Pres. is elected, he appoints his staff. Needed auditor, Elon Musk, brilliant, richest businessman in the world, can’t be bought, excellent auditor 5wks later...billions of mess & more!

Examples: USAID, 2billion storm raged Haiti, 2% to real help. 98% back to Wash bureaucrats, oops, where? 122million to foreign terrorist; 100million, condons to Hamas, homemade bombs against Israel. Red Cross raised millions, build 137 houses in Haiti, built 6. rest back to gravy? California given 16billion, 2010, no railway yet! Where? 22.5billion to illegals from our social security buy homes, vehicles, healthcare, start-up businesses. Duh! Social security checks out, no id’s. Social Security Head resigned, 116million+ people 110 to 140 years old, still cks.... Fraud!

Federal employes sent emails, respond 5 work accomplishments last week or will assume person not there or resigned. Good work report, maybe raise, bad report, gone! Public service member must serve! 96% federal offices empty, costs billions, employees go back. Why would job progress reports be so rioted over? Why would Dem Congress/Senate leaders, Chucky Shumer, Maxine, Lizzie, etc shouting , cursing, morons over business audits?? Turn on the lights in that dark basement and the roaches & rats scatter rapidly!

God bless Pres.Trump, Elon, & staff cleaning!

The truth will set us free!President Trump delivering, no dementia.

Jan and Tom Carnley

Parade route

Dear Editor:

Why can’t the 4th of July parade go on 160 up by Walmart? There is plenty of flat roadway with sidewalks and areas to park.

Just a thought ...

Jim Conklin

PLPOA gym

Dear Editor:

Facts about the proposed PLPOA Gym:

- The 2023 PLPOA Owner Survey did not use the word “gym” or “gymnasium” once in the entire survey.
- The June 8, 2023 updated PLPOA Strategic Plan did not use the word “gym” or “gymnasium” either.
- In the June 8, 2023 PLPOA Board meeting, then Board member Mayer, under “Unfinished Business” made a Motion to approve for publication the (2023) Strategic Plan Update and Survey Results with the “1. Removal of Owners w/children and recalculation of pie charts and addition to the Parks & Trails section a bullet point...” seconded by Board member Whitman. The motion passed unanimously.
- Why remove this? Perhaps the percentage of Owners w/children was too low at only 23%?
- Despite numerous public requests to publish this, the PLPOA Board has refused for 20 months. They should review their own organizational chart, as the Board answers to the members.
- The Strategic Plan Update was published on the PLPOA website but not the requested Survey Results. Hmm.
- In the 10-25-24 Eblast, PLPOA inserted 15 different times, the words “gym” or “gymnasium” and passed this as facts.

Thanks,
Art Dilonie

Parade

Dear Editor:

I vacationed in Pagosa for many years- fishing in the summer and skiing in the winter. Wonderful place. Wonderful Memories. And always the highlight — the Parade and Rodeo on the 4th of July. (Heralded by many as the best in the United States.) I cannot disagree.



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Letters

The SUN welcomes letters from readers.

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

All letters must:

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

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

Letters quoting other people must contain proper attribution.

There is no guarantee letters will be published.

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

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

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



Josephine Anne Lewis

Josephine was born July 1, 1939, in Nottingham, England. She died Feb. 12, 2025, in Pagosa Springs, Colo. Josephine was preceded in death by her husband, Kenneth K. Lewis Jr. She is survived by her daughter, Sara, and son-in-law Brian Collabolla, of Pagosa Springs, Colo., and her brother, Philip Deavin, in Nottingham, England. She had five stepdaughters, one stepson, and numerous nieces and nephews.



Prior to moving to America in 1981, Josephine was a professional jazz singer. Her devotion to care for others prompted Queen Elizabeth to certify that Josephine was a life governor for services rendered to the Imperial Cancer Research Fund in 1977. She lived in many cities in America and settled in Breckenridge, where she owned an antique store. She earned her certified appraiser with high honors certificate in 2009. She is remembered for her generosity as president of the Hospice Society and hosted its annual gala. She was proud of her American citizenship. Having completed her classes in 2001, she was elected to be

the voice for new Americans at her citizenship ceremony. Antiques and music were Josephine's passion. She loved to tell a story or two. She will be dearly missed by many in the Pagosa Springs community. Jo was known for rescuing dogs. In lieu of flowers, please donate to the Humane Society of Pagosa Springs, <https://pagosahumane.org/>. Details will follow for services to be held this spring. You may also reference Horan and McConaty's website, <https://horancares.com/>.

Michael John Lister

Michael John Lister, 66, passed away in his home in Santa Fe, N.M., on Feb. 15, 2025. He was born on April 5, 1958, in Durango, Colo., to Delfina and Joe Lister. In 1980, Michael married Marsha Cook, of Gunnison, Colo. Although they eventually divorced, Michael cherished the family they built together. He is survived by his six children and seven grandchildren: Tawnie (Diamond) Mobley, of Alamosa, and their children, Brynlee and Daxton; Tiffany Lister (Clayton Bussey), of Parker, and their



children, Kylan and Kensley; Nathan (Kelli) Lister, of Monte Vista, and their daughter, Azmarae; Tabitha (Brett) Rosenbaugh, of Bayfield, and their daughter, Layton; Nicholas Lister (Patricia Willer), of Grand Junction; and Nevin (Sonja) Lister, of Grand Junction, and their daughter, Isla. Michael is also survived by his five siblings: Larry (Cindy) Lister, Joe Lister Jr. and Pam Lister, all of Pagosa Springs; Peggy (Louie) Pisano, of Yuma, Ariz.; and Les (Michelle) Lister, of Fruita; as well as numerous nieces, nephews and extended family. He was preceded in death by his beloved mother, Delfina Lister; sister, Donna Lister; great-nephew, Hunter Brule; nephew, Ryan Lister; and father, Joe Lister. In 1976, Michael graduated from Pagosa Springs High School, then earned his BA in social studies (Spanish minor) from Western State College in 1980. He later earned an MA in education from Adams State College in 1990 and his principal's certification from the University of Northern Colorado in 1993. Michael's career spanned many roles, primarily as an educator and leader in his community. He began as a Forest Service ranger in Pagosa, then taught social studies and coached sports in Fleming and Monte Vista. His leadership journey continued as mayor of Monte Vista, followed by school principal roles at Bayfield, Mancos and Pecos. Michael later served as COO for the Espanola school district, then athletic director

for Sargent before retiring. Throughout his life, he also contributed as a high school basketball and football official. Michael had a deep appreciation for history, often immersing himself in books, museums and family genealogy. He enjoyed hiking in the San Juan Mountains and walking around his hometown of Pagosa and La Plaza in Santa Fe. Music brought him immense joy, and he often sought out live performances to experience. Known for his quick wit, warm smile and hearty laugh, Michael's infectious humor, unwavering humility and genuine kindness endeared him to all who knew him. Above all, Michael was devoted to his family. His greatest pride was being a father and grandfather. He lived each day with a servant's heart, always ready to lend a helping hand and offer his wisdom. Michael's passing leaves a void in the hearts of many, but his legacy of love, laughter and devotion to those around him will endure. He was a role model and will be deeply missed by his family, friends and all who knew him. A service to honor his life will be held in Pagosa Springs on Saturday, March 1, at 11 a.m. at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 445 Lewis St., followed by a burial at Hilltop Cemetery. Family and friends are invited to gather for a luncheon and celebration of life at 1 p.m. at the Pagosa Lakes Clubhouse, located at 230 Port Ave.

Letters



■ Continued from A3 If you live here you know that we have dodged several wildfire bullets in the past few summers: Plumtaw, Chris Mountain, Mill Creek, to name but a few. These fires have been contained in large part due to the mitigation work that has been ongoing for many years, both on public lands and private. Private landowners, myself included, have been helped immensely in our fire mitigation efforts by grants from Wildfire Adapted Partnership (WAP), and by EQIP grants from the Natural Resources Conservation Service. WAP helps landowners create defensible space around their homes. WAP provided almost \$1 Million dollars to local contractors in 2024. Nearly \$600,000 was reimbursed to property owners.

If you live here you know that we are looking at an extremely dry winter and anticipate a very high risk of wildfire this season. WAP relies on Congressionally approved funding that guaranteed \$1.2M to spend on helping residents in Archuleta County prepare for wildfire. But the White House has frozen this money. In spite of two federal court orders, those funds have not begun to flow again. Without them, WAP cannot continue these programs in 2025. Moreover, the US Forest Service is not hiring any new firefighters and there has been no clear decision on hiring seasonal firefighters. If you want to see WAP continue, and don't want to see our community and your own homes burn to the ground, contact our CD-3 Republican Congressman, Jeff Hurd and urge him to act to free up the federal grants on which we depend. He can be reached at: 202-225-4676 or hurd.house.gov. You can also let our county commissioners supervisors know that they need to lobby to restore these funds when they head to Washington DC with the National Association of Counties. Otherwise their trip is a waste of our taxpayer money.

David Laufer

Resist

Dear Editor: The front-page photo in Thursdays Pagosa Sun depicts a small group of street protesters on President's Day. A sign was held in the middle saying simply RESIST. Reminds one of the importance of - RESISTING - the urge to believe that ignorance is bliss. We live in the information age. The simple push of a button avails us of all sorts of

information and current events. Not to avail ourselves of this educational opportunity seems contrary to common sense. Yet, uninformed people are protesting the democratic means by which the elitist bureaucracy in Washington is required to curtail their out-of-control spending. As the Democrats loved telling us in 2020, "elections have consequences". Trump's down-sizing of government, to balance our budget, is completely transparent for all to see. Unlike the uncontrolled and unaccounted for free-for-all spending of the last administration which has put us at the very real peril of bankruptcy. For example: Taxpayer funded benefits for illegal foreign nationals in 2023 alone - \$451 billion and 8.5 million known illegals crossed our borders during the last administration, so one can only imagine where billions of YOUR tax dollars were recklessly spent. Thankfully the current administration has cut illegals crossing our border by 90%, including cutting down fentanyl and sex trafficking. Want some more? USAID- \$2.5 million for electric vehicles in Vietnam. \$1.5 million to advance DEI in Serbia. \$6 million to fund tourism in Europe. Ending Social Security payments to people over the age of 115+ because of missing death information, many that don't even live in our country. The Treasury Dept. losing \$4.7 trillion of your tax dollars. Eliminating DEI practices and ensuring merit-based hiring. Unleashing American energy while rescinding pro-China and anti-American energy regulations. Terminating the electric vehicle mandate-which no one wants. We like our gas- and diesel-powered vehicles. This is just a very small example of what the new administration is doing trying to save our country.

Our government bureaucracy is fraught with rampant fraud and waste, yet this seems to concern the protestors little as they demonize any attempt to manage or curtail it. DOGE, under one of the smartest and richest men on earth, is saving our money and most likely the solvency of our country.

You decide.

Jeanine Springer

Immigration

Dear Editor:

Let us follow up on the initial question of immigration that I posed two weeks ago. Let us suppose that the shining light of the United States of America is its insistence on equality for all people. Equal rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Uncounted individuals and families between 1787 and the present have entered the United States with their hopes fastened on this shining light. Perhaps they could not articulate this hope. Perhaps they only knew that circumstances at home were unlivable. Perhaps they had only heard that life could be better in the United States. But let us suppose that the proper anchor for any immigrant's desire is this highest governing principle: All people have inalienable rights to life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness. But in light of the limitation that we must necessarily draw around citizenship, which of these hopeful ones does the United States allow into its borders? In order to preserve the aforementioned rights, government must enforce rule of law. That is to say, actions taken by people that damage the inalienable rights of others must carry consequences levied by the state. We limit or eliminate the rights of those who take such actions, in defense of the rights of everyone else. Let us suppose also that life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness are most abundant when the limitation of these rights by government is most restricted. In other words, the fewer and more strictly bounded the occasions on which government can reduce our rights, the more the principle of life and liberty will operate. Thus government should restrict us only when it has been proven that we have acted to damage the life and liberty of others. I think this point can serve us well as we think about immigration policy. Whenever our laws limit the freedom of any person, their applicability should trace back to an action taken by that person that violated the life or liberty of another. Two points follow. First, particular immigration laws should focus on delivering justice to those who have damaged the life or liberty of others—which I hope is the guiding principle of the American justice system. Second, particular immigration laws should hold harmless those who have not committed specific acts violating life and liberty of others. If we look at immigration policy




Obituaries

Obituaries up to 500 words 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.



Thanks MET

My heartfelt thanks to Mountain Express Transit, Lavonne, Nancy and all the drivers, for locating my brother, who is legally blind and transporting him home. MET is more than a service; they truly care about their passengers, they are a blessing to the this community. I can't thank you enough. Beverly Chester



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Business

Chamber survey available to businesses

By Mary Jo Coulehan
Pagosa Springs Area Chamber of Commerce

There are a lot of activities that the Chamber is preparing for this coming year.

If you read the classified ads, you will see a notice for a new executive director at the Chamber. I have announced my retirement effective at the end of the year. This will give our organization enough time to find a candidate, train that candidate, and indoctrinate them into the existing activities and, hopefully, plan some new ones.

The community will also be facing the U.S. 160 reconstruction process. The Chamber will work in lockstep

with the Main Street Advisory Board and is committed to assisting our business community through the upcoming years.

We are also adding two new events this year: a half-day Business Form on April 29 and a new community event in August.

With these major initiatives in our sights, the Chamber is releasing a new survey to our business community.

This short survey will help direct some of the programs, offerings, educational training and services the Chamber offers.

We would also like to understand how our businesses engage with the Chamber. What should we do more of? What is not effective anymore?

What programs is the business community interested in?

Your insight will help the transition team and our membership coordinator plan for the future.

We understand that so many business owners are extremely busy working in their businesses, so find it difficult to work on their businesses. How can we help you? How can we communicate better with you? If you are not utilizing the programs we offer, why not? We understand a large component of joining the Chamber is the exposure your business receives through our website and other media sources. However, how can we be a clearer voice for the business community?

We ask that you take just a few

minutes to complete the survey. Please also offer suggestions on issues your business faces, topics of interest or engagement.

The survey will be available until March 14. You can easily access the survey through the links that you will be sent via email, or the survey can be accessed through the Chamber website.

Thank you for your time and insight. We want to always look to improve and work on issues important to our business community and communicate in ways that make it easiest for you.

Questions can be directed to Membership Coordinator Anna Deering at info@pagosachamber.com.

Community development board hears housing, workforce development updates

By Garrett Fevinger
Staff Writer

Local interest in a workforce housing project spearheaded by the Pagosa Springs Community Development Corporation (PSCDC) continues to grow, PSCDC Executive Director Emily Lashbrooke reported Feb. 12, with two homes sold and additional families working to purchase the majority of those still available.

"I want you to know we actively have seven families that are applying for these eight houses," Lashbrooke said during the PSCDC's monthly board meeting.

She added that four families were being subject to income verifications — one of the final steps buyers must complete when attempting to satisfy the program's requirements, which also include loan preapprovals, a homebuyer's class, as well as employment verifications.

Should those buyers all qualify, Lashbrooke indicated she would conduct another housing lottery to determine which homes are matched with each family.

"We're really close on four families

getting to a lottery situation, so we couldn't be more thrilled with that," she said.

In addition to those four, three new applicants recently began the multiphase process to qualify, Lashbrooke reported, and "look like very good, qualifying applicants."

She added that the remaining homes have all received certificates of occupancy.

During the meeting, Lashbrooke also described the latest challenge faced by the project.

Due to all 10 home builds being lumped into a single construction loan, Lashbrooke explained, the PSCDC was forced to pay the fees it hoped to recoup after the sale of the first two homes.

"We added a CDC fee, or a reimbursement of the money we have into the project, to the cost of every house," Lashbrooke told the board. "Well, the bank had us pay our own fee for the house, because we don't get paid until the project closes. So, we had to come up with a little under \$18,000 to close on our first two houses."

She noted the PSCDC can draw

from the bank to reimburse most of that sum, but would likely need to increase each home's purchase price by "a couple thousand dollars" to prevent the same situation from reoccurring.

"Looking at next year, I think what we're going to do is add our fee right when we go under contract — not have it in as a line item or put it in the loan request — just collect our fee at closing after every house to get our funding back," Lashbrooke said. "So, I think we have a plan moving forward for next year; we also have a plan for the next eight houses."

In a follow-up email with TheSUN, Lashbrooke also attributed "ongoing utilities" for the increases to the homes' prices.

Looking to the future, Lashbrooke noted an additional \$675,000 in Proposition 123 funds for the project's second phase was awarded to the PSCDC as of Feb. 11.

"This will give a \$67,500 per house discount, to bring it into an affordable range," Lashbrooke said. "So, we do have funding for phase two and were awarded all \$675,000. So, that was really exciting for us."

Despite the hurdles faced, Lashbrooke described the project's ultimate goal — to pave a way to home ownership for working individuals and families that might not otherwise be competitive in the local real estate market — as a worthy one, and one belonging to the entire community.

"I just wish I could have shared with you the amount of community support we had for this housing project all along the way," she told the board, and recalled ribbon-cutting ceremonies that took place at each of the homes recently sold.

"Remember the amount of hard work and collaboration of this entire community," Lashbrooke said, describing her message to the new homeowners.

She added, "Whether it be the land surveyor who donated his time, or the soil test guy who cut his bill in half or the Colorado title company who waived the original fees of the title search for this project, I mean,

everywhere we turned somebody gave something. So, it's simply amazing and magical, and I just wanted to share it with you."

Workforce trainings, U.S. 160 renderings

Other PSCDC updates offered at the Feb.12 meeting included:

- Broadband 101 trainings are currently underway in Pagosa Springs and Cortez.

The state broadband office is monitoring the pilot program, according to Lashbrooke, and will use the local results as a template for future broadband trainings around the state.

At the conclusion of the two-week trainings, local employers are scheduled to meet with graduates to explore potential hirings and paid, on-the-job learning opportunities funded by the state workforce office.

The Cortez broadband training is scheduled for March 3-14 at Pueblo Community College Southwest, with space for 25 students.

Pagosa Springs' training began Feb. 17 and, according to Lashbrooke, has drawn students from across the region.

- A 3-D rendering envisioning the future of downtown Pagosa Springs could be available as soon as May or June after the PSCDC, in collaboration with the Main Street Advisory Board and Colorado Department of Local Affairs, secured funds to realize the project.

With reconstruction work along U.S. 160 set to begin this spring, "This visual will showcase the future vision for downtown, helping businesses, residents, and visitors see the long-term benefits of a revitalized, pedestrian-friendly main street," Main Street Advisory Board Coordinator Kathleen McFadden wrote. "By shifting the focus from short-term disruptions to the project's positive impact, we aim to build excitement and support within the community."

The next update about the reconstruction project is scheduled for 6 p.m. on Feb. 27 at Motel SOCO.

garrett@pagosasun.com

County approves agreement for land to expand landfill

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

On Tuesday, Feb. 18, the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) unanimously approved a purchase and sale agreement for approximately six acres of land adjacent to the county landfill, located at 9179 County Road 500, for the purpose of constructing a new storage cell at the landfill.

County Attorney Todd Weaver explained during the meeting that the county was under the assumption it already owned the land, but during a survey of the property it was found that the parcel "was actually not deeded to the county back in the '70s and we need the land for the construction of cell 4B."

The county is paying \$24,000 for the 5.997 acre parcel of land, according to the purchase and sale agreement.

County Manager Jack Harper indicated that monies were allocated in the 2025 county budget for this purchase under the capital outlay fund.

Weaver noted that the land was appraised, an offer was accepted and everything is "ready to move forward."

Consulting service contracts

During the same meeting, the BoCC also unanimously approved two supplemental letter agreements with Short Elliot Hendrickson (SEH).

One of those agreements is for the amount of \$149,000 for SEH to provide the county civil services, facilitate bid documents, and record and provide any required documents to the state, according to the Feb. 18 BoCC meeting agenda.

"We are looking at consultants for the construction of Cell 4B," Public Works Director Mike Torres said earlier in the day during a BoCC work session.

The other agreement is for the amount of \$79,000 for SEH to continue monitoring landfill gases, groundwater sampling, quarterly reporting, air quality, airspace calculation and to provide the all necessary documentation to the state, according to the Feb. 18 BoCC agenda.

During the work session, Torres indicated that the agreement for

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Town council denies short-term rental transfer variance request

By Derek Kutzer
Staff Writer

On Feb. 18, the Pagosa Springs Town Council denied a variance request for a onetime exception to the town’s short-term rental (STR) regulations.

The request came from the McCelvey/Smith family and their representative, Megan Caler, of White Buffalo Property Management, for a vacation rental property at 584 Oren Road.

For several years, the property has operated under a STR permit in James Lynn McCelvey’s name, who has since deceased.

With ownership of the property changing hands to another family member, the family asked the council to make an exception to the rule that requires ownership of a property for at least two years before an STR permit can be obtained.

The request states, “the McCelvey family has always maintained their permit with the town since being granted one. We are not asking to bring a new rental to the heavily saturated STR market, we are asking to maintain our current one that is a well-established business.”

However, the town’s code on STRs states, “A vacation rental license is non-transferable” and “issuance of a vacation rental license shall not create a continued right to operate a vacation rental beyond the term of the license.”

Caler explained that the new owner (new ownership has yet to be finalized) hoped to avoid the two-year waiting period to reapply for an STR permit, asking to be “grandfathered in” to continue in operation as an STR under a new permit.

The request explains that the property had previously been grandfathered in since McCelvey obtained his permit in 2019, before the town adopted its current STR regulations.

The request recognizes “that a new

permit would need to be obtained, as vacation rental permits are non-transferable,” per Section 6.7.3 of the code, but the family had hoped an exception on the two-year waiting period could be made for the new owner.

“I know you can’t transfer a permit. I know you have to wait two years ..., but I was not aware that within a family you can’t pass things through like this. So, we are coming to you asking for some sort of exception, to be grandfathered in,” Caler said.

She explained that the vacation rental has nearly six years of “good reviews” online and that having to wait two years for a new permit would be a “big loss of business.”

Mayor Shari Pierce asked Town Clerk April Hessman for clarification on transferring STR permits, to which Hessman explained that even in a trust-type situation, “when you start adding people to that trust, you’ve now changed who the owner is and that’s where that two-year required — you have to own it two years before you can apply for a permit.”

Hessman further explained, “The rules talk about if the property owner sells, assigns, transfers or otherwise conveys the property” that the two-year waiting period would kick in at that point.

Council member Gary Williams reminded his colleagues that “the reason we did this rule is because affordable housing is such a problem and we wanted to limit the number of houses shifting from rentals to short-term rentals so there would be more housing available for the workforce.”

“And we currently have more [STR] licenses than our cap allows ... and because one of our stated goals is workforce housing, this rule is actually working,” Williams said.

Caler explained that she did not think that “this home” would be ideal for the long-term rental market, citing the large size of the home.

Council member Madeline Ber-

gon suggested that she was willing to consider making an exception for the family, adding that this was “a situation that we might not have really thought of when we were coming up with these [regulations].”

She said that if the council decided to grant the variance it would be “a one-off, and it’s not an everyday occurrence.”

Pierce said that her concern “would be that if we allow this, then ... what are other people going to come back and ask for next? If you do a variance for them, then why won’t you do a variance for me?”

Caler said, “I get what you are saying,” but also added that since McCelvey’s permit was one of the first granted in the community, perhaps a onetime exception could be justified.

She also explained that the family is worried that if they have to wait two years for a new permit, in the meantime, the neighborhood could reach the 10 percent cap limit for STRs and, in that case, the home would be pushed out of consideration for a new permit.

With that said, “I would graciously leave here with a ‘no,’ with consideration to what you are saying. I would understand it,” she said.

Council member Brooks Lindner chimed in, saying that he thought that the family brought “a strong case” for the variance and there were “a lot of reasons a variance would be justified in this case.”

Williams expressed that he thought it would be dangerous to “establish an STR license as a property right” that can be transferred down the line.

He added that the council was “specific about that” when it drafted the STR rules.

Bergon replied, “I think you’re right that it could open up a whole can of worms, because we don’t want this to become a back way in” for people seeking STR permits.

Pierce stated that Williams

“brought up some good points,” adding that the council “specifically did talk about STRs not being a property right” when it drafted the regulations around STRs.

She said that “everyone else is following that two-year rule, and you’re asking us to bypass that two-year rule for you.”

Council member Matt DeGuise suggested that it “might not be the best course of action” to risk losing an existing STR, which he described as “an established business,” adding that not granting the variance would only favor a new STR coming in.

Hessman explained that the council could consider amending the town’s STR rules in the future “to allow transfers,” saying that town staff could “bring this back for your consideration so it’s not just a one-off, so we’d have rules” in place for this type of situation.

Council member Mat deGraaf stated that he “would not” want to revisit the STR regulations since the council already spent so much time on drafting the current code.

However, he added that a decision on this matter was “very hard, and my heart goes out to you [the family], but I personally think we need to stand by our code, stand by our rules, and that keeps it better for everybody in the long run.”

Lindner noted that he worried that town government would be perceived as too “rigid, when very logical things come before us, that make sense to do, that’s when people get pissed and say, ‘Screw the town, I don’t like the town,’ and they start to have that attitude.”

When DeGuise made a motion to approve a onetime variance for the property, it was seconded by Lindner, but a roll-call vote showed the majority of the council was not in favor of granting the variance, with Williams, deGraaf, Martinez and Pierce voting against it.

derek@pagosasun.com



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County looks to standardize inclement weather policy

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

On Friday, Feb. 14. Archuleta County offices were closed due to a winter storm hitting the area that caused widespread power outages. Many businesses were also closed for the day, as was Archuleta School District (ASD).

The Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) discussed the incident and its plans to standardize an inclement weather policy so that all county offices are under the same direction for the possibility of severe weather events.

County Manager Jack Harper initiated the conversation, noting that “what we have in writing is not necessarily what’s been in practice.”

He explained that previous practices included having county employees call a hotline number with a voicemail from the county manager providing direction, a group text message with all county directors and of-

ficials to relay messages and even the use of Nixle (a community emergency notification system).

“I do want to be careful, though, with using Nixle ... that’s really for emergencies,” Harper said.

He also noted that the county’s attempts to “sync up” with ASD for two-hour delays “with the county not canceling if the school district cancels.”

According to La Plata Electric Association, power was restored for 100 percent of members in Archuleta County after 5 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 14, with initial outages being reported at approximately 6:30 a.m. the same day.

Harper also explained that he is in a group text message with Public Works Director Mike Torres and ASD Superintendent Rick Holt, and that during the school year, “they try to have a decision roughly around 4 a.m.” noting that crews were out plowing roads by 3:30 a.m. on Feb. 14.

Commissioner Warren Brown

interjected saying, “we need a plan and we need to follow it,” adding that the plan the county has been following is “disjointed at best.”

Brown noted that the blame does not fall on one specific individual, instead describing the situation as a “collective breakdown in communication.”

Brown also indicated that he’s “not a fan” of closing public offices at the taxpayer’s expense.

“I’m not sure that we should be funding ... delays,” he said, acknowledging that unique circumstances do come up, but, “a foot of snow does not constitute in my mind a closure.”

Brown also acknowledged there are safety concerns with inclement weather events, noting that accidents can happen on “any road surface.”

Brown added that he wants to see continuity with communication to employees about delays or closure so that a situation where only some employees are notified does not occur.

Commissioner Veronica Medina

BoCC approves contract for road resurfacing project

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

During a regular meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 4, the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) unanimously approved a contract with Dustrol Inc. for a road resurfacing project.

According to the meeting’s agenda, the contract amount “shall not exceed \$811,830.92.”

The agenda also notes that the contract is for hot mill-in-place services on six different county roads, totaling 122,492 square yards of roadway. The roads that will receive this treatment include: Meadows Drive, North Pagosa Boulevard, Saturn Drive, Lake Forest Circle, Pinon

Causeway and Vista Boulevard.

Road and Bridge Manager Eric McRae explained earlier that day during a work session that the work will cover approximately 9 miles of roadway, explaining that the “second half” of Lake Forest Circle, from the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District building to the connection at North Pagosa Boulevard would be treated. He also noted that about 1.5 miles of North Pagosa Boulevard that was “skipped” last year will also be treated.

McRae added that Pinon Causeway is a “least priority,” but it will help meet the 8-mile minimum required by the contractor.

“It’s in need, so we’re gonna get that on the list, as well,” he said.

He also noted that a mile of Vista Boulevard will be treated with the hot mill-in-place service, contributing to a separate road resurfacing project scheduled for Vista Boulevard.

McRae mentioned the county worked with Dustrol last year to have the same services performed and was pleased with the results.

“It definitely helps us keep within our budget and still produce some new surfaces,” he said.

After the roads are treated with the hot mill-in-place service, they will be resurfaced with a chip seal overlay afterward with a different contractor, McRae explained.

McRae also mentioned that “patching” will need to be done on

■ See Resurfacing A7



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County establishes Board of Reviews and Appeals

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

On Tuesday, Feb. 18, the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) unanimously approved Resolution 2025-19, establishing the Board of Reviews and Appeals (BoRA).

Earlier that day at a work session, Development Director Pamela Flowers introduced the topic, explaining the county's current building codes and state statute calls for a board of appeals to be established, while giving discretion to establish a board of reviews.

Flowers explained that “as it stands right now,” the county does not have an administrative review process in place for its building code process.

She noted that residents can apply for a variance or seek an appeal made by Flowers herself regarding interpretations of the land use regulations, “but there’s no mechanism, really.”

Flowers noted that both a board of reviews and a board of appeals have similar responsibilities and are both filled primarily by citizens, not staff, suggesting the board could be made of three to five members.

She explained that the county's building code calls for members to have experience in construction, and also calls for the Pagosa Fire Protection District (PFPD) to appoint a member, “more to hear appeals of decisions.”

Flowers went on to explain that the resolution will establish the BoRA and give it authority to hear and decide on appeals, consider and grant modifications to adopted and amended codes, and formulate suggested amendments to codes.

The resolution would also ask for the PFPD to appoint one full-time member.

“I haven’t had a lot of requests for appeals on that side,” Flowers said, noting people may not be aware of that opportunity.

Commissioner Warren Brown expressed concern about having a PFPD member appointed to the board.

Flowers explained a PFPD member is recommended because the fire district “review[s] every commercial project,” noting there may be “frequent” appeals on the fire code pertaining to things like sprinkler and

fire flow requirements.

Commissioner John Ranson also expressed concern over establishing the board, stating that it seems like “we’re duplicating” what the planning commission and BoCC can do.

Flowers clarified that the planning commission deals with the land use regulations only, which address zoning requirements.

“Anything that comes out of the building codes is a different line of authority,” she said, explaining the board of reviews is “focused on building codes,” not land use regulations.

Flowers also explained that the planning commission does not hear variance requests, noting the BoRA would recommend final approval on matters deviating from the building code.

She noted that this board would provide an appropriate administrative review process “so that we can avoid going to court every time somebody’s unhappy.”

During the meeting, Flowers addressed questions the BoCC brought up during the work session, beginning by explaining that neither the statute nor original building code calls for a PFPD member to be appointed, stating that “it is actually our amended building code that has established a board of appeals and has established that one of those members would be the fire district.”

Flowers explained that, in addition, the intergovernmental agreement (IGA) with the PFPD “does say that the county commissioners would appoint a fire code official and then the fire district would appoint the deputy fire code official,” noting their job is to interpret fire code.

“So, this board would then be hearing appeals of any decisions relating to fire code,” she said.

Flowers noted that the amended 2019 county building codes indicate that decisions in regard to the fire board would be resolved by the BoRA.

She mentioned that is part of the reason in attempting to establish the board, “cause we said we’re gonna have one and we don’t.”

Brown mentioned that he would prefer to have five members on the board.

Ranson expressed that he was still unsure if “we need another group out there.”

Flowers mentioned there have

been a few appeals in over the last few years pertaining to land use regulations, “but we don’t have a mechanism on the building code side,” explaining that she does not have the ability to override the decision of a building code official.

She noted that establishing the BoRA and having it manned by people in the community with experience in construction provides an opportunity to have an impact on adopted and amended codes, which “seems like a good way to handle it.”

Medina referred to County Attorney Todd Weaver on if the IGA between the county and PFPD sets a precedent for a PFPD member to be on the BoRA.

Weaver explained that is set forth in the building code, which was adopted via ordinance by the county and that the board of appeals is a “creature of the building code,” that the county should have had “for quite some time.”

Weaver also noted that the language in the building code states the county “may establish” a board of reviews, making that aspect discretionary.

Weaver indicated the board of appeals should move forward as the county is required to have one according to its building code and could “kill two birds with one stone” by including the board of reviews in that.

Flowers clarified that the adopted 2015 building code states the county shall establish a board of appeals, and that the fire code mirrors that language.

She noted that the 2019 amended building code features “some unique things,” such as wind and snow load requirements, and also outlines members for a board of reviews.

“I don’t want myself ... to be an independent party to make decisions and recommendations about building codes. I would like a body of people that are in the industry in our community to come forward,” Flowers said. “I think it’s the best way to do it.”

Flowers added that several people in the community “have expressed a willingness to participate in this board.”

Brown inquired as to if the BOCC could reconsider the 2019 amended building code.

Flowers explained that under current state statute, if the county were to

amend anything in its building code, “we have to jump to 2021 energy, which is a pretty big jump.”

Flowers predicted that the county will be “forced to go there soon,” and that the state is close to publishing its own energy code that will have requirements the county will likely have to adopt.

She noted that is part of the reason for establishing the BoRA as well, to “do it in the least painful way we can.”

Brown asked if his fellow BoCC member would be inclined to table the matter to provide staff more time to gather additional information in regard to the county's requirements in establishing the board and who would be appointed.

Medina indicated that she would be fine “either way,” noting she had similar concerns.

She acknowledged Weaver’s “professional comment” that indicated the county is required to have the board of appeals, expressing she would be concerned if the BoCC continued to table the matter.

“And we have been negligent, basically, since 2019 and have not established this body,” Medina said.

Medina also commented her “one hesitation” is having a PFPD member appointed, adding that she is appreciative of the county's consideration to include other entities in the community.

“It just feels like sometimes we don’t get the same fair shake,” she said.

Flowers commented that the reason for having a PFPD member is because “they’re so integral,” especially in reviewing commercial construction projects.

“I just think it’s really important to provide everyone an opportunity to appeal a decision of an administrative staff member,” Flowers said, noting that, right now, “we just don’t.”

Brown then motioned to approve the resolution, which passed unanimously.

Flowers explained that member applications would be reviewed and brought to the BoCC for appointment, and that the BoRA's meeting schedule is to be determined.

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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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Ethics case against Medina moving forward

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

On Tuesday, Feb. 18, the Colorado Independent Ethics Commission (IEC) instructed staff to commence investigation into the complaint against Archuleta County Commissioner Veronica Medina that was filed by Ashley Springer.

IEC vice chair Dan Wolf also noted during the meeting that the motion to dismiss in the case has been fully briefed and is pending.

The announcements came after an 11-minute closed session on the case.

The case was filed in June 2024 by Springer in her capacity as a private citizen (Springer also works for Archuleta County), with the IEC deeming the complaint nonfrivolous in November 2024.

The complaint alleges, among other things, conflict of interest in Medina not recusing herself during county property purchase and land use regulation votes, as well as alleging Medina pushed commissioners to make a “swift” decision regarding purchase of a property presented by Exit Realty Broker Shelley Low, with Medina not disclosing to the state potential conflict of interest and failure to recuse when voting on property selection for the county's administration building property listed under Exit Realty's Low, “where Medina's license hangs.”

Medina is a licensed real estate agent.

Springer writes in her complaint that she has witnessed “many other violations” by Medina, along with Commissioner Ronnie Maetz, “regularly breaking Colorado Open Meeting Law.”

Resurfacing

■ Continued from A6

some stretches of roadway “to prepare for hot mill in place.”

Commissioner Warren Brown mentioned he'd heard concerns from residents about trees in the area being damaged due to the hot mill-in-place service, asking if the contractor has any plans to mitigate that and noting there were concerns from residents about wildlife being harmed as well.

McRae explained that mitigation

steps such as tree trimming will be performed this year, noting some trees were damaged due to the heat produced by the equipment needed to perform the hot mill-in-place treatment.

“Luckily we didn’t lose any trees,” he said, adding that some large ponderosas on North Pagosa Boulevard were damaged, but not killed.

He mentioned that crews also have water tanks and fire suppression

equipment on hand while performing the work, adding that crews are “blasting quite a bit of propane heat on the road to heat up that surface to remix the asphalt.”

During the meeting, Commissioner Veronica Medina noted that the amount for the contract was included in the county's 2025 budget.

According to the contract, all work should be completed by Aug. 20.

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Project

■ Continued from front

Working hours are identified as Monday through Friday, including day and night shifts.

“Parking will not be permitted in the downtown work zone along U.S. 160,” the press release states.

The project will replace the current asphalt roadway with a new concrete road surface through the Pagosa Springs downtown business district, with anticipated completion in the fall of 2026.

The project scope and benefits, according to CDOT, include:

- Enhanced concrete road surface between North 8th Street and North 1st Street. Replacing asphalt with concrete will increase the lifespan and longevity of the roadway, re-

quiring less frequent maintenance. Concrete is less susceptible to wear and tear under heavy traffic volumes. Concrete is less prone to weather damage.

- Pedestrian crosswalks with flashing signs installed near 3rd Street, 2nd Street and 6th Street.
- Improvements to sidewalk ramps compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- A partnership among CDOT, the Town of Pagosa Springs and local utility companies to upgrade and update utilities underneath the roadway.
- Increase motorist safety with textured, skid-resistance surface not prone to black ice and brighter at night.

Project public information man-

agers Meredith Greene and Tracy Trulove gave a brief introduction on the project and provided details on upcoming information sessions during a joint work session held by the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) and Pagosa Springs Town Council on Tuesday, Feb. 25.

Greene explained that CDOT will be hosting an open house from 6 to 8 p.m. on Monday, March 3, at the CSU Extension building located at the Archuleta County Fairgrounds at 344 U.S. 84.

She noted the open house will have posters and maps for the public to see planned working phases.

She also noted that the public will have the opportunity to meet and ask

questions of the project team.

Greene mentioned the open house will provide more information on what the first two weeks of work will look like and what residents can expect.

Greene and Trulove added they’ve been dealing with the challenge of residents creating their own narrative about what’s happening, and encouraging folks to visit the official website and sign up for informational updates.

She noted there’s a “great deal of misinformation floating around” that she hopes to extinguish through informational meetings.

Greene acknowledged that the reconstruction project will have a lot of pains before any gain, but that it will ultimately “leave the community

■ See CDOT A14

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Hydrants

■ Continued from front

expressed concern over the matter, stating, “It’s ridiculous that we’re even having to have this conversation.”

He added, “Because I don’t think we can afford not to have this conversation, because frankly I don’t give a damn whose responsibility it is. It won’t make a bit of a difference when we have burned to the ground.”

Ramsey met with the BoCC during a work session on Tuesday, Feb. 25, with PFPD Chief Robert Bertram also joining.

After providing a brief background of PAWSD’s service area and its water diversions, the discussion moved on to the topic of fire hydrants in the community and when, or if, they have been serviced.

Ramsey noted there are approximately 1,240 fire hydrants within PAWSD boundaries.

“I guess there was an agreement with the fire [district] to ... test the fire hydrants,” Ramsey said, explaining that was before he began working with PAWSD, noting that for a “variety of reasons” that agreement went away.

“We do not test the hydrants regularly,” Ramsey said.

He explained that PAWSD currently only exercises a fire hydrant when a new development goes in.

“But, that’s really about it, so there’s probably a lot of hydrants that haven’t been exercised in a decade or more, which could be problematic,” he added.

Ramsey noted later in the meeting that PAWSD currently tests anywhere between six and 12 hydrants a year, and that they’ve yet to encounter a hydrant that did not work.

Ramsey explained the reason for

not being able to test every hydrant is because “it’s a manpower issue,” explaining it takes two people and can be time-consuming.

“That’s really the issue,” he added.

Ramsey mentioned he has been approached by a few homeowners associations about having volunteers trained to go out and test the hydrants themselves.

“Which we’re open to,” he said.

Commissioner Veronica Medina commented that crews could be assembled, potentially using seasonal staff from the districts, to help with accomplishing this task of servicing every fire hydrant.

Medina also questioned who is responsible for maintaining all the documents associated with the status of fire hydrants, with Ramsey explaining PAWSD currently maintains those documents.

“We definitely keep track of all that,” Ramsey added.

Medina then asked if PAWSD has a plan to start exercising fire hydrants.

“At this time it does not,” Ramsey replied, with Medina asking if PAWSD will develop a plan.

Ramsey explained that PAWSD is willing to work with other entities to accomplish this, but there is currently “no plan to make a plan.”

Medina then commented that unless the community comes forward, “PAWSD simply isn’t going to do anything?”

Ramsey explained that PAWSD does not guarantee fire flows, as its system was not designed to ensure those.

Brown commented that some hydrants may just be “a false sense of security,” with community members

potentially unaware of their nearest hydrant being functional or not in the event of a fire.

Ramsey explained that each functional hydrant should have a flag attached indicating the level of water flow present.

Bertram confirmed that “something happened,” leading to the PFPD not being allowed to service the hydrants.

He noted it’s important for the PFPD to know which hydrants work and what kind of flow rate it will produce.

Medina mentioned that a more “sophisticated” plan to address the fire hydrants may be required so that the PFPD knows what kind of flow rate is present at each location, rather than just seeing if the hydrant works or not.

Brown commented that there needs to be some “urgency” addressing the situation, recommending the county have some sort of representation with a group dedicated to developing a plan to exercise the hydrants.

“I just think that we really need to tabletop this and get something in place for this fire season,” he said.

County Manager Jack Harper indicated that he would coordinate with PAWSD, the PFPD and other entities to “start talking.”

Ranson agreed with Brown’s statements, adding, “I think we got to get on this ASAP. It makes no sense to me to hear we don’t have the manpower ... it’s crazy to me.”

Ranson also mentioned that it seems to be a “huge liability” if something were to happen.

“We’re talking lives here,” he said.

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Plan

■ Continued from front

the ability to mitigate some health factors associated with a renovation dealing with things like asbestos “can’t be known completely upfront.”

Other comments supporting a renovation referred to the sentimental value of historic buildings in the district, particularly at the middle school, while others also added the geothermal access at the middle school could be used for utility purposes.

Cons for a renovation expressed by multiple committee members surrounded the security and safety issues with a school located directly next to a major highway, with one member noting it is a “huge risk for young kids to be along a major highway.”

Others noted the lack of field access at the middle school, with kids having to cross U.S. 160 to use the town’s park for their field, as a major con.

Committee members also mentioned that a renovation may be “more achievable” financially and that there is room for expansion at the high school.

Worries expressed about a renovation project at the middle school included concerns about what would happen if the “bones are no good” and the district then being forced to come up with another plan.

Another major con of a renovation mentioned multiple times was the disruption of students and having classes displaced or relocated for potentially multiple school years.

One consideration of having a new facility constructed discussed by committee members focused on the value of intentional design, whether that be to ease traffic and congestion with safe pickup and drop-off areas, or having classrooms that meet current educational standards.

Others also commented in favor of a campus-style facility with middle school and elementary school facilities being constructed near the current high school.

Energy efficiency was also considered to be a pro for new construction, with the ability to install zero-energy efficient appliances, cutting utility costs for the district.

“I personally like the idea of schools together,” one committee

member commented.

The economic impact a new facility could have on the community was also discussed, with committee members noting that by having more desirable teaching spaces, it may help the district recruit and maintain quality educators.

One committee member also mentioned that new, quality facilities may also encourage “pride in schools,” while another member added that new construction gives the district the ability to become more compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Brian Calhoun with RTA explained that the MPAC work will be finished this spring and a master plan report will be given to the ASD board which will include recommendations derived from community engagement.

He explained the “next steps” include looking at funding options and implementation of the project.

Calhoun explained whether the district chooses to pursue a new build or a renovation, it will likely be about four years from now before a new or renovated facility would open.

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Fees

■ Continued from front

Manager Aaron Burns explained the increases to the board, adding that the changes were included in the PAWSD budget.

As discussed at previous board meetings during the 2025 budgeting process, the increases in rate for wastewater were lower than those mandated by the district’s rate study (a 10 percent increase instead of a 30 percent increase) due to district savings and changes in the allocation of future infrastructure costs.

Burns explained that various miscellaneous fees for the district are

adjusted each year after consulting with PAWSD vendors and assessing PAWSD labor costs.

He highlighted that the wastewater connection fee for a three-quarter-inch meter would increase from \$2,150 to \$2,200.

He also noted that the cancellation or no-show fee for a water or wastewater connection would increase from \$100 to \$250 in an effort to decrease the number of no-show clients, which became a problem in 2024.

PAWSD board member Bill Hudson questioned if the district could refuse to connect clients who do not

appear for their connection appointment, commenting that this would make them “think twice.”

Although not noted by Burns, the fee changes also include an increase of water equity buy-in fees from \$4,323 to \$4,706 and a decrease in wastewater equity buy-in fees from \$3,425 to \$3,372.

Burns then asked the board for questions, with no board members offering questions about the fee changes.

The board then unanimously moved to approve the changes to the district’s fees.

parties can obtain information from the other concerning the case, can begin.

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Delani Smith

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PAWSD

■ Continued from front

along with any other relief the court deems proper.

According to board discussion at

the Feb. 17 SJWCD meeting, this filing is the last filing necessary before the lawsuit can move forward and the discovery process, where both



Sports

BASKETBALL

Pirates looking to end regular season on high note

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Pirate basketball team will be looking to close out the regular season on a high note Saturday, when the team welcomes the 3A Bayfield Wolverines to town.

That high note could also include the return of Colt Lewis to the lineup following injury, which coach Wes Lewis indicated could change a lot and help solve some of the team's problems.

"It's a grind," he said, adding, "I think the thing with this team is I think one night we show up and we ... have the right attitude and work ethic and desire and we look really good."

Then, days later, he continued, it looks like a different team.

He added the team works to focus on the good and talk about the bad to learn from it.

"It's just kind of one of those years," he said. "We really hope that the ... good version of ourselves shows up."

Tipoff is scheduled for 7 p.m. Saturday at Pagosa Springs High School.

The Pirates fell prey to the Wolverines in the teams' last matchup, with Bayfield winning 49-44 on Jan. 31.

The Wolverines are 13-8 overall and 6-4 in league play. They're the No. 23 team in the Colorado 3A boys' basketball standings.

The Pirates are heading into the final regular-season game as the No. 30 team in the 4A standings.

The 32-team playoff brackets will be seeded Sunday, with regional action taking place March 7 and 8.

The Pirates picked up a win and

two losses over the last week, leaving them with a 7-15 overall record and 4-7 league mark.

Action over the last week started with a narrow 51-48 win over the 2A Sanford Mustangs.

"That was a good win for us, one of our better wins of the year," Wes Lewis said.

The Pirates found themselves down 21-15 at the end of the first quarter, but outscored the Mustangs 14-8 in the second to lead 29-28 at halftime.

The Pirates again outscored the Mustangs in the third to lead 40-38 heading into the game's final quarter, where they secured the 51-48 win.

"I thought we were really good defensively and our zone frustrated them," the coach said, adding, "I think it was a good team win and it was ... a fun game to be a part of. The kids played well."

The Mustangs are now 16-5 on the season and sit as the No. 8 team in the 2A standings.

The following day, the Pirates traveled to La Jara to take on the league-leading Centauri Falcons.

The Pirates ultimately fell 56-20 in the affair after being outscored in each quarter: 20-10, 15-2, 12-8 and 9-0, respectively.

"They're a very good team and they're very well coached," Wes Lewis said of the Falcons, adding, "We struggled to find ways to get the ball in the hole."

He added the Pirates had "way too many" turnovers.

"That's kind of been what's plagued us in our losses is our turnover count gets catastrophic," he said.

The coach also highlighted the



SUN photo/Randi Pierce

Pagosa's Creede Dozier puts up a layup against the Sanford Mustangs on Friday, Feb. 21. The Pirates picked up a 51-48 win against the Mustangs, who are 16-5 on the season.

Falcons' play this season.

"Centauri, they're the cream of the crop this year as far as the Intermoun-

tain League," he said.

The Falcons are now 22-0 overall and 11-0 in league play and sit as the No. 4 team in 3A basketball.

On Tuesday, the Pirates traveled to Alamosa to make up the game originally scheduled for Feb. 14 that was postponed due to inclement weather, with the team returning home on the losing end of the 47-44 score.

Pagosa led 12-8 at the end of the first and 21-13 at halftime, but were outscored by the Mean Moose 17-8 in the third and 17-15 in the fourth to turn the tables and leave the Pirates' with a three-point loss.

"No. 1, we just didn't play very good," Wes Lewis said. "That's the truth of the matter."

The coach explained the Pirates didn't capitalize on many opportunities, missed a lot of easy shots and had about 22 turnovers.

"[We] just didn't finish around the cup, didn't take care of the basketball. We got in some foul trouble that didn't help us," he said, calling the officiating "frustrating." "But, at the end of the day, no matter what the officiating was, we still had our op-

■ See Basketball A10

WRESTLING



SUN photo/Clayton Chaney

Three Lady Pirates earned all-conference awards for the Intermountain League this season. Pictured, left to right, are Madisen Stretton, Kylie Matyniak and Laykyn Baxstrom. Baxstrom also received an all-state honorable mention after placing fourth.



SUN photo/Clayton Chaney

Pirate wrestler Colton Lucero was named to the all-state second team after placing second at state, while also receiving Intermountain League all-conference recognition.



Photo courtesy Allison Wylie

Pirate wrestler Anthony Manzanares garnered Intermountain League all-conference honors recently. Manzanares placed sixth in the state.



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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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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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BASKETBALL

‘Focused and ready’: Lady Pirates focused on postseason

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Lady Pirates will head into the final game of the regular season Friday as the No. 5 team in Colorado 4A girls’ basketball and the No. 2 team in the Intermountain League (IML).

The 32-team playoff brackets will be seeded Sunday, with regional action taking place March 7 and 8.

The Lady Pirates dropped to No. 5 in the standings after a series of losses to other top teams.

“We had three very tough games in a really small window,” coach Sarah Osborn wrote in an email to The SUN, pointing out the Lady Pirates played three teams who are all in the top five in their respective divisions.

On Friday, Feb. 21, the Lady Pirates welcomed the 2A Sanford Mustangs for a matchup that stretched through three overtime periods.

The Mustangs led 16-15 at the end of the first period after hitting a shot at the buzzer.

The Lady Pirates outscored Sanford 8-7 in the second quarter, which included a Lady Pirate buzzer shot to leave the teams tied at 23 at halftime.

The Lady Pirates bested their visitors 12-9 in the third to hold a 35-32 lead going into the fourth.

The back-and-forth play continued in the fourth, with Sanford scoring 15 to Pagosa’s 12, sending the game into overtime with a score of 47-47.

The close play continued through three overtime periods, with the teams each scoring four points in the first overtime period and three in the second.

The Mustangs edged out the Lady Pirates in the third overtime period to win 58-56.

Elizabeth Currier notched 33 points in the extended matchup, which included seven 3-pointers and eight free throws.

Karsyn Shahan tallied 12 points. Adelyn Hittle notched four points, and Kaila Limebrook and Amber Snarr each scored two.

As a team, the Lady Pirates made 17 of 26 free-throw attempts.

Shahan led her team in rebounds in the game with 13, 12 of which were defensive. Currier logged seven rebounds, Kylie Ketchum pulled down five, Hittle had four and Limebrook had two.

The Lady Pirates picked up 14 steals and turned the ball over 21 times.

Sanford is now 19-2 and the No. 2 team in the 2A standings.

The following day, the Lady Pirates traveled to La Jara to take on the Centauri Falcons.

Unfortunately for the Lady Pirates, they were outscored by their hosts in every quarter — 13-10, 9-6, 11-8 and 14-12 — to leave the Lady Pirate with a 47-36 loss.

Ketchum led the Lady Pirates in scoring in the matchup with 12 points. Shahan notched nine points,

which included a pair of 3-pointers. Currier and Limebrook tallied five points each, which included a 3-pointer by Currier. Hittle scored three and Lexi Campbell put up two.

The team landed seven of 10 attempts from the free-throw line.

Hittle led in rebounding on the day with six, followed by Shahan’s five. Limebrook pulled down four, Ketchum tallied three, Campbell contributed two and Currier had one.

The Lady Pirates stole the ball 14 times and turned the ball over 31 times.

The Falcons are now 19-3 on the season and the No. 3 team in the 3A standings, as well as sitting atop the IML with a 10-1 league record.

On Tuesday, the team traveled to Alamosa to make up the Feb. 14 game that was postponed due to inclement weather.

The Mean Moose jumped out to a 9-5 lead by the end of the first quarter and held an 18-15 lead at halftime.

The Mean Moose outscored Pagosa 10-9 in the third to hold a 28-24 lead heading into the game’s final quarter, where they bested the Lady Pirates 10-6 to log a 38-30 win.

Six Lady Pirates contributed points on the night. Currier garnered 14 points in the game, which included a trio of 3-pointers. Snarr picked up five points, including a 3-pointer.

Campbell and Shahan each added four points, with Shahan landing one 3-pointer. Ketchum put up two points, and Limebrook added one.

The team made five of eight free-throw attempts.

Currier and Ketchum each pulled down five rebounds, with Shahan having four. Campbell and Limebrook tallied three each, and Charity Domingo had two rebounds.

The team logged nine steals and turned the ball over 12 times.

“We played hard and we were in each game until the final minute,” Osborn wrote. “It’s tough to come out of a weekend of games with three losses this late in the season, but we will learn from these losses and it will only better prepare us for playoffs. Our team is focused and ready to take on post season, it has set a new fire underneath us and we will be ready to go next week.”

The Lady Pirates will close out the regular season at home against the Bayfield Wolverines on Saturday, March 1.

The Wolverines are 6-15 on the season and 0-10 in IML action, with the Lady Pirates previously defeating the Wolverines 51-20 on Jan. 31.

The Lady Pirates are now 15-7 on the season and 9-2 in IML play.

Tipoff is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. randi@pagosasun.com

SWIMMING



Lady Pirate swim coach Heather Miller was named the Western Slope Conference’s Coach of the Year for the winter season.



Lady Pirate Elizabeth Currier looks to land a 3-pointer during the team’s triple-overtime loss over the Sanford Mustangs on Friday, Feb. 21. Currier contributed 33 points, including seven 3-pointers in the extended match.



Basketball

Continued from A9

portunities. I mean, we lose a close one and we miss, you know, probably 20 bunnies — that’s 40 points — you have 22 turnovers ... I’ll take credit for it. The buck stops with me. I obviously didn’t have the guys ready to play. We didn’t play well, and I guess that falls back on me.”

Additional stats from the games were not available by press time Wednesday.

randi@pagosasun.com

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Education

Rotary Youth Leadership Awards program registration now open

By Cindi Galabota
Rotary Club of Pagosa Springs

Attention students: Are you ready to become a dynamic leader and make a difference in the world? The Rotary Club of Pagosa Springs is excited to announce that registration for the upcoming Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) program is now open.

Applications will be accepted until March 21 at 6 p.m. Interviews will be the week of April 7.

This year's RYLA in the Rockies program centers around the inspiring theme "Talk - Trust - Transform." This theme reflects the program's mission to foster open communication, build trust and encourage transformative leadership skills in students.

RYLA is an intensive leadership program designed to help students develop essential leadership skills while having fun and building lasting connections. This workshop, organized and sponsored by Rotary District 5470, is specifically tailored for future leaders in Pagosa Springs who are currently in grades 10 and 11. Selected participants will attend an all-expense-paid, hands-on experiential program that offers a unique opportunity to grow as a leader.

Participants in the program will connect with leaders in their community and around the world, enhancing their communication and problem-solving skills. They will discover strategies to become dynamic leaders in their schools and communities,

learning from inspirational speakers, community leaders and peer mentors. The program also helps participants unlock their potential to transform motivation into meaningful action, all while building lasting friendships and creating memorable experiences.

This year's RYLA event will be held at the La Foret Conference and Retreat Center in Colorado Springs June 6-9. Transportation to and from the event will also be provided.

The Rotary Club of Pagosa Springs is deeply committed to empowering the next generation of leaders. By offering opportunities like RYLA, we invest in our youth, equipping them with the skills and confidence needed to make a lasting impact both locally and globally. This program is perfect

for ambitious 10th- and 11th-graders who are eager to lead, serve and create positive change in their communities and beyond.

For more information about the application process or to apply, an application packet can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/y2kbv5yh>.

You can also apply online at <https://bit.ly/PSryla2025>.

Interested students with questions can contact Cindi Galabota by texting (970) 903-9860 or emailing cindi.galabota@colostate.edu. General information about RYLA in the Rockies can also be found at www.rylaintherockies.org/.

We look forward to welcoming the next wave of future leaders to this exciting and transformative opportunity.

LPEA sponsors delegates for National Youth Tour in Washington, D.C.

La Plata Electric Association

La Plata Electric Association (LPEA) is proud to announce the selection of three exemplary high school juniors from LPEA's service territory to represent the cooperative at the esteemed National Rural Electric Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., from June 16-22.

These students have been chosen for their outstanding leadership qualities and academic merits, and they will be part of a delegation of 30 students from Colorado.

The 2025 LPEA delegates are as follows:

- Deaglan Denen, from Pagosa Springs High School.

"The youth tour means a lot to me because I get to experience a part of the world I've never seen before.

I also get to see in person a history that I've always been interested in," Denen said.

- Sabina Fischer, from Durango High School.

"I am grateful that I have been selected for this opportunity. I am looking forward to discovering what I will learn from it. You never know where opportunities such as these will lead you in life," she said.

- Max Magee, from Animas High School.

"To me, the opportunity to be a part of the 2025 LPEA Youth Tour to Washington D.C. means that I will be able to see how my government functions, the importance of Washington D.C., and how electric cooperatives have played a role in Colorado's history," Magee said.

During this immersive week,

students will visit key historical sites and engage with elected officials. They will also learn about civic involvement and the electric utility industry, focusing on the cooperative business model. This initiative is part of a broader effort, supported by LPEA and the Colorado Rural Electric Association, to inspire the next generation of leaders. More than 1,800 students from 45 states will participate in this year's Youth Tour.

The concept of the Youth Tour was first proposed by Sen. Lyndon Johnson in 1957, aiming to enrich young Americans' understanding of their national heritage and the value of civic engagement.

The senator declared, "If one thing goes out of this meeting, it will be sending youngsters to the national capital where they can actually see

what the flag stands for and represents."

Youth Tour recipients will be recognized at the LPEA Annual Meeting on May 21 at 12:30 p.m. in the LPEA truck barn in Bodo Park, Durango. All LPEA members are invited to attend. More details are available at lpea.coop/annual-meeting.

About LPEA

LPEA is a member-owned, not-for-profit, electric distribution cooperative serving La Plata and Archuleta, with segments of Hinsdale, Mineral and San Juan counties.

For additional information, contact LPEA at (970) 247-5786 or visit lpea.coop.

RECREATION NEWS

Join the fun: Recreational youth volleyball league for ages 11-12 offered

By Matt Zaborowski
Town of Pagosa Springs

Looking for a way for your child to improve their volleyball skills and stay active? The Pagosa Springs Parks and Rec youth volleyball league for ages 11-12 is the perfect opportunity.

Registration ends March 2, with league play from March 4 to April 23. This league is designed for kids who want to take their volleyball game to the next level while learning valuable life skills.

Benefits of team volleyball

1. Teamwork: Volleyball teaches kids to communicate, collaborate and trust their teammates, building important social skills.

2. Physical fitness: The sport improves strength, agility, hand-eye coordination and cardiovascular health while keeping kids active and engaged.

3. Confidence: Players gain a sense of accomplishment as they improve their skills, boosting self-esteem both on and off the court.

4. Sportsmanship: Volleyball teaches respect for the game, coaches, and teammates, encouraging positive behavior in both wins and

losses.

5. Friendship: Kids make lasting friendships while working together and supporting each other as a team.

Why this league?

This league offers a great opportunity for players to build their volleyball skills, whether they're beginners or have some experience. Coaches focus on skill development, teamwork and having fun, all in a supportive environment.

Sign up today and get ready for a season of fun, growth and teamwork.

Local

Amelia Berndt

Amelia Berndt was named to the University of Wyoming's 2024 fall semester academic Dean's and Dean's Freshman Honor Rolls.

The honor rolls consist of regularly enrolled undergraduates above freshman standing who earned a 3.4 or better GPA, and freshmen who have earned a 3.25 or better GPA.

To be eligible, students must have been enrolled for a minimum of 12 credit hours taken for letter grades.



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Public Meetings

The following meetings are subject to change.

Thursday, Feb. 27

Main Street Advisory Board Cone Zone Care Committee work session. 4 p.m., Zoom. View on Zoom using meeting ID 852 4967 6951 and password 531410. For more information, visit <https://pagosasprings.civicweb.net/portal/>.

Pagosa Springs Main Street Cone Zone Care Committee meeting. 6 p.m., Motel SOCO, 651 West U.S. 160. View on Zoom using meeting ID 853 2973 7287 and password 115992. For more information, visit <https://pagosasprings.civicweb.net/portal/>.

Pagosa Springs Planning Commission meeting. 6 p.m., Archuleta County administration building, commissioners' meeting room, 398 Lewis St. For more information, visit <http://archuletacounty.org/agendacenter>.

Tuesday, March 4

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

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

Pagosa Fire Protection District Board of Trustees and Firemen's Pension Fund meeting. 5:30 p.m., 165 N.

Pagosa Blvd. For more information, visit pagosafire.org.

Wednesday, March 5

Pagosa Springs Area Tourism Board. 4 p.m., Town Hall, 551 Hot Springs Blvd. See town website for participation information: <https://pagosasprings.civicweb.net/portal/>.

Pagosa Springs Public Arts Committee. 4 p.m., Community Center West Conference Room, 451 Hot Springs Blvd. See town website for participation information: <https://pagosasprings.civicweb.net/portal/>.

Thursday, March 6

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

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

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The Blotter

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

Archuleta County Sheriff's Office

Feb. 3 — Second-degree criminal tampering, violation of a protection order-criminal, West U.S. 160.

Feb. 3 — Warrant arrest, Seminole Drive/Navajo Trail Drive.

Feb. 3 — Criminal mischief under \$300 private, domestic violence, harassment-insults/taunts/challenges DV, Bastille Drive, Domicile Circle, U.S. 160.

Feb. 4 — Assault in the third degree, domestic violence, harassment-strikes/shoves/kicks, Beaver Circle.

Feb. 4 — Trespass warning, North Pagosa Boulevard.

Feb. 5 — Information only, Northlake Avenue.

Feb. 5 — Drug paraphernalia-possession, obstructing highway or passage-way, Trinity Lane.

Feb. 6 — Agency assist, North 8th

Street.

Feb. 6 — Reckless driving, U.S. 160.

Feb. 6 — Theft-\$5,000 to \$20,000, Simmons Drive.

Feb. 6 — Domestic violence, violation of protection order-criminal, Beaver Circle.

Feb. 6 — Assault in the third degree, criminal mischief under \$300 private, crimes against at-risk adult/elderly>70-third-degree assault, harassment-strikes/shoves/kicks, harassment-insults/taunts/challenges, Colo. 151.

Feb. 6 — Fourth-degree arson-endangering life, Carefree Place.

Feb. 7 — Assault in the third degree, domestic violence, harassment-strikes/shoves/kicks DV, harassment-insults/taunts/challenges DV, Magpie Lane.

Feb. 7 — Assault in the third degree, menacing-intimidation (including stalking, threats), crimes against at-risk adult/elderly>70-third-degree assault, resisting arrest, obstructing peace officer/police animal/fireman, intimidating a witness or victim, disorderly conduct-petty offense, harassment-strikes/shoves/kicks, Jack Rabbit Road,

Hot Springs Boulevard, Harman Park Drive, South Pagosa Boulevard.

Feb. 8 — Lane usage violation, driving under the influence of alcohol, Solomon Drive.

Feb. 8, Information only, Robin Drive.

Feb. 8 — Failure to appear, failure to appear, Harman Park Drive.

Feb. 8 — Agency assist, U.S. 84.

Feb. 8 — Agency assist, Trinity Lane.

Feb. 9 — Warrant arrest, U.S. 160.

Feb. 9 — Warrant arrest, South 5th Street.

Feb. 10 — Warrant arrest, U.S. 160.

Feb. 10 — Warrant arrest, warrant arrest, Colo. 151.

Feb. 11 — Possess dangerous weapon, Carefree Place.

Feb. 11 — Information only, U.S. 160.

Feb. 11 — Warrant arrest, Harman Park Drive.

Feb. 11 — Information only, U.S. 84.

Feb. 11 — Information only, Harman Park Drive.

Feb. 12 — Death investigation, County Road 411.

■ See Blotter A13

Public Notices

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Archuleta County Airport - Stevens Field

Pagosa Springs, Colorado

Parking Lot and Access Road for PSO

AIP Project No. 3-08-0066-028-2025

Project Bids, subject to the conditions contained herein, for improvements to the Archuleta County Airport - Stevens Field, Pagosa Springs, Colorado, AIP Project No. 3-08-0066-028-2025 will be received by Archuleta County, Finance Department, 398 Lewis Street, Pagosa Springs, Colorado, 81147, until Friday, March 28, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. (local time). Bids to be mailed shall be addressed to the attention of the Archuleta County, Finance Department, 398 Lewis Street, Pagosa Springs, Colorado, 81147, and will be clearly marked "Sealed Bids: Parking Lot and Access Road for PSO. DO NOT OPEN". At the time listed above, the received sealed bids will be publicly opened and read aloud immediately in the aforementioned location that they were received.

The bidding documents are available at <https://woolpert.com/bid> and/or www.questcdn.com - Reference Quest Number 9555670. To be considered a plan holder for bids, register with QuestCDN.com for a free Regular membership and download the bidding documents in digital form at a cost of \$125. Downloading the documents and becoming a plan holder is recommended as plan holder's receive automatic notice of addenda, other bid updates. Contact QuestCDN Customer Support at 952-233-1632 or Support@QuestCDN.com for assistance in membership registration or downloading digital bidding documents. Interested parties may view the contract documents at no cost prior to deciding to become a plan holder.

In order to submit a responsive bid as a Prime Contractor and to receive all necessary addendum(s) for this project, you must be on the Planholder's List. It is the planholder's responsibility to review the site for addendums and changes before submitting their proposal. This includes review for environmental changes. Environmental changes during construction could take up to three months for approval. For additional information, please contact us via email at bid.info@woolpert.com.

The work involved will include the following:
Schedule I - Parking Lot and Access Road for PSO

The approximate quantities of major bid items involved in the proposed work are:

P-152a	Unclassified Excavation	2,300	CY
P-152c	Subgrade Preparation (6")	3,750	SY
D-754a	4' Wide Concrete Pan	270	LF
CDOT-304	Crushed Aggregate Base Course	1,000	CY
CDOT-403	Hot Mix Asphalt (4")	880	Ton

Pre-Bid Conference. A VOLUNTARY pre-bid conference for this project will be held on Friday, March 14, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. (local time), in the FBO Conference Room at the Archuleta County Airport - Stevens Field. Conference information shown below:

Teams Meeting ID: 295 890 411 628

Passcode: 4zH9U3Cy

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+1 937-240-2430,,899883100# United States, Belle Center

Find a local number

Phone conference ID: 899 883 100#

Bid Conditions. All bidders shall make arrangements with the Archuleta County Airport - Stevens Field to examine the site to become familiar with all site conditions prior to submitting their bid.

The bidder is required to provide all information as required within the Contract Documents. The bidder is required to bid on all items of every schedule or as otherwise detailed in the Instructions to Bidders.

Bids may be held by Sponsor for a period not to exceed 90 calendar days from the date of the bid opening for the purpose of evaluating bids prior to award of contract.

No Bidder may withdraw its bid after the bid has been opened. The Archuleta County reserves the right to waive any informality in bidding and to reject any and all bids.

All questions regarding the bid are to be directed to Mark Lovato, 720 South Colorado Boulevard, Suite 1200-S, Glendale, CO 80246, Mark.Lovato@Woolpert.com by Monday, March 24, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. local time.

Bid Bond. Guarantee will be required with each bid as a certified check on a solvent bank or a Bid Bond in the amount of five (5) % of the total amount of the bid, made payable to the Archuleta County.

Performance & Payment Bond. The successful bidder will be required to furnish separate performance and payment bonds each in an amount equal to 100% of the contract price.

FEDERAL LANGUAGE REQUIRED FOR SOLICITATIONS:

FAA BUY AMERICAN PREFERENCE:

The Contractor certifies that its bid/offer is in compliance with 49 USC § 50101, BABA and other related Made in America Laws, U.S. statutes, guidance, and FAA policies, which provide that Federal funds may not be obligated unless all iron, steel and manufactured goods used in AIP funded projects are produced in the United States, unless the Federal Aviation Administration has issued a waiver for the product; the product is listed as an Excepted Article, Material Or Supply in Federal Acquisition Regulation subpart 25.108; or is included in the FAA Nationwide Buy American Waivers Issued list.

The bidder or offeror must complete and submit the certification of compliance with FAA's Buy American Preference, BABA and Made in America laws included herein with their bid or offer. The Airport Sponsor/Owner will reject as nonresponsive any bid or offer that does not include a completed certification of compliance with FAA's Buy American Preference and BABA.

The bidder or offeror certifies that all constructions materials, defined to mean an article, material, or supply other than an item of primarily iron or steel; a manufactured product; cement and cementitious materials; aggregates such as stone, sand, or gravel; or aggregate binding agents or additives that are or consist primarily of: non-ferrous metals; plastic and polymer-based products (including polyvinylchloride, composite building materials, and polymers used in fiber optic cables); glass (including optic glass); lumber; or drywall used in the project are manufactured in the U.S.

TITLE VI SOLICITATION NOTICE:

The Archuleta County, in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252, 42 USC §§ 2000d to 2000d-4) and the Regulations, hereby notifies all bidders or offerors that it will affirmatively ensure that for any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full and fair opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and no businesses will be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, national origin (including limited English proficiency), creed, sex (including sexual orientation and gender identity), age, or disability in consideration for an award.

TRADE RESTRICTION CERTIFICATION:

By submission of an offer, the Offeror certifies that with respect to this solicitation and any resultant contract, the Offeror –

- is not owned or controlled by one or more citizens of a foreign country included in the list of countries that discriminate against U.S. firms as published by the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR);
- has not knowingly entered into any contract or subcontract for this project with a person that is a citizen or national of a foreign country included on the list of countries that discriminate against U.S. firms as published by the USTR; and
- has not entered into any subcontract for any product to be used on the Federal project that is produced in a foreign country included on the list of countries that discriminate against U.S. firms published by the USTR.

This certification concerns a matter within the jurisdiction of an agency of the United States of America and the making of a false, fictitious, or fraudulent certification may render the maker subject to prosecution under Title 18 USC § 1001.

The Offeror/Contractor must provide immediate written notice to the Owner if the Offeror/Contractor learns that its certification or that of a subcontractor was erroneous when submitted or has become erroneous by reason of changed circumstances. The Contractor must require subcontractors provide immediate written notice to the Contractor if at any time it learns that its certification was erroneous by reason of changed circumstances.

Unless the restrictions of this clause are waived by the Secretary of Transportation in accordance with 49 CFR § 30.17, no contract shall be awarded to an Offeror or subcontractor:

- who is owned or controlled by one or more citizens or nationals of a foreign country included on the list of countries that discriminate against U.S. firms published by the USTR; or
- whose subcontractors are owned or controlled by one or more citizens or nationals of a foreign country on such USTR list; or
- who incorporates in the public works project any product of a foreign country on such USTR list.

Nothing contained in the foregoing shall be construed to require establishment of a system of records in order to render, in good faith, the certification required by this provision. The knowledge and information of a contractor is not required to exceed that which is normally possessed by a prudent person in the ordinary course of business dealings.

The Offeror agrees that, if awarded a contract resulting from this solicitation, it will incorporate this provision for certification without modification in all lower tier subcontracts. The Contractor may rely on the certification of a prospective subcontractor that it is not a firm from a foreign country included on the list of countries that discriminate against U.S. firms as published by USTR, unless the Offeror has knowledge that the certification is erroneous.

This certification is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when making an award. If it is later determined that the Contractor or subcontractor knowingly rendered an erroneous certification, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) may direct through the Owner cancellation of the contract or subcontract for default at no cost to the Owner or the FAA.

FEDERAL FAIR LABOR STANDARDS ACT (FEDERAL MINIMUM WAGE):

All contracts and subcontracts that result from this solicitation incorporate by reference the provisions of 29 CFR part 201, et seq, the Federal Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA), with the same force and effect as if given in full text. The FLSA sets minimum wage, overtime pay, recordkeeping, and child labor standards for full and part-time workers.

The Contractor has full responsibility to monitor compliance to the referenced statute or regulation. The Contractor must address any claims or disputes that arise from this requirement directly with the U.S. Department of Labor – Wage and Hour Division.

NOTICE OF REQUIREMENT FOR AFFIRMATIVE ACTION TO ENSURE EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY:

- The Offeror's or Bidder's attention is called to the "Equal Opportunity Clause" and the "Standard Federal Equal Employment Opportunity Construction Contract Specifications" set forth herein.
- The goals and timetables for minority and female participation, expressed in percentage terms for the Contractor's aggregate workforce in each trade on all construction work in the covered area, are as follows:

Timetables

Goals for minority participation for each trade: 10.2

Goals for female participation in each trade: 6.9%

These goals are applicable to all of the Contractor's construction work (whether or not it is Federal or federally assisted) performed in the covered area. If the Contractor performs construction work in a geographical area located outside of the covered area, it shall apply the goals established for such geographical area where the work is actually performed. With regard to this second area, the Contractor also is subject to the goals for both its federally involved and non-federally involved construction.

The Contractor's compliance with the Executive Order and the regulations in 41 CFR Part 60-4 shall be based on its implementation of the Equal Opportunity Clause, specific affirmative action obligations required by the specifications set forth in 41 CFR 60-4.3(a) and its efforts to meet the goals. The hours of minority and female employment and training must be substantially uniform throughout the length of the contract, and in each trade, and the Contractor shall make a good faith effort to employ minorities and women evenly on each of its projects. The transfer of minority or female employees or trainees from Contractor to Contractor or from project to project for the sole purpose of meeting the Contractor's goals shall be a violation of the contract, the Executive Order and the regulations in 41 CFR Part 60-4. Compliance with the goals will be measured against the total work hours performed.

- The Contractor shall provide written notification to the Director of the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs (OFCCP) within 10 working days of award of any construction subcontract in excess of \$10,000 at any tier for construction work under the contract resulting from this solicitation. The notification shall list the name, address, and telephone number of the subcontractor; employer identification number of the subcontractor; estimated dollar amount of the subcontract; estimated starting and completion dates of the subcontract; and the geographical area in which the subcontract is to be performed.

- As used in this notice and in the contract resulting from this solicitation, the "covered area" is Colorado, Archuleta, Pagosa Springs.

PROCUREMENT OF RECOVERED MATERIALS:

Contractor and subcontractors agree to comply with Section 6002 of the Solid Waste Disposal Act, as amended by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, and the regulatory provisions of 40 CFR Part 247. In the performance of this contract and to the extent practicable, the Contractor and subcontractors are to use products containing the highest percentage of recovered materials for items designated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under 40 CFR Part 247.

DBE PARTICIPATION:

The requirements of 49 CFR part 26 apply to this contract. It is the policy of the Archuleta County to practice nondiscrimination based on race, color, sex, or national origin in the award or performance of this contract. The Archuleta County encourages participation by all firms qualifying under this solicitation regardless of business size or ownership.

Information Submitted as a matter of bidder responsiveness:

The Sponsor's award of this contract is conditioned upon Bidder or Offeror satisfying the good faith effort requirements of 49 CFR § 26.53.

As a condition of responsiveness, the Bidder or Offeror must submit the following information with its proposal on the forms provided herein:

- The names and addresses of Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) firms that will participate in the contract;
- A description of the work that each DBE firm will perform;
- The dollar amount of the participation of each DBE firm listed under (1);
- Written statement from Bidder or Offeror that attests their commitment to use the DBE firm(s) listed under (1) to meet the Sponsor's project goal;
- Written confirmation from each listed DBE firm that it is participating in the contract in the kind and amount of work provided in the prime contractor's commitment; and
- If Bidder or Offeror cannot meet the advertised project DBE goal, evidence of good faith efforts undertaken by the Bidder or Offeror as described in appendix A to 49 CFR part 26. The documentation of good faith efforts must include copies of each DBE and non-DBE subcontractor quote submitted to the bidder when a non-DBE subcontractor was selected over a DBE for work on the contract.

OTHER FEDERAL PROVISIONS:

Award of contract is also subject to the following Federal Provisions:

- Lobbying Federal Employees
- Davis Bacon
- Debarment and Suspension
- Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988 (41 USC § 8101-8106, as amended)
- Other Federal Provisions included in Part A of the Special Provisions

Archuleta County

Pagosa Springs, Colorado

Published February 27, March 6 and 13, 2025 in The Pagosa Springs SUN. (258722)



■ Continued from A12

Feb. 12 — Information only, Badger Place.

Feb. 12 — Warrant arrest, County Road 600.

Feb. 12 — Resisting arrest, obstructing peace officer/police animal/fireman, County Road 600.

Feb. 12 — Death investigation, U.S. 84.

Feb. 13 — Criminal attempt second-degree murder-willful-public official-weapon, criminal attempt to commit, criminal attempt to commit, criminal attempt to commit class five or six felony, criminal attempt to commit class four felony, second-degree assault-aggravated-police officer-strongarm, vehicular assault-reckless driving, menacing-misdemeanor, criminal mischief \$5,000 to \$20,000 private, first-degree criminal trespass felony, resisting arrest, obstructing peace officer/police animal/fireman, attempt to influence public servant, disorderly conduct-petty offense, reckless driving, Doc Adams Road.

Feb. 13 — Warrant arrest, Doc Adams Road.

Feb. 13 — Information only, Par Place.

Feb. 16 — Warrant arrest, Vista Boulevard.

Feb. 16 — Possession of a controlled substance-Schedule III, IV or V, violation of a protection order-criminal, driving under restraint-alcohol/drug related, alcohol-open container/drink in vehicle, West U.S. 160.

Feb. 16 — Harassment-stalking-misdemeanor, Jack Rabbit Road/South Pagosa Boulevard.

Feb. 17 — Violation of protection order-criminal, Cloman Boulevard.

Feb. 18 — False imprisonment, domestic violence, harassment-strikes/shoves/kicks, Nutria Circle.

Feb. 18 — Violation of protection order-criminal, Harman Park Drive.

Feb. 18 — Operated motor vehicle with expired license plates, registration-fictitious plate, non insurance-driver, County Road 600.

Feb. 18 — Warrant arrest, Terry Robinson Road.

Feb. 19 — Obstructing governmental operations, disorderly conduct-petty, resisting arrest/physical force against officer, Great West Avenue.

Feb. 19 — Fraud by check-misdemeanor-insufficient funds, Harman Park Drive/Hersch Avenue.

Feb. 19 — Information only, Ute Drive.

Feb. 19 — Theft-less than \$50-from vehicle, Carefree Place.

Feb. 19 — Information only, Harman Park Drive/Doc Adams Road.

Feb. 20 — Information only, Park Avenue.

Feb. 20 — Possession of a controlled substance-Schedule III, IV or V, unlawful use of a controlled substance, driving under restraint, registration-fictitious place, alcohol-open container/drink in vehicle, Oak Drive.

Feb. 20 — Warrant arrest, warrant arrest, Oak Drive.

Feb. 20 — Lane usage violation, driving under the influence of alcohol, Eagle Drive.

Feb. 21 — Information only, Ranger Park Drive.

Feb. 21 — Warrant arrest, County Road 982.

Feb. 21 — Unlawful use of a controlled substance, drug paraphernalia-possess, violation of protection order, second-degree introducing contraband, Harman Park Drive, County Road 982.

Feb. 21 — Information only, Colo. 151/ County Road 975, Cox Circle.

Feb. 22 — Second-degree criminal trespass, County Road 500.

Feb. 23 — Driving under the influence of alcohol, DUI per se, Hot Springs Boulevard.

Feb. 23 — Agency assist, South 9th Street.

Pagosa Springs Police Department

Jan. 13 — Driving after revocation prohibited (HTO), Pagosa Street.

Jan. 13 — Disorderly conduct/offensive utterance or gesture, Lewis Street.

Jan. 13 — Trespass warning, Hot Springs Boulevard.

Jan. 13 — Harassment/credible threat with communication, South 9th Street.

Jan. 14 — Lost/found property, Hot Springs Boulevard/Apache Street.

Jan. 15 — Information only, Cobblestone Lane.

Jan. 15 — Owner/custodian allowed animal to run at large, Juanita Street.

Jan. 15 — Hit and run failed to remain on scene of accident-damage only, South 8th Street.

Jan. 15 — Assault, Lewis Street/Pagosa Street.

Jan. 16 — Assault, South 9th Street.

Jan. 18 — Agency assist, Talisman Drive.

Jan. 19 — Criminal mischief, Hot Springs Boulevard.

Jan. 20 — Menacing-felony-aggravated-family-weapon, South 9th Street.

Jan. 21 — Second-degree criminal tampering, Eaton Drive.

Jan. 22 — Trespass warning, Country

Center Drive.

Jan. 23 — Information only, Eagle Drive.

Jan. 23 — Harassment-follows in public place, Loma Street.

Jan. 24 — Failed to notify police of accident, Lewis Street/South 8th Street.

Jan. 24 — Harassment, North 8th Street.

Jan. 24 — Information only, South 8th Street.

Jan. 25 — Assault in the third degree, criminal mischief under \$300 private, domestic violence, South 8th Street.

Jan. 25 — Violation of protection order, Talisman Drive.

Jan. 25 — Information only, Wildwood Drive.

Jan. 25 — Driving under restraint-alcohol/dug related, fail to yield right of way/left turn, Hermosa Street.

Jan. 25 — Warrant arrest, San Juan Street.

Jan. 27 — Lost/found property, Harman Park Drive.

Jan. 27 — Operated off-highway vehicle on a roadway of streets and highway where prohibited, permitted use of a # plate/misuse plates, no insurance-owner, red light-fail to stop, East Pagosa Street.

Jan. 27 — Shoplifting, departs or attempts to depart without payment, Aspen Village Drive.

Jan. 27 — Trespass warning, Pagosa Street.

Jan. 27 — Criminal mischief, Hot Springs Boulevard.

Jan. 28 — Theft, Eagle Drive.

Jan. 28 — Theft/intending to deprive, Hot Springs Boulevard.

Jan. 29 — Assault in the third degree, domestic violence, Village Drive.

Jan. 29 — Careless driving, Pagosa Street/Hot Springs Boulevard.

Jan. 30 — Careless driving, failed to notify police of accident, East U.S. 160.

Jan. 31 — Warrant arrest, U.S. 160.

Jan. 31 — Assault, Talisman Drive.

Feb. 1 — Assault, Eagle Drive.

Feb. 1 — Theft/intending to deprive, Aspen Village Drive.

Feb. 2 — Careless driving-cause injury, failing to report accident-call police, Pagosa Street.

Feb. 2 — Driving under restraint-alcohol/drug related, vehicle had no number plates attached, no insurance-driver, U.S. 160.

Feb. 2 — Warrant arrest, East Pagosa Street.

Feb. 2 — Criminal trespass, East Pagosa Street.

Feb. 2 — Theft/intends to deprive person, trespass warning, Pagosa Street.

Feb. 3 — Shoplifting/departs or attempts to depart without payment, Aspen Village Drive.

Feb. 4 — Information only, North 2nd Street.

Feb. 5 — Shoplifting/departs without payment/refused payment (fuel piracy), Eagle Drive.

Feb. 7 — Shoplifting/departs or attempts to depart without payment, U.S. 84.

Feb. 8 — Information only, 15th Street.

Feb. 8 — Warrant arrest, Trinity Lane.

Feb. 8 — Warrant arrest, Trinity Lane.

Feb. 9 — Warrant arrest, Pinon Causeway.

Feb. 9 — Nuisance/animal running at large, South 7th Street.

Feb. 10 — Failed to notify police of accident, Lewis Street.

Feb. 11 — Agency assist, North 8th Street.

Feb. 12 — Driver's license-driving without, unsafe backing, Juanita Street.

Feb. 12 — Trespass warning, Country Center Drive.

Feb. 13 — Harassment, North 8th Street.

Feb. 14 — Disturbance, North 5th Street.

Feb. 14 — Information only, South 9th Street.

Feb. 15 — Abandonment of motor vehicle, Apache Street.

Feb. 15 — Dog at large, South 9th Street.

Feb. 15 — Agency assist, County Road 337.

Feb. 16 — Information only, South 8th Street.

Feb. 18 — Warrant arrest, Aspen Village Drive.

Feb. 18 — Marijuana prohibited under age of 21/less than 12 pounces, possession of drug paraphernalia or marijuana accessories-under age of 21, South 8th Street.

Feb. 18 — Lost/found property, Hot Springs Boulevard.

Feb. 18 — Disorderly conduct/displays a deadly weapon, Aspen Village Drive.

Feb. 18 — Harassment-repeatedly insults/taunts/challenges, Hot Springs Boulevard.

Feb. 18 — Vehicular homicide DUI driving, driving under the influence of alcohol, careless driving-cause death, leaving scene/accident involving death, West U.S. 160.

Feb. 19 — First-degree criminal trespass, warrant arrest, Village Drive.

Feb. 19 — Truancy, South 8th Street.

Feb. 19 — Warrant arrest, Pagosa Street.

Feb. 20 — Warrant arrest, East Pagosa Street.

Feb. 20 — Driver's license-driving without, speeding 10-19 over limit, failure to display proof of insurance, East Pagosa Street.

Feb. 21 — Driving under restraint-alcohol/drug related, red light-fail to stop, Country Center Drive/U.S. 160.

Feb. 22 — Bar check, San Juan Street.

Feb. 23 — Possession of a controlled substance-Schedule II, IV or V, warrant arrest, North Pagosa Boulevard.

Feb. 23 — Nuisance/animal running at large, Juanita Street.

Feb. 23 — Nuisance/animal running at large, South Pagosa Boulevard.

Feb. 23 — Information only, failed to notify police of accident, South 9th Street.

Pagosa Springs Municipal Court: Judge Anthony D. Edwards

No report.

Archuleta County Court: Judge Justin P. Fay

Jan. 29 — Daniel L. Valdez, driving under the influence, 455 days jail (365 days suspended imposition), 48 hours community service, three years probation, fines and costs — \$2,713.50.

Jan. 29 — Lydia R. Chavez, driving ability impaired-with prior, 365 days jail suspended imposition, 48 hours community service, two years probation, 12 days electronic surveillance, fines and costs — \$1,965.50.

Jan. 31 — Jacob Lee Jantz, speeding 5-9 over, fines and costs — \$125.

Feb. 4 — Raymond N. Davis, speeding 5-9 over limit, fines and costs — \$127.50.

Feb. 4 — Anthony Luchanno Bieber, speeding 20-24 over limit, fines and costs — \$291.50.

Feb. 5 — Joyletta R. Vicenti, speeding 5-9 over limit, fines and costs — \$127.50.

Feb. 5 — Liliaja Rodriguez, license plates-expired, fines and costs — \$83.

Feb. 5 — Johnathan C. Chapman, speeding 5-9 over limit, fines and costs — \$127.

Feb. 5 — Steven Lawrence Henderson, speeding 5-9 over, fines and costs — \$125.

Feb. 5 — Colby S. Brock, speeding 10-19 over limit, fines and costs — \$233.50.

Feb. 5 — Seat belt not used, fines and costs — \$133.50.

Feb. 5 — Jonathan Luke Watts, speeding 10-19 over, fines and costs — \$225.

Feb. 5 — Ryan P. Mueller, speeding 10-19 over limit, fines and costs — \$233.50.

Feb. 5 — Alejandra G. Madrigal, speeding 20-24 over limit, driver's license-driving without, fines and costs — \$360.50.

Feb. 5 — Grant Logan, speeding 10-19 over limit, fines and costs — \$233.50.

Feb. 5 — Abigail Kelley, speeding 20-24 over, fines and costs — \$290.

Feb. 5 — Maurice M. Hands, speeding 10-19 over limit, fines and costs — \$233.50.

Feb. 5 — Nathan A. Elledge, license plates-expired, fines and costs — \$155.50.

Feb. 5 — Anthony P. Devos, speeding 20-24 over limit, fines and costs — \$314.50.

Feb. 5 — Jordan Jia Craig, speeding 10-19 over limit, fines and costs — \$233.50.

Feb. 5 — Cloe G. Ulshafer, speeding 20-24 over limit, fines and costs — \$214.50.

Feb. 5 — Andrea M. Pahona, speeding 10-19 over limit, moving violation in construction zone sentence enhancer, fines and costs — \$342.

Feb. 5 — Joseph Alfred Trujillo, sexual contact-no consent, three years probation, fines and costs — \$5,322.50.

Feb. 5 — Oscar Andres Galiano, tampering with physical evidence misdemeanor-destroy, 25 days jail, fines and costs — \$219.50.

Feb. 13 — Kaleb Robert Gerber, driving under restraint-alcohol-related, fines and costs — \$129.50.

Feb. 13 — Damian Ballines-Valles, violation P/O-criminal, fines and costs — \$374.50.

Feb. 13 — Jeremy Gallegos, violation P/O-criminal, fines and costs — \$369.50.

Feb. 19 — Kevin R. Nelson, speeding 5-9 over limit, fines and costs — \$127.50.

Feb. 19 — Dazia Lig Villarreal, speeding 5-9 over limit, fines and costs — \$27.50.

Feb. 19 — Vittorio A. Ciccarelli, speeding 10-19 over limit, fines and costs — \$198.50.

Feb. 19 — Richard Louis Steffan, speeding 5-9 over, fines and costs — \$125.

Feb. 19 — Nathan M. Valdez, speeding 10-19 over limit, fines and costs — \$233.50.

Feb. 19 — Courtney Bogardus Spears, license plates-expired, fines and costs — \$155.50.

Feb. 19 — Christopher T. Sanders, speeding 10-19 over limit, fines and costs — \$233.50.

Feb. 19 — Chase R. Sanchez, speeding 10-19 over limit, license plates-expired, fines and costs — \$327.50.

Feb. 19 — Paul J. Rogers, speeding

10-19 over limit, fines and costs — \$233.50.

Feb. 19 — Daniel Roder, license plates-expired, fines and costs — \$155.50.

Feb. 19 — Carly Jo Owen, license plates, expired, fines and costs — \$155.50.

Feb. 19 — Lisa Elizabeth Milford, registration-unregistered vehicle, fines and costs — \$161.50.

Feb. 19 — Steven Michael Koehler, speeding 10-19 over, fines and costs — \$225.

Feb. 19 — Joshua Timothy Hughes, speeding 10-19 over, fines and costs — \$225.

Feb. 19 — Rogelio Gomez-Hernandez, driver's license-driving without, fines and costs — \$107.50.

Feb. 19 — Kenneth Wayne Gallegos, speeding 10-19 over, fines and costs — \$225.

Feb. 19 — Christopher Todd Black, speeding 10-19 over, fines and costs — \$225.

Feb. 19 — Randall Joseph Rudock, driving under the influence, 90 days jail, 48 hours community service, three years probation, fines and costs — \$2,713.50.

Feb. 20 — Jeffrey S. Searles, speeding 5-9 over limit, fines and costs — \$127.50.

Feb. 21 — Melissa J. Booth, speeding 10-19 over limit, fines and costs — \$210.50.

Feb. 21 — Wyatt Albert Kelm, controlled substance-possession, 18 months probation, fines and costs — \$2,096.50.

Archuleta County Court: Judge Jeffrey R. Wilson

Feb. 5 — Dustin Danaciano Lopez, assault 3-know/reckless cause injury, 270 days jail, fines and costs — \$244.50.

6th Judicial District Court: Judge Justin P. Fay

No report.

6th Judicial District Court: Judge Jeffrey R. Wilson

Feb. 5 — Dustin Danaciano Lopez, harassment-strike/shove/kick, fines and costs — \$269 days, fines and costs — \$303.50.

Feb. 5 — Dustin Danaciano Lopez, child abuse-knowing/reckless-bodily injury, 30 days jail, fines and costs — \$503.50.

Feb. 5 — Dustin Danaciano Lopez, witness/victim-tampering with-CSP, 26 months Department of Corrections, fines and costs — \$473.50.



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SUN photo/Randi Pierce

The Colorado Christian University symphonic band takes the stage of the Pagosa Springs High School auditorium on Friday, Feb. 21. The university’s symphonic band and Mainstream jazz ensemble performed for elementary school students earlier in the day before holding workshops with middle school and high school students in the afternoon and presenting a joint concert that evening.

Project

■ Continued from A8

in a much better place.”

Greene helped work on the Glenwood Springs downtown reconstruction project a few years ago and noted that, although that project was bigger, the U.S. 160 reconstruction project poses more complexities.

“There’s a lot of complex construction moves in this project,” she said, noting how adjacent intersections can’t be worked on at the same time.

She further explained that once barriers are in place, crews will actually start ripping up asphalt and begin assessing utility situations.

“Pretty complex situation we’re looking at,” she added.

Pagosa Springs Mayor Shari Pierce asked how long crews are expecting to work in 2025, with Greene indicating that crews intend to work “as long as they can,” weather permitting.

Greene noted that there will be a break in work during the Fourth of July.

She also noted that safety for motorists, pedestrians and workers is the top priority.

“Safety is our No. 1 concern, period,” she said.

The Main Street Cone Zone Care Committee is also holding a meeting tonight, Feb. 27, at 6 p.m. at Motel SOCO and via Zoom for the purpose of sharing project information and updates.

Business grants

During the joint work session, County Manager Jack Harper, indicated that Archuleta County has earmarked \$100,000 in its 2025 budget for the purpose of business grants.

“We were able to, though the budget process, earmark \$100,000 for fiscal year ‘25 for the purposes of a grant,” he said.

Harper explained that the county has been working on a financial policy to govern the grants, noting the county would want to know what businesses intend to use the funds for.

Harper mentioned that the idea stemmed from a 2024 joint work session where Commissioner Warren Brown introduced the idea of the county having some way to support local business through the reconstruction project period.

“He’s kind of the father of it,” Harper said.

Harper noted that the county has worked in collaboration with Region 9 to use similar application formatting and processes, adding the hope is to roll out the program this year.

“We are, of course, concerned about our own budget,” Harper said, explaining that budgets for 2026 and 2027 may also be affected.

He noted that if all of the earmarked \$100,000 is not used this year, whatever is left can be rolled over to the next budget, giving the county “a seed to which to start with.”

Town council member Leonard Martinez also introduced the idea of using a portion of those funds to have an “ambassador” program.

Martinez explained that it would be a resource to help local business by having workers on “the front line” act as a “conduit of information.”

Martinez added that the program would help push out positive messages around the reconstruction project while helping visitors and locals navigate through it.

The idea received support from multiple BoCC and council members.

MET task force

Main Street Coordinator Kathleen McFadden also provided an update on the work accomplished by the MET task force over the past year, which was mainly focused on efforts in finding alternative parking for the estimated 188 spaces that will be lost during the reconstruction project

She indicated that the 188 spaces have been accounted for through alternative parking sites at the Ruby M. Sisson Library and The Springs Resort.

McFadden explained the task force has also taken on the task of developing a hard-copy informational map and developing a communication plan.

Commissioner Veronica Medina commented that the MET “has really accomplished their tasks” and that there has been consideration to “dissolve that” and allow other staff members, or the Main Street Advisory Board, to finish any remaining

projects.

McFadden noted that beyond the work of finding alternative parking, “I feel like we’ve served our mission.”

Pierce added that “a big thank you to the MET task force is in order,” noting it did a “great job,” and that the ambassador program could be run under the Main Street Advisory Board.

“You guys went above and beyond,” Pierce said.

Brown also expressed praise for the work of the MET task force, noting it did an “incredible” job, as most of its members were volunteers with other jobs.

Health officials see continued high levels of RSV, flu Preparing for possible measles cases

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

Local health officials are continuing to see elevated levels of seasonal illnesses, and are preparing for cases of measles that could present in the community as spring break crowds arrive.

On Tuesday evening, Pagosa Springs Medical Center CEO Dr. Rhonda Webb told the board of the Upper San Juan Health Service district (USJHSD), which oversees the medical facility) the facility has seen more RSV this year than in the last seven years.

Webb indicates in a Wednesday email to The SUN the medical facility is also seeing a lot of flu.

Flu levels remained very high in Colorado for the week ending Feb. 15 (the most recent data available), according to data from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The Archuleta County Public Health Department (ACPHD) echoed the sentiment of the recent high numbers of RSV and flu in our community in a Wednesday press release.

The ACPHD press release also indicates that vaccines remain available.

ACPHD, as well as other health care facilities in the community, offers immunization services for measles (the measles, mumps and rubella, or MMR, vaccine), RSV (for infants), flu and high-dose flu (for those 65+).

If you have any questions about these vaccinations, the ACPHD recommends talking to your doctor, pharmacist or health care provider.

You can also reach out to ACPHD with questions about vaccinations or health concerns by calling (970) 264-2409, visiting archuletacounty.org/publichealth or emailing Berklee Ruthardt at bruthardt@archuleta-county.org.

Measles

Local health officials are also preparing for the possible appearance of measles in the community as spring break begins in neighboring states.

According to the ACPHD press release, there are reports of outbreaks in both Texas and New Mexico.

Webb also reported to the USJHSD board Tuesday evening that PSMC staff are preparing for patients with measles symptoms over spring break.

Measles is a highly contagious disease caused by the measles virus, the ACPHD press release states.

Measles can cause serious health complications, especially for babies and young children.

It notes measles symptoms include high fever; cough; runny nose; red, watery eyes; and a rash which begins at the face and spreads down the body.

It further adds that the measles virus travels through the air. A sick person can spread measles by coughing, sneezing, breathing or talking. People can get measles when they breathe air with the measles virus, or if they get the virus on their hands touch and their face. Measles can stay in the air for up to two hours, so people can get measles even after a sick person has left the area.

The MMR vaccine is the strongest protection against measles, according to the ACPHD.

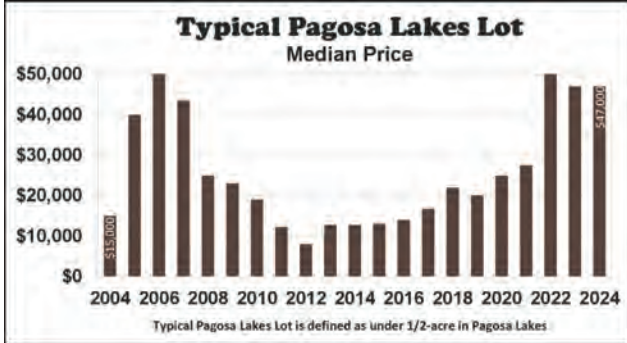
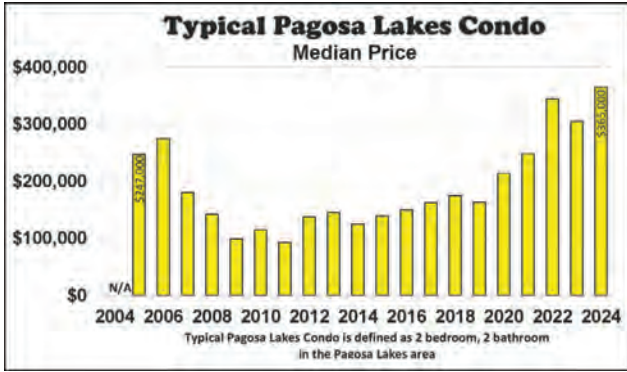
Children normally get the MMR vaccine at 1 and 4 years of age, according to the ACPHD. Most people who get measles in the United States are unvaccinated. Those who were not vaccinated against measles as a child can get the MMR vaccine as an adult.

If you have any questions about measles vaccination, the ACPHD encourages talking to your doctor, pharmacist or health care provider.

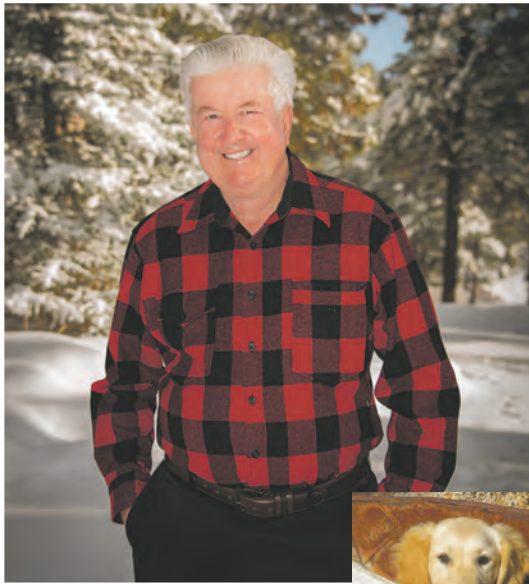
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Stats collected from the CREN MLS system												
Stats are intended to show trends in the area; they include activity for all area agents, not just Lee Riley												
	YTD Properties Sold						Inventory Available					
Homes	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	% Difference	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	% Difference
All	531	504	368	328	313	-5%	88	50	102	106	133	+25%
	YTD Properties Sold						Inventory Available					
Condos	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	% Difference	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	% Difference
All	103	96	84	55	68	+24%	4	3	5	22	29	+32%
	YTD Properties Sold						Inventory Available					
Vacant Lots	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	% Difference	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	% Difference
All	437	713	379	281	286	+2%	377	163	251	261	267	+2%
	YTD Properties Sold						Inventory Available					
Other	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	% Difference	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	% Difference
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 Construction Permits					
YTD Total Sales	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	% Difference	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	% Difference
	1087	1335	847	679	686	+1%	124	153	127	99	131	+32%



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preview

ARTS & LIFE

‘The Odd Couple (Female Version)’

Feb. 28 to March 15 • Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts



Photo courtesy Thingamajig Theatre Company

Neil Simon’s ‘The Odd Couple (Female Version)’ to open Feb. 28

By Tim Moore
Thingamajig Theatre Company

The Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts and Thingamajig Theatre Company are ready to present its latest production, “The Odd Couple (Female Version)” by Neil Simon, opening Feb. 28 and running through March 15.

Directed by Dennis Elkins, this sharp-witted and laugh-out-loud comedy brings a fresh spin to one of Broadway’s most beloved plays.

In this updated version of Simon’s classic, the famously mismatched roommates — originally Oscar and Felix — become Olive Madison, a carefree sportswriter played by Ivy King, and Florence Unger, an obsessively tidy and anxious divorcee played by Karisa Bruin. When Florence moves into Olive’s apartment after her marriage falls apart, their clashing personalities lead to a whirlwind of hilarious conflicts, unexpected heart and plenty of unforgettable one-liners.

“The beauty of Neil Simon’s writing is that it never gets old,” said Director Dennis Elkins. “This version takes the wit of the original play and gives it a fresh perspective. At its core, it’s still a story about friendship, differences and the hilarious ways we navigate relationships.”

Featuring a talented ensemble



Photo courtesy Thingamajig Theatre Company

A scene from “The Odd Couple (Female Version)” at the Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts features Gus Palma (left) and Sean Carter (right) bringing charm as the Costazuela brothers and sharing a moment with Karisa Bruin (second from right) as Florence and Ivy King (second from left) as Olive in this hilarious take on Neil Simon’s classic comedy.

cast, the production also introduces a lively group of Trivial Pursuit-playing friends and the charming Costazuela brothers, adding even more humor and heart to this timeless comedy.

Opening night on Feb. 28 promises an evening of sharp dialogue,

dynamic performances and plenty of laughs as well as an opening night talk-back with the cast and crew.

Don’t miss out on this classic comedy with a fresh twist. Secure your seats now by calling (970) 731-SHOW (7469) or visiting pagosacenter.org.

Live Performers

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

Friday
The Springs Resort lodge atrium: Bluegrass Cadillac, 5 p.m.

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

Tuesday
The Springs Resort lodge atrium: Ron and Susan, 5 p.m.

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Digital abuse: the new frontier of teen dating violence

By Marissa Marquez
Rise Above Violence

Teen dating violence doesn't always leave bruises. It can be silent, invisible and happening right on your teen's phone. As technology becomes intertwined with relationships, digital abuse is on the rise, and many parents don't even realize it's happening.

What is digital dating abuse?

Digital abuse occurs when a partner uses technology to harass, control or manipulate their significant other. Common forms include:

- Constantly checking a teen's location through apps (Snapchat or Live360).
- Demanding passwords for social media or phone.
- Monitoring texts and social media interactions.
- Sending threats or humiliating messages.
- Pressuring for inappropriate photos (sexting).

Many teens may not recognize these behaviors as abusive, dismissing them as "love" or "caring too much." But, these tactics can escalate into deeper emotional abuse and control.

How parents can protect their teens

- Stay involved in their digital world: Without invading their privacy, have conversations about healthy online boundaries and safety.
- Teach digital consent: Let your teen know that no one has the right to demand their passwords or track their phone.
- Encourage open communication: Ask about their online interactions without judgment so they feel safe sharing concerns.

Set social media rules together: Help them navigate digital relationships wisely by discussing privacy settings, blocking/reporting options and red flags. With technology shaping modern relationships, education and awareness are key. This Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month, let's equip our teens with the tools to protect themselves, both in real life and online. Rise Above Violence is a nonprofit

that serves victims of domestic violence and sexual assault in Pagosa Springs. Rise provides 24/7 crisis support, advocacy and long-term resources for victims and survivors. Through prevention education and community outreach, Rise works to end violence before it starts. Call our 24/7 hotline at (970) 264-9075 to reach a trained advocate. Parents and teens can call the hotline at any time.

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Photo courtesy Healthy Archuleta

Community members, health care professionals and local leaders gather at Pagosa Springs Medical Center for a presentation on Archuleta County’s Behavioral Health Landscape Assessment.

Strengthening behavioral health in Archuleta County: key insights from landscape assessment

Healthy Archuleta

Last Friday, community members, health care professionals and local leaders gathered at Pagosa Springs Medical Center (PSMC) for a pivotal presentation on Archuleta County’s Behavioral Health Landscape Assessment.

This event, hosted by Healthy Archuleta, marked a significant milestone in addressing the evolving mental and behavioral health needs of our community — needs that are becoming increasingly urgent as economic, social and cultural challenges grow more complex.

The assessment, conducted during the fall of 2024, provided valuable insights into the current state of mental and behavioral health in Archuleta County.

The event drew a diverse group of more than 25 in-person attendees, including representatives from community-based organizations,

school district leadership, primary care providers, local behavioral health professionals and remote participants from funding partner organizations. This strong turnout reflects a shared commitment across sectors to work collaboratively toward meaningful change.

At the heart of this initiative is Healthy Archuleta’s commitment to transforming these findings into action in collaboration with local partner organizations and providers.

Working closely with community members and organizational partners, Healthy Archuleta is set to implement the recommendations outlined in the assessment, fostering a healthier and more equitable future for all residents. Central to this effort is the organization’s partnership with a local mental and behavioral health provider which will soon incorporate Spanish-language telehealth services into its offerings — an essential step toward expanding access for the

county’s Spanish-speaking residents.

Key recommendations from the assessment focus on expanding the capacity of primary care providers to integrate mental and behavioral health care into their practices. This includes increasing access to trauma-informed, culturally competent care, ensuring providers can better meet the diverse needs of the community.

Addressing language barriers remains a priority, with Healthy Archuleta supporting interpretation training for bilingual navigators and community members, offering a pathway toward medical interpreter certification to enhance communication and accessibility.

■ See Assessment on next page

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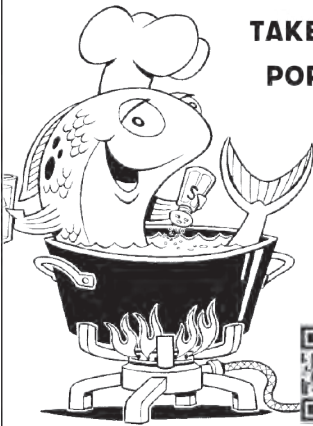
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Pagosa Peak Genealogical Society to meet Saturday

By Carolyn Paschal

Pagosa Peak Genealogical Society

The Pagosa Peak Genealogical Society will hold its regular monthly meeting this Saturday, March 1.

We will meet from 10 a.m. to noon at the Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St., in the fellowship hall.

There will be a short business meeting followed by a video presentation by Lisa Louise Cooke as she interviews professional genealogist Shelley Bishop about finding maiden names.

Finding female ancestors poses unique challenges that can throw roadblocks in your way. And the reason for that is simple. The women in our family tree assume the surname of their husbands when they marry.

In genealogy, we're researching backward through time, and that

means we encounter a woman's married surname first. However, it's critical that we eventually locate the records that mention the woman's maiden name so that we can find her parents and continue to climb her family tree.

Bishop has come to the rescue in her new family tree magazine article. It's called "Ladies in Waiting." In that article, she covers 12 resources for discovering maiden names.


The genealogical society meets on the first Saturday of each month. It hosts guest speakers on a wide range of topics relating to genealogy and history, including the rich history of our local area.

We are a member of the Colorado Council of Genealogical Societies, where we have access to professional speakers from across the state. Our society has also partnered with the Town of Pagosa Springs in its ongoing

efforts to research and improve our local cemeteries.


Visitors are encouraged to attend our meetings.

For more information, please contact Carolyn Paschal at carolyn-paschal@gmail.com or check out our website, pagosapeakgs.org.



Every Thursday
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Growing

■ continued from previous page

Expanding access to bilingual mental and behavioral health providers through partnerships and telehealth services is another critical step. The local mental and behavioral health provider agency will help lead this effort by offering expanded telehealth appointments for Spanish-speaking clients, connecting local residents with providers based in Denver.

A range of targeted training sessions and initiatives are already underway to support this comprehensive strategy. One participant is currently engaged in lay mental health training through Healthy Archuleta, ensuring that frontline support is available for those in need.

Collaboration among the Archuleta County Public Health Department, Healthy Archuleta, Authentic Solutions and the Pagosa Community Initiative has brought together these four organizations to enhance their capacity and collaborate through community health worker and navigator training opportunities. Notably, three of the local participants of this training are bilingual, improving language access for underserved populations.

Healthy Archuleta is also committed to increasing suicide prevention awareness through Question, Persuade, and Refer Training, offering specialized training in Spanish to both team members and the wider community.

In an effort to better understand mental and behavioral health through a cultural lens, Healthy Archuleta is collaborating with Dr. Jose Canaca, a renowned psychiatrist, who will facilitate two sessions in early April.

On April 7, Canaca, will present a cultural competency and integrated mental health training to local health care providers, followed by a mental

and behavioral health literacy community conversation on April 8 in Spanish.

These initiatives represent Healthy Archuleta's proactive approach to addressing the mental and behavioral health needs of Archuleta County, ensuring that support is accessible, culturally responsive and linguistically inclusive. The implementation of these strategies marks not just a continuation of Healthy Archuleta's mission, but a deepened commitment to fostering collaboration and building a more resilient, connected community.

The path forward requires the collective effort of health care providers, organizational partners and residents. By acting on the recommendations from the Behavioral Health Landscape Assessment, Archuleta County can ensure that every member of the community has the opportunity to thrive — no matter their language, background or circumstance.

Finally, as a community resource there is also a new National Suicide and Crisis Line. This can be accessed through its website, calling in, text or chat to 988 and is staffed by Spanish and English professionals 24/7, and they have recently added American Sign Language. This is not only for those in crisis, but those worried about someone who may need crisis support for suicide, mental health and/or substance abuse crisis.

For more information about Healthy Archuleta's initiatives or to get involved, visit www.foodcoalition4archuleta.org or send us an email at fssearchuleta@gmail.com.



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.

Informative.

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Unitarian Universalists announce March schedule

By De Anna Hoyle
Pagosa Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

We are honored to have outstanding programs that our wider Pagosa community offers at the Pagosa Unitarian Universalist (UU) Fellowship. This Sunday, March 2, beginning at 10:30 a.m., is no exception. We will welcome Herb Grover, a resident of Pagosa Springs who can highlight the beauty and share his expertise on climate change and its effects to planet earth.

As Unitarian Universalists, we honor the interdependent web of all existence and honor our place in it. Following are the programs and services in the upcoming month.

March 2
Meditation practice, 9 a.m.: A short practice lasting about 45 minutes.

Sunday service, 10:30 a.m.: “Threats to Biodiversity - Making It Personal” with Grover.

Conservation biologists have been sounding the alarm for many years that, as a result of the global impact of the human endeavor, the biosphere is undergoing a sixth mass extinction event. The number of disappearing species, coupled with the decline in numbers of virtually all forms of wildlife, paint a picture that for some is overwhelming.

In this week’s talk, Grover, a retired university professor of ecology and environmental science, will bring the topic of threats to biodiver-

sity home by reviewing the results of a bird-monitoring project he helps coordinate through our local Weminuche Audubon Society, and through his personal efforts to observe, photograph and share with others the beauty of our surroundings.

His talk will also draw attention to the Unitarian Universalist seventh principle concerning the interconnectedness and interdependence of all living things through a discussion of if there is a universal appreciation of beauty in nature and, if so, how this might promote more inclusive environmental stewardship.

March 9
Meditation practice and dharma talk, 9 to 10:15 a.m.

Going Deeper Sharing Circle, 10:30 a.m.: We come together in this small-group setting to share with one another and practice deep listening. We explore themes of recent topics and leave space for reflection and for whatever else is on our hearts.

Come make friends in this lightly facilitated group. Light refreshments will be offered.

March 16
Meditation practice, 9 a.m.: A short practice lasting about 45 minutes.

Sunday service, 10:30 a.m.: “Spring Renewal” with Michael Demchak and De Anna Hoyle.

As the seasonal wheel turns toward the spring equinox, our focus shifts from the internal to the external

as light and darkness come into balance. Demchak will hold space for story and song as we enter this time of spring renewal.

March 23
Meditation practice and dharma talk, 9 to 10:15 a.m.

Action Sunday, 10:30 a.m.: Pagosa Community Initiative (PCI) Director Rebecca Tenpenny will share about the work of PCI, a local nonprofit.

Join us as we journey on a path to build community to put our values into action.

March 30
There will be no programming on this fifth Sunday.

About
Pagosa UU continues a focus on being a UU welcoming congregation. We are committed to confronting the biases toward marginalized individuals and groups. In that spirit, we invite all people, regardless of their sexual or gender expression, who or how they love, all are welcome here. As a spiritual community we strive to “Do Good, Grow in Spirit, and Make Friends.”

Join us in-person at our Sunday services 10:30 a.m. Find us in Unit B-15 of the Greenbriar Plaza 301 N. Pagosa Blvd., on the north side facing the Pagosa Peak.

Visit our website, www.pagosauu.org, to find our current newsletter with a link to join us on Zoom the first and third Sunday of each month.

SpiritFire Inspirational Living Center to hold Sunday service

By Shayla McClure
SpiritFire Inspirational Living Center

The Sunday service at 11 a.m. on March 2 at the SpiritFire Inspirational Living Center will feature “The One Miracle Meditation With the Violet Flame” on transforming into grace with Shayla Azriel, inspirational speaker on body, mind and spirit.

A love donation will be taken.

About us
The SpiritFire Inspirational Living Center is a 501(c)(3). We are an

all-inclusive community honoring all lifestyles, cultures and religious paths to the Divine. We are the “Good Vibe Tribe” who practices Science of Mind principles of positive thinking.

The vision of SpiritFire Inspirational Living Center is to empower each participating member to become their “best self.” Our mission is to create a world that works for everyone through self empowerment and awareness of the creator’s divinity.

We welcome local talents to share gifts, aptitudes and knowledge.

SpiritFire Inspirational Living Center events are held at 3505 W. U.S. 160, on the second floor of the Pagosa Lodge (elevator available). Obtain information by joining us; emailing pagosacommunitynewthought@gmail.com; mailing P.O. Box 1052, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147; or calling (970) 510-0309.

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Pagosa Springs Catholic Community announces Lent schedule

By Shanna Robb
Pagosa Springs Catholic Community

Lent is a religious observation that many Christians around the world follow. Although the start date may vary slightly among different denominations, the focus remains on Jesus' sacrifice on the cross.

The 40-day devotional echoes the 40 days Jesus spent fasting in the desert and enduring temptation by Satan, as described in the gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke.

Lent is a period marked by grief, repentance and preparation for Easter. It is a time when Christians are encouraged to spend more time praying on Jesus' teachings, following the self-discipline of fasting, and seeking ways to give of their time or money through almsgiving.

Lent is a personal invitation to reflect on Jesus' final days and hours leading to His crucifixion on Good Friday. It is an opportunity to recognize the everlasting life purchased through

Jesus' passion, death and resurrection. In addition to regularly scheduled daily and weekend Masses, the following 2025 Lenten journey is being led by the Pagosa Springs Catholic Community. Pope John Paul II Catholic Church (JP II) is located at 353 S. Pagosa Blvd and Immaculate Heart of Mary (IHM) is located at 455 Lewis St.

For more information, visit ihmjp2.org.

Upcoming Lenten events

March 5

The Ash Wednesday Mass options are JP II (8 a.m. or 5:30 p.m.) and IHM (12:15 p.m.). There will be a meatless soup and salad potluck following the 5:30 p.m. Mass at JP II.

March 5 to April 11

- There will be Stations of the Cross at JP II every Friday at 7 p.m. and every Wednesday at IHM following 4 p.m. Rosary.
- There will be Lenten Adoration and Benediction at JP II from 6 p.m. to

7 p.m. every Thursday.

- The 29th Annual Knights of Columbus Fish Fry will be from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at JP II every Friday starting March 7. There will be inside dining or drive-through available. The \$15 meal includes two fish fillets, home-cut fries and coleslaw. See the display ad for more details.

April 12 and 13

Visit ihmjp2.org for the Palm Sunday Mass schedule.

April 17

The Holy Thursday Mass will be at JP II at 7 p.m.

April 18: Good Friday

- Put Hill Pilgrimage will start at IHM at 2 p.m. and proceed to JP II. There will be water stations along the route.
- There will be Stations of the Cross in the Prayer Garden behind JP II at 4:30 p.m.
- The Good Friday Liturgy Service will be at JP II starting 5:30 p.m.

Ash Wednesday services planned

Community United Methodist Church and St. Patrick's Episcopal Church

Lent, Martin Smith writes, "is about the freedom which is gained only through exposure to the truth."

Ash Wednesday invites us to enter into the season of Lent, acknowledge and accept our failures and God's grace in the midst of them.

This Ash Wednesday, March 5, from 8:15 a.m. to 9:15 a.m., Ken Dani-

ell of the Community United Methodist Church, and Wren Blessing and Wendy McAllister of St. Patrick's Episcopal Church will be outside the Geothermal Greenhouse Partnership

■ See Services on next page

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Easter Season Services

Following are the Lent, Holy Week and Easter services that were submitted to The PREVIEW. Events may be submitted to editor@pagosasun.com.

Wednesday, March 5

Ash Wednesday Mass. 8 a.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church, 353 S. Pagosa Blvd.

Ash Wednesday Service. 8:15-9:15 a.m., Geothermal Greenhouse Partnership amphitheater. Ken Daniell of the Community United Methodist Church, and Wren Blessing and Wendy McAllister of St. Patrick's Episcopal Church to pray with those who desire it and prepared to impose ashes on a walk-up basis.

Ash Wednesday Service. Noon, St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd. Service with prayer, song and the imposition of ashes.

Ash Wednesday Mass. 12:15 p.m., Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church, 455 Lewis St.

Ash Wednesday Mass. 5:30 p.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church, 353 S. Pagosa Blvd. A meatless soup and salad potluck will follow.

Ash Wednesday Service. 6 p.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd. Liturgy with prayer, song, the imposition of ashes and communion.

Ash Wednesday Service. 6 p.m., Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St.

Thursday, March 6

Lenten Adoration and Benediction. 6-7 p.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church, 353 S. Pagosa Blvd.

Friday, March 7

Stations of the Cross. 7 p.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church, 353 S. Pagosa Blvd.

Wednesday, March 12

Stations of the Cross. Following 4 p.m. rosary, Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church, 455 Lewis St.

Thursday, March 13

Lenten Adoration and Benediction. 6-7 p.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church, 353 S. Pagosa Blvd.

Friday, March 14

Stations of the Cross. 7 p.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church, 353 S. Pagosa Blvd.

Services

■ continued from previous page
amphitheater on the Pagosa Springs Riverwalk ready to pray with those who desire it and prepared to impose ashes on a walk-up basis.

St. Patrick's will hold two Ash Wednesday services at 225 S. Pagosa Blvd.: one at noon with prayer, song and the imposition of ashes, and a

Wednesday, March 19

Stations of the Cross. Following 4 p.m. rosary, Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church, 455 Lewis St.

Thursday, March 20

Lenten Adoration and Benediction. 6-7 p.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church, 353 S. Pagosa Blvd.

Friday, March 21

Stations of the Cross. 7 p.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church, 353 S. Pagosa Blvd.

Wednesday, March 26

Stations of the Cross. Following 4 p.m. rosary, Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church, 455 Lewis St.

Thursday, March 27

Lenten Adoration and Benediction. 6-7 p.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church, 353 S. Pagosa Blvd.

Friday, March 28

Stations of the Cross. 7 p.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church, 353 S. Pagosa Blvd.

Wednesday, April 2

Stations of the Cross. Following 4 p.m. rosary, Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church, 455 Lewis St.

Thursday, April 3

Lenten Adoration and Benediction. 6-7 p.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church, 353 S. Pagosa Blvd.

Friday, April 4

Stations of the Cross. 7 p.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church, 353 S. Pagosa Blvd.

Wednesday, April 9

Stations of the Cross. Following 4 p.m. rosary, Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church, 455 Lewis St.

Thursday, April 10

Lenten Adoration and Benediction. 6-7 p.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church, 353 S. Pagosa Blvd.

Friday, April 11

Stations of the Cross. 7 p.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church, 353 S. Pagosa Blvd.

liturgy at 6 p.m. with prayer, song, the imposition of ashes and communion.

The Community United Methodist Church at 434 Lewis St. will also conduct an Ash Wednesday service at 6 p.m.

All are welcome to attend any of these Ash Wednesday observances.

Saturday, April 12

Palm Sunday Mass. 4 p.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church, 353 S. Pagosa Blvd.

Sunday, April 13

Palm Sunday Mass. 9 a.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church, 353 S. Pagosa Blvd.

Palm Sunday Mass. 11:15 a.m., Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church, 455 Lewis St.

Thursday, April 17

Holy Thursday Mass. 7 p.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church, 353 S. Pagosa Blvd.

Friday, April 18

Pilgrimage. 2 p.m., Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church, 455 Lewis St. The pilgrimage will proceed to Pope John Paul II Catholic Church.

Stations of the Cross. 4:30 p.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church prayer garden, 353 S. Pagosa Blvd.

Good Friday Liturgy Service. 5:30 p.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church, 353 S. Pagosa Blvd.



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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!





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Delivering a hard message

By Betty Slade
PREVIEW Columnist

Have you faced a moment you couldn't explain?

God has propelled me out of my comfort at times, and I knew the heavens were raging and were agitated. I could sense the outburst from God when He used my mouth to deliver a hard message.

I asked myself, "What was that and why me?"

Two times came to mind that I will never forget. My reactions later told me this hard message wasn't of me but must be spoken — a word from the Lord that pushed me forward to act. My reaction was so painful and piercing, I shook to the core and wept like a baby.

I said to my Sweet Al, "Do you remember when we went to the national sales meeting at the Four Seasons in Albuquerque? I told you what happened to me during lunch, didn't I?"

"No. I don't remember."

"In 1963, we were invited to an insurance convention. Your company pumped up the salesmen in the big meeting room."

They provided a separate luncheon for the wives. Into a room of 300 women, they brought in a woman who was going to teach us how to read tarot cards and tea leaves.

She introduced herself. She was from a family of witches and would tell our fortunes later. The women were enthralled as they leaned forward to listen.

I stood. My voice reached across the vast room. "I can't stay for this. You're playing in the Devil's playground."

I looked at the wives, "Does anyone know what's happening?"

The women looked my way, then to the teacher, then back to me and my reactions.

I left my half-eaten salad and made my way through that large room of women and round tables. No one followed. I shook as I reached for the door handle. With force, I pulled the door, closed it behind me and collapsed into a puddle. What just happened? Being very young in the Lord, I couldn't explain it, but I knew enough to know it wasn't right and I couldn't stay. Possibly someone needed to hear the message and would think about it later.

The women went on with their business. I could hear laughter and chatting from the other side of the door, probably them thinking I was that crazy woman and that they were glad I removed myself before someone from the hotel security did.

Similar things have happened to me over the years.

Another time, late morning, I said to Al, "I have to go. I don't know why." I didn't plan to say anything, just honor a person I had known for years. I arrived and slipped into a

Artist's Lane

I left my half-eaten salad and made my way through that large room of women and round tables. No one followed. I shook as I reached for the door handle.

room where everyone was praying.

I knew something wasn't right. A flash of lightning came through my voice, "Have you asked God about all of this? Do you know what you're doing?"

Why was I the one to deliver these words to a room of Christians? I stood. I left shaking to my core once again. Please, someone follow me and reassure me. No one did.

In the car, I sat behind the steering wheel and wept, finally able to bring myself under control to start the car. Driving home at 20 miles an hour, I managed to get into the house and I fell on the bed.

I learned when you have a message from God, few can hear it, and no one is there to reinforce you. Many will feel you have interrupted their lives and it is best you just go away.

I felt on trial. But really, who was on trial? God or the devil? Good or evil? Paraphrasing 1 Corinthians 15:24-28, until everything is brought to the feet of Jesus and God is all in all, evil has put good on trial.

Something moved me in the secular and Christian settings I had no power over. I didn't need to be seen or heard, but God needed to deliver a hard message.

Today as I pondered these things, I read notes I had jotted down in my journal on Dec 26, 2019: "Mysteries come in appointed times, not years. In the ancient times, they didn't number the years but marked appointed times. Mysteries move behind all human events and turn the path of leaders. Also, it reveals the thread of the Master's loom."

Final brushstroke: Times are set in heaven, where there is no time and where good fights the forces of evil.

God is winning and He goes before us. What is happening on this earth is only the reaction to what has been already been done in heaven. That's the mystery.

Views expressed do not necessarily represent those of The SUN.

Sponsored Content

High Country Title announces new era for local title services, Delani Smith new manager

High Country Title

High Country Title announces new management, bringing a fresh vision, updated office, and enhanced services to better serve the real estate agents, home buyers and sellers of Pagosa Springs and Archuleta County.

The title company has served the Pagosa Springs community for over 30 years and provides underwriting services with Fidelity, WFG and Stewart Title.

Delani Smith has been named President and closing officer of High Country Title. She is a licensed Resident Producer in Colorado. Smith will serve as the manager of the Pagosa Springs office.

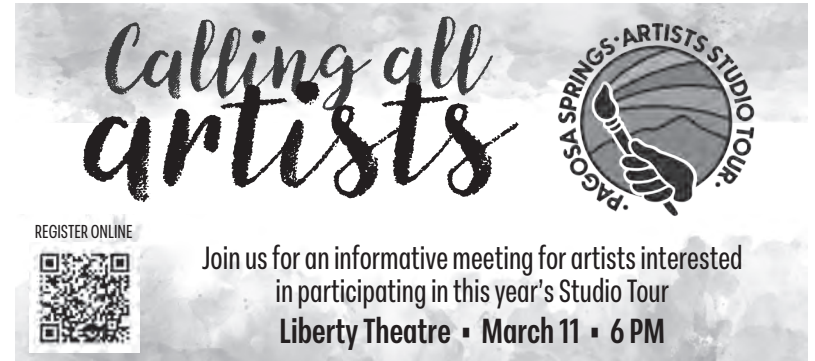
Smith is well-known and highly trusted in the community. She has lived in the area for about 10 years and is eager to serve and support the people of Pagosa Springs with the professionalism and care they deserve.

Local resident Jennifer Rose will capably assist Smith in the High Country Title offices. Rose is a closing assistant and also works in the escrow department of the company.

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- Enhanced escrow company features — payment links, client dash-



Delani Smith

board, reminders.

- Competitive market pricing.
- Quicker closing and turn-around times.

Contact information

High Country Title is located at 486 Lewis Street in downtown Pagosa Springs. Their mailing address is P.O. Box 2400, Pagosa Springs CO 81147.

You can also reach the title company by phone, (970) 480-0635.

Order titles from High Country Title by emailing orders@highcoun-

trytitle.co.

High Country Title is part of The Pagosa Springs SUN sponsored content program.



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Middle school principal’s advice to parents plus free tax help coming to your library

By Carole Howard
PREVIEW Columnist, and the library staff

In today’s world dominated by social media and smartphones, new issues relating to youth mental health have arisen dramatically since the early 2010s — thankfully, along with helpful advice from experts on how to handle this urgent situation.

That’s why we are delighted to host Chris Hinger, Pagosa Springs Middle School principal, with a talk aimed at parents of middle and high school students on Tuesday, March 4, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

In addition to sharing his own experiences at the middle school, and as a father of six, Hinger’s presentation will rely on “The Anxious Generation: How the Great Rewiring of Childhood is Causing an Epidemic of Mental Illness” by Jonathan Haidt, a social psychologist. This book has been on the New York Times best-seller list for more than 40 weeks, frequently at the top of the prestigious list.

In his book, Haidt lays out the consequences of allowing kids to drift too deeply into the virtual world instead of enjoying traditional childhood playtimes and interactions. As well, it offers suggestions and solutions to help protect the health of our youth.

Hinger’s talk also will outline changes made at the middle school to deal with this complex and hugely important issue in the U.S. and our community.

Your library has three copies of “The Anxious Generation” available for checkout, with 12 more on order from our Interlibrary Loan alliance. Hinger will be encouraging his audience to read it.

Free tax help

If you need help with your taxes, an expert from VITA is offering free individual sessions at your library on Monday, March 3, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Everyone is welcome, but appointments must be made in advance by calling Katherine at (970) 553-9150. That also will give her a chance to chat about your income and other personalized needs you have.

She has dropped off tax packets at the library for patrons who have scheduled an appointment with her. After you have made an appointment, she would like you to pick one up and complete the information before you meet with her.

Library closure

Your library will be closed next Friday, March 7, for all-day staff training.

Science fun for kids tomorrow

A free steam engines program of science fun for ages 6-10 happens

Library News

tomorrow, Friday, Feb. 28, from 2 to 3:30 p.m.

LEGO Club Saturday

Kids aged 6-11 are invited to the free LEGO Club on Saturday, March 6, from 11 a.m. to noon. Bring your own LEGOs or use ours to free build.

Exercise program at Senior Center Monday

In a new community outreach program, Judy, adult services librarian, will lead an exercise program at the Pagosa Senior Center on Monday, March 3, from 10 to 10:45 a.m.

It is a brain fitness program consisting of 21 simple exercises designed for all ages and abilities, performed while sitting in a chair. The Senior Center location was chosen so participants have more privacy as they exercise.

Music fun Monday

Pagosa Unplugged is free from 4 to 6 p.m. on Monday, March 3, 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 required.

Spanish conversation

Practice your Spanish in a free group setting on Tuesday, March 4, from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. There is no minimum skill level needed.

Note this group now meets twice a month, on the first and third Tuesdays.

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.

Special Dungeons and Dragons sessions

Join our friends at the Pagosa Community Initiative (PCI) Thursdays, March 6, 13 and 20, from 4 to 5:30 p.m. for an afterschool adven-

ture. Registration is required. Participants must be in middle school and registered with the PCI afterschool programs.

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.

“Tales from the San Juans” is an anthology of members’ writing available in the collection for you to borrow and also for purchase to benefit the library’s foundation.

ESL classes

Free in-person evening classes take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays, with 4 to 5 p.m. reserved for beginners, 5 to 6 p.m. for intermediate and 6 to 7 p.m. for advanced students. Please help us share the word about these classes.

Tech Time

Free in-person slots are available from 10 a.m. to noon Tuesdays and 2 to 4 p.m. Thursdays. Judy helps you with basic questions relating to computers, smartphones and tablets, and also provides assistance in accessing the library’s online resources.

No appointment is needed for these drop-in sessions, but please bring your device’s charger and passwords with you.

Pagosa Adult Learning Services (PALS)

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

Activities calendars

Pick up monthly events calendars at the library so you don’t miss any of the free activities available to you and your family.

Downloadable books

CloudLibrary has a wide variety of downloadable e-books and audiobooks for all ages. To access this free digital collection, download the cloudLibrary app, answer a few simple questions, select AspenCat Union Catalog for the name of your library, then enter your library card number and four-digit PIN. Library staff are happy to help you set up your device if you need assistance.

Poetry collection

“An Anthem for the Dreaming Lost” by poet Samuel Hurley is a collection of more than 150 pieces of poetry and prose written predominantly in free and blank verse. The works explore themes of childhood, profound loss, romance, contemplation, wonder and imagination.

■ See Library on next page

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Preview Calendar

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

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.

es. 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.

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. 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

■ See Calendar on next page

Library

■ continued from previous page Novels

"Unloved" by Peyton Corinne features a skilled hockey player failing in the classroom and his newly assigned tutor. "Listen to Your Sister" by Neena Viel is in turns a comedic and terrifying story about an older sister guardian and her teenage brother. "All Fours" by Miranda July follows a 45-year-old semi-famous artist who leaves her husband and child at home for a new adventure.

How-to and self-help

"Speech Therapy for Toddlers" describes 137 simple games and toys parents and caregivers can use to help children with delayed speech and language skills. "The New Rules of Investing" by Mark H. Haefele, chief investment officer of UBS, is a guide to protecting and growing your wealth in today's turbulent times. "DIY Camper & RV Reno" by Janelle and Chadwick Payne shows you how to restore and design vintage, retro and classic trailers and RVs. "Drawing on the Right Side of the Brain" by Betty Edwards is an updated guide offering new tools for artists from amateurs to experts. "Go Higher" by Big Sean describes five practices the musician as used for his own self-care. "The Everything Guitar Chords Book" by Marc Schonbrun includes an online audio to guide you from basic to the most complicated guitar chords. "Graphic Design for Dummies" by Ben Hannam with bonus chapters online provides advice and practice exercises to help you turn graphic design into a career.

Other nonfiction

"Train: the Definitive Visual History" is a DK Smithsonian book that looks at more than 400 memorable trains and rail routes. "DK Smithsonian Flight" is a comprehensive history from aviation pioneers to current spaceflight technology. "The Craziest" by Amy Gamerman documents a showdown when a rancher wants to install wind turbines in Montana.

"Living the Van Life" by Noami J. Grevemberg tells of full-time life on the road with the author's husband and their German shepherd.

Thanks to your donors

We are grateful to Denise Cote for her materials donations in memory of Leigh Cote.

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, VHS or cassette tapes because they do not sell at Friends of the Library sales.

When the library is open, high-quality 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.

Quotable quote

"Your body is like your mind — it needs to be worked. Once it's dormant, it will take a while to get it cranked up again, so I stay active. And that's all about practice. It's learning to use your time and space ... [and] incorporating exercise into your lifestyle." — Michelle Yeoh, Malaysian actress and winner of an Academy Award and Golden Globe for her performance in "Everything Everywhere All at Once." She began her career in action and martial arts films doing her own stunts.

Website

For more information on library books, services and programs — and to reserve books, e-books, books on CD and DVDs from the comfort of your home — please visit our website at <https://pagosalibrary.org>.

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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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.68 acre, 1440 square foot commercial building. There is enough property to build another building or make a large wrap around parking lot. There is a 3000 BTU gas heater and a 40 gallon hot water heater. The doors and walls have a 90 minute fireproof rating. Walls are removable so the floor plan could be opened up. There is a kitchen sink, stove and dishwasher, half bath and the overhead door is 8' x 10'.



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Preview Calendar

■ continued from previous page
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.org.

Pagosa Peak Genealogical Society. 10 a.m.-noon, Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St.

It's all for His glory

By Sami Fortin
PREVIEW Columnist

Have you ever wondered why you're here or why so many disasters are happening around the world? Why is there sadness or anger, sickness, and pain? You might not like this answer, but it is all for His glory. That you might seek after him and want to discover grace and knowledge of the Holy One, the Creator of the universe.

Through Christ, God created everything in the heavenly realm and on earth, the things we see and the things we don't. As he tells us in Psalm 24:7-10 to lift up our heads, O gates, be lifted up ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. You might ask, who is this King of glory? Well, let me tell you. He is the Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle. Who is He? The Lord of hosts (angel armies), He is the king of glory, worthy of our attention, time, thoughts and deeds.

No matter what you're going through, you can go to the Bible and see people like Moses being trapped between a rock and a hard place. His words from Exodus 14:13 — "Do not be afraid" — will make you stand and see the salvation of the Lord. Why was Pharaoh chasing him? So that the Egyptians (with any doubt) would know that he is the Lord and he was glorified through Pharaoh and his chariots.

Moses made it because he trusted the Holy One. This is what it's about, so that the nations will fear the name of the Lord and all the kings of the earth will recognize His glory. He wants us to "know" Him. There will come a time of famine, not of food, but of His word. A hunger will come for hearing the word of the Lord. Let us come before his throne of mercy now to receive grace in our time of need. More than ever we need to shift our focus from his love and peace and know that his judgment is coming.

There will be a short business meeting followed by a video presentation about finding maiden names.

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

■ See Calendar on next page

A Matter of Faith

He is a just God and if we'll ask, He'll make His glory known.

Can you imagine what the Israelites saw when the whole community looked out toward the wilderness and could see the awesome glory of the Lord in the cloud? That's a moment to take your shoes off. God blesses those who are poor and realize their need for him. So, prepare your minds for action, be completely sober, steadfast, self-disciplined and fix your hope fully on the grace that is coming to you when Jesus Christ is revealed.

Abba, Father,

We know you do these things to make the riches of your glory shine even brighter on those to whom you show mercy, who were prepared in advance for glory. What privileges we have as children of God growing up into your likeness. As the heavens declare your righteousness, let all the people see your glory and brilliance. Our sicknesses and even death are not the end. On the contrary, it is for the glory and honor of God so that the Son of God may be glorified by it. These troubles give us a reason to look up and trust you with the outcome. We know there's a new country which gives us hope and causes us to give thanks to you with all our heart, in the company of the upright and in the congregation for from you all things originate. Through you all things live and exist. And to you are all things directed. To you, our Holy God, be glory and honor forever. Amen.

This column may include both fiction and nonfiction, and views expressed do not necessarily represent those of The SUN. Submissions can be sent to editor@pagosasun.com.

HUD Publisher's Notice



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

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SUDOKU

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

Level: Beginner

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!

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

ANSWER:

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Preview Calendar

■ continued from previous page

Monday, March 3

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

Women's Fellowship. 9 a.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church classrooms.

VITA Tax Help. 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Sisson Library. Reservations are required. Call Kathy at (970) 553-9150 for an appointment.

Line Dancing. 9:30-11 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.

Brain Fitness and Mobility. 10-10:45 a.m., Senior Center. For anyone 21 and older.

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

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

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.

Habitat for Humanity Application Orientation. 5:30 p.m., Pagosa Springs Middle School library, 309 Lewis St.

Deepening the Faith Classes. 6-8 p.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church classrooms.

DivorceCare/DivorceCare for Kids. 6-7:30 p.m., Centerpoint Church, 2750 Cornerstone Drive. A 13-week program that provides a safe environment for people who have gone through, are going through or are considering divorce and features experts on divorce and recovery topics. DivorceCare for Kids is for kids 5-12, with topics mirroring the adult sessions. For more information, email Jim Shook at jshookup@gmail.com or the church at admin@centerpointpagosa.com. You can register online at www.divorcecare.org.

U.S. 160 Reconstruction Project Open House. 6-7:30 p.m., Archuleta County Extension Building Exhibit Hall, 344 U.S. 84. Representatives from CDOT and the contractor will be on hand to answer questions.

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, March 4

Veterans for Veterans of Archuleta County. 9 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

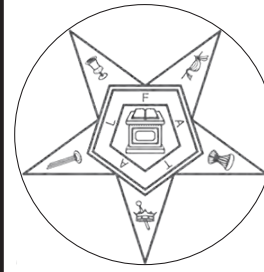
Conversational Spanish. 4:30-5:30 p.m., Sisson Library. Practice your Spanish conversation skills in a group setting. No minimum skill level required.

The Anxious Generation. 5:30-6:30 p.m., Sisson Library. Chris Hinger will present information on how "the great rewiring of childhood is creating an epidemic of mental illness" based on the bestselling book and what Pagosa Springs Middle School is doing.

PALS Adult Education. 5:30-8 p.m.,

Sisson Library. Pagosa Adult Learning Services, or PALS, can help you with high school equivalency, GED, college prep, financial aid, tutoring and more. Mark can help you develop a plan to achieve

■ See Calendar on next page



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CAN PROPER WATER INTAKE LOWER YOUR LDL CHOLESTEROL?

High cholesterol is primarily a dietary issue, not a drug issue.

Contrary to pharmaceutical advertising, the cure for high cholesterol, apparently, is not found in a pill. Part of the cure may be found in your faucet. Today's excerpt explains.

Although demonized by advertisers, cholesterol plays an important role in regulating metabolic functions and maintaining cellular balance. Both HDL and LDL cholesterol are necessary for good cellular and circulatory health.

Problems arise when the ratio of HDL to LDL becomes unbalanced as a consequence of physical inactivity and unbalanced nutrition. When cells become dehydrated, the cell walls thicken to preserve fluid balance. In the process, cholesterol production is increased, and more cholesterol is released into the circulatory system.

Hydration is vital to good circulatory health. Inadequate water consumption decreases blood volume, impacting arterial pressure. When extra cholesterol is released into a depleted bloodstream, it settles on arterial walls rather than being flushed through the body. Arterial cholesterol buildup eventually hardens into plaque, robbing arteries of their natural elasticity and compromising blood flow and oxygen delivery to the cells. Too much cholesterol on the cell walls can completely block arteries, leading to heart attack or stroke. Water also plays an important role in digestive health, facilitating the passage of food and waste through the system.

Your liver produces LDL cholesterol, often labeled the "bad" cholesterol, to produce bile acids to aid digestion. In a healthy body, after performing its role in bile production, LDL is rounded up and returned to the liver for future use. However, inadequate hydration, coupled with low-fiber, chemical-laden processed food, causes a digestive backup, prompting the liver to produce more cholesterol in an attempt to break down undigested food. The LDL then enters the circulatory system and builds up on arterial walls.

Source: "Does Chronic Dehydration Cause High Cholesterol?" By Michelle Matte. <http://www.livestrong.com>

Bonus Tip: Visit <http://www.AmazingFacts.org> for spiritual refreshment every week!

"Heal me, O Lord, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved: for thou art my praise." Jeremiah 17:14

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Preview Calendar

■ **continued from previous page**
your education goals. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information.
Men's Fellowship. 6 p.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church classrooms.

Wednesday, March 5

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@gmail.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 sign up.

Thursday, March 6

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.

Hundreds can get help with Medicare Part D prescription costs

By Eileen Doherty
Colorado Gerontological Society

Prescription drugs are costly for most everyone. Many Medicare beneficiaries qualify for help through Extra Help or Low Income Subsidy (LIS) operated by the Social Security Administration.
To be eligible, your gross income must be less than \$1,956 per month for a single person (\$2,927 per month for a couple) and you must have less than \$17,600 in resources for a single person (\$35,130 for a couple), excluding your house, one car, one term life insurance policy and an irrevocable burial policy. If you are

es. 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.
PALS Adult Education. 5:30-8 p.m., Sisson Library. Pagosa Adult Learning Services, or PALS, can help you with high school equivalency, GED, college prep, financial aid, tutoring and more. Mark can help you develop a plan to achieve your education goals. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information.
San Juan Outdoor Club. 6 p.m., PLPOA Clubhouse, 230 Port Ave. Social time will begin at 6 p.m., followed by the meeting at 6:30 p.m. David Ryan, author of several outdoor hiking and exploring books, will speak about many of the amazing places to hike and explore just across the border from San Juan County in New Mexico. He will also talk about how the mindset of wandering can lead to amazing discoveries every time you step outside.
Coffeehouse Nite. 7 p.m., Pagosa Peak Open School, 3133 Cornerstone Drive. Live music in an alcohol-free venue. Ron Lowe, Emily Tholberg, Keith Bruno, Brooks Letschworth, Jonathan and Jonah Dobson, Rain March and Bill Hudson will be featured. A \$10 donation includes complimentary coffee, tea and snacks. Proceeds will benefit the school.

Friday, March 7

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

Chess Club. 9:30-11:30 a.m., Sisson Library. Learn how to play chess with quick lessons and game time or practice your skills. All ages and abilities are welcome.
Bilingual Storytime. 10-11 a.m., Sisson Library. Join for an educational hour of reading, singing and free play.
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.org.
Pagosa Springs Scrapbook and Crafters Club. 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Senior Center dining room. Bring your creative and scrapbooking projects and share time with other crafters. Bring a dish to share for the potluck lunch.
Pagosa Springs Varsity Girls' Soccer. 11 a.m., Pagosa Springs High School. Pagosa Springs vs. Telluride.
Knitters Circle. 1-3 p.m., Sisson Library. Join new or experienced knitters to get help with your project, or sit and knit.
'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).



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Monday, March 24th at 5:30PM
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www.habitatarchuleta.org
970-264-6960



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 northern harrier.

Northern harriers are described as being owl-like raptors. Much like owls, these harriers have round facial disks — stiff feather patterns that direct sound to their ears. These feathers work in the same manner as cupping your hands behind your ears does to intensify and pinpoint sounds.

Like owls, northern harriers rely on their enhanced hearing ability to help locate prey both by sound and by sight. They forage on the wing, able to fly nonstop for hours, coursing low over the ground to hear and spot mice and voles moving beneath the vegetation. In addition to taking small mammals, they hunt small birds, large insects, snakes, lizards, frogs, and even larger prey like ducks and rabbits.

Unlike most owls, northern harriers hunt during the day, pouncing to grab spotted prey in their talons. They may stop to rest on low posts or on the ground and less often are in trees. In winter, groups may spend the night in the company of short-eared owls roosting on the ground.

These harriers build nests hidden in a clump of dense vegetation on the ground. The male mates with one or two females after advertising his territory in aerial sky dances. When food is abundant, he may have up to five mates. During incubation and the nestling period, the male provides food for the females and young. Young raised in monogamous relationships are provided more food and better protection from nest predators than those relying on a male providing for several broods.

Their distinctive low, rocking flight with wings held in a shallow V shape and patch of white rump feathers are identifying traits of northern harriers. They have slender builds and long rounded tails. The male is bluish-gray above and whitish underneath, earning him the nickname "gray ghost." Females are 10-20 percent larger and 50 percent heavier than males, and have brown upperparts and brown-streaked whitish undersides. Immatures resemble females but have buffy-colored undersides with less streaking.

In our area, northern harriers may show up year-round in many types of open terrain with good ground cover and rodent populations.

For information on events, visit www.weminucheaudubon.org and www.facebook.com/weminucheaudubon/.

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R F I A I B P M X E T O V U S A Y O S W
K A Y U F X W E C C R K C K G P C S T M

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

WORDS

- ALGINATE
- AMALGAM
- BRUSH
- CAVITY
- CHECKUP
- CLEANING
- CROWN
- CURING LIGHT
- DAM
- ELEVATOR
- EXPLORER
- EXTRACTION
- FILLINGS
- FLUORIDE
- GLOVES
- IMAGES
- MASK
- MIRROR
- PANORAMIC
- RESIN
- SEALANT
- SPRAY
- SUCTION
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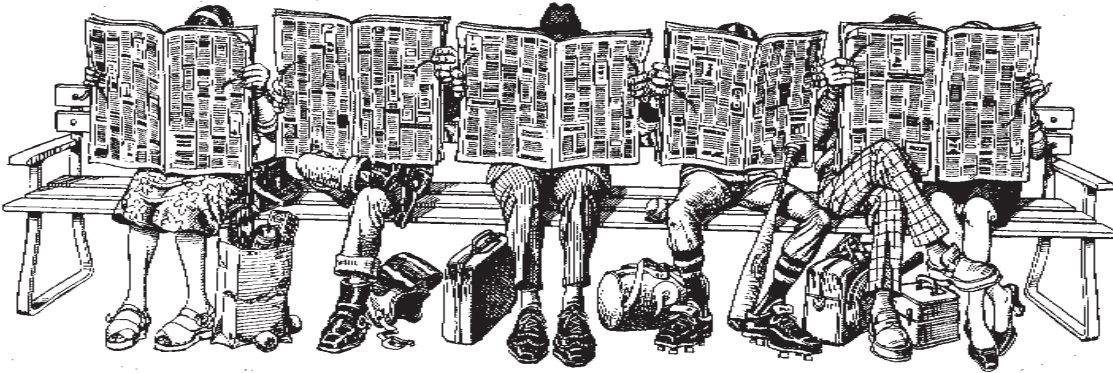
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Mass firings cut the muscle, not the fat

By Riva Duncan
PREVIEW Columnist

The stories are heartbreaking. U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service and other federal workers — some of them within weeks of ending probationary periods — fired. And not for cause; these workers were just starting out on dreamed-of careers or taking on new responsibilities in agencies where they'd already been for years.

The Trump administration's vaunted effort to "trim the fat" from the federal government and curb "waste and fraud" reveal one terrible — but not surprising — fact: The cost-cutters have no idea how government works or who does what in the federal workforce.

Probation doesn't mean poor performers. It simply means that someone has only worked one or two years under authorities such as Veterans Recruitment Authority or Schedule A of a permanent job. Or, it's their first time in a supervisory position.

I worked for the Forest Service in forestry and then wildland fire for more than 32 years before retiring in 2020. Because I'm now an advocate for firefighters, I've heard from many Forest Service workers who were suddenly fired by the Trump administration. I'll tell you about two of them.

When he was 18, Cyrus Issari was hired to work with the Idaho Conservation Corps, building trail in the Sawtooth Mountains.

He'd "found his passion," he said, getting jobs as a temporary employee for the Bureau of Land Management and then the Forest Service. He cleared hazard trees with a chain saw, cleaned campgrounds and also donned the Smokey Bear costume for public events. Best of all, he started fighting wildfires.

In 2022, Issari secured a permanent position — what he called his "dream job" — with a wilderness trail crew on New Mexico's Gila National Forest. A few weeks ago, his entire eight-person trail crew was fired. Issari had been making \$18.96 an hour.

"The land and people will suffer from (this) if nothing is done," Issari told me.

Liz Crandall was fired last week from her field ranger position in Central Oregon. She started as a volunteer on the Umpqua National Forest in Southwest Oregon in 2016, helping a botanist get rid of invasive weeds.

The recreation shop scooped her up and put her to work doing sign maintenance, improving trails and cleaning campgrounds. Hired into a temporary recreation position in 2018, she also received wildland fire training and assisted on numerous wildfires.

She moved on to work for Oregon's Willamette National Forest in recreation and then, in 2023, secured her permanent position as a field

Opinion: Writers on the Range

Make no mistake, these hardworking and dedicated people aren't the fat; they are the muscle.

ranger on the Deschutes National Forest.

"I have dedicated my career and life to the U.S. Forest Service," Crandall said.

Her performance evaluations were rated "excellent," which is why she was outraged by the wording of her termination: "The Agency finds, based on your performance, that you have not demonstrated that your further employment in the Agency would be in the public interest."

Liz had been making \$19.10 per hour.

There are common denominators in these stories, shared by the thousands (so far, 3,400 from the U.S. Forest Service, 1,000 from the National Park Service and 400 from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) of others who have been fired.

These folks love our public lands and have trained to do a variety of needed jobs. They feel a calling to serve the American taxpayers and countless visitors. They seek jobs that always pay more in sunsets than money.

Make no mistake, these hardworking and dedicated people aren't the fat; they are the muscle.

These firings will have ripple effects. They are your neighbors who pay rent or take on mortgages. They shop in the local grocery stores and feed stores, and coach basketball.

Many will have to move, and they will take their small, but meaningful, paychecks with them. They won't be there to assist with search and rescue, to fight the wildfires that are becoming larger and more unpredictable, threatening the lives and livelihoods of countless Americans.

What can we do to support them? Show up for rallies. Write, or better yet call, your elected officials and tell them what effect these firings will have on you, your family, your business, your community. Be kind to those who are still working. Some were forced to fire the very people who never should have been let go.

There's a big void to fill, now, and everyone needs to pitch in.

Riva Duncan is a contributor to Writers on the Range, writersontherange.org, an independent non-profit dedicated to spurring lively conversation about Western issues. She is vice president of Grassroots Wildland Firefighters and also works as an international consultant in emergency management.

Views expressed do not necessarily represent those of The SUN.

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What Extension offers the community

By Cindi Galabota
PREVIEW Columnist

Since beginning my job as the new Colorado State University (CSU) Extension director, I have received a lot of questions about CSU Extension and what it offers to our community.

I am here to tell you that Extension is much more than you probably ever guessed.

Extension falls under the Office of Engagement and Extension at CSU. Our office is designated to promote the land-grant mission of fostering the accessibility and application of university knowledge “in the several pursuits and professions in life” for the people and communities of Colorado and beyond.

Let’s go back a little. CSU was established in 1870 as the state’s land-grant institution. Land-grant colleges were created through the Morrill Act of 1862. The grants of land offered to the states by the federal government to fund new colleges — and as homesteads to settlers who would populate the West and to build railroads that would transport people and goods there — came directly from the dispossession of Native American nations and people who had inhabited the land for centuries.

Today we prize the diversity and rich history that different peoples and populations bring to our academic community. That is the true spirit of the Morrill Act itself, focused on teaching, research and service, creating new knowledge and putting it to work on behalf of all the people we serve.

The purpose of CSU Extension is “to empower Coloradans to address important and emerging community issues using dynamic, science-based educational resources.”

We can provide relief from information overload by offering reliable, research-based information to help you make informed decisions.

In Archuleta County, your CSU Extension team is your information source for the unique interests and needs of our community.

We can connect you to the latest, most accurate data, and to faculty and staff with expertise in agriculture, horticulture, range, forestry, water, health and wellness, financial literacy, business management, community and youth development, and more.

We offer in-person programs that are educational and engaging and

Extension Viewpoints

connect people to online classes and webinars.

We oversee the 4-H Youth Development Program, empowering our youth to become confident, independent, resilient and compassionate leaders.

Finally, the CSU Extension building can be rented for your meetings, parties and large events. The Fairgrounds can also be rented at different times of year through a management committee.

To learn more about the many programs, resources and services offered by CSU extension, visit <https://extension.colostate.edu>.

We want to hear from you. What do you want to see from your CSU Extension? How can we support your goals for living in beautiful, rural Archuleta County?

The CSU Extension office in Archuleta County is located at the County Fairgrounds at 344 U.S. 84. We are open to the public Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (we close for lunch from noon to 1 p.m.). Stop in and say hi, call the Extension office at (970) 264-5931 or email cindi.galabota@colostate.edu.

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) 264-5931 to register.

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

Pruning workshop

Join CSU 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.

The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

- 1 Iditarod, for one
- 5 Humiliate
- 10 Nursery item
- 14 ____-clad
- 15 Shop tool
- 16 Parks in 1955 news
- 17 Johnson and Knotts
- 18 Some are French-cut
- 20 Worthy of respect
- 22 Pearl Buck's "The Good ____"
- 23 Twilled fabric
- 24 Atlas feature
- 26 Not learned
- 29 Cookie bits
- 33 Dylan or Marley
- 35 Sound investment?
- 37 Stir up
- 38 Teach
- 40 Arched wall area
- 42 Some learning
- 43 Folsom fellow
- 45 Cut with an ax
- 46 Slight quake
- 48 Kind of job or joke
- 50 Ties up
- 52 Lysol targets
- 55 Malice
- 58 Hearty pub meal
- 61 Nobel Prize category
- 63 Skier's aid
- 64 Sure anagram
- 65 Piece of history
- 66 Certain woodwind
- 67 Like some meat
- 68 Toothpaste brand
- 69 Yosemite sight

DOWN

- 1 Carnival attractions
- 2 Stood up

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18					19				
20				21						22				
23							24		25					
		26			27	28			29			30	31	32
33	34			35				36			37			
38			39					40		41				
42					43		44					45		
46				47			48				49			
				50			51			52			53	54
55	56	57				58		59	60					
61					62						63			
64					65						66			
67					68						69			

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- 3 Pitch in
- 4 Naval officer
- 5 Pond floater
- 6 Fishhook feature
- 7 Studio for Seurat
- 8 Martin or Charlie
- 9 Coop dweller
- 10 Sci-fi villain
- 11 Laugh heartily
- 12 Ain't correct?
- 13 Wingding
- 19 "Cold one"
- 21 Smart set
- 25 Merit-badge earners
- 27 Garb
- 28 1985 film, "____ Wolf"
- 30 Expectant woman
- 31 Angler's hope
- 32 Whole lot
- 33 Lahr who played the Cowardly Lion
- 34 Telltale sign
- 36 Zest
- 39 Ghost story setting
- 41 Corral call
- 44 Govern badly
- 47 Mind-matter connector
- 49 Dictator
- 51 TNT ingredient
- 53 Breakfast fruit
- 54 "How ____ it is!"
- 55 Slimy creature
- 56 Tower site
- 57 Agenda entry
- 59 Rainbow goddess
- 60 Religious subgroup
- 62 Rainbow's shape

Answers to Previous Crossword:

S	N	I	P	E		A	O	N	E		S	T	I	R
C	U	R	E	R		N	E	E	R		O	R	S	O
A	B	A	C	I		D	R	E	A	M	L	A	N	D
L	I	Q	U	E	U	R	S		T	A	I	N	T	S
P	A	I	L		N	E	T	C	O	R	D	S		
			I	S	R	A	E	L		Y	I	E	L	D
T	O	D	A	T	E		D	O	T	H		C	O	E
I	V	O	R	I	E	S		P	H	A	N	T	O	M
P	U	G		C	L	O	G		W	R	E	S	T	S
S	M	O	C	K		T	O	M	A	T	O			
		O	L	E	A	S	T	E	R		T	H	O	U
F	E	D	O	R	A		O	A	T	M	E	A	L	S
O	P	E	N	S	H	O	P	S		A	R	I	S	E
W	E	R	E		E	N	O	L		R	I	F	E	R
L	E	S	S		D	O	T	Y		S	C	A	N	S

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Senior Center to offer meatless options and more

By Rose Chavez
PREVIEW Columnist

A new generation of retired adults are here in Pagosa Springs, and they're bringing a list of must-haves as they enjoy their "golden years."

As older adults are increasingly informed about health and wellness, the Pagosa Senior Center is evolving to meet and exceed their expectations.

Discerning community members are more selective, knowing exactly what they want and expecting higher standards, including dietary needs stemming from an increased understanding of what it means to age healthfully. More than tai chi or brain health classes (which are often available, too), the Senior Center is also focusing on the dining options offered to community members.

The baby boomer generation grew up with the dining table as a focal point of family bonding and friendship building. Going out to lunch was, and continues to be, a staple of social life. For some, it's even a part of your weekly schedule.

To meet this need in our community, the Senior Center emphasizes a social atmosphere and chef-prepared food. This means an enhanced dining experience with a broader range of options than in the past. We have begun offering daily specials following the cultural shift toward more

Senior News

organic, seasonal and fresh foods. Many of our ingredients are sourced from local and regional farms and ranches. And we even grow some of our own produce in our grow dome.

While vegan and vegetarian options used to be a second thought, they're now fundamental in our menus. And that's not the only thing that's commonplace. During the Lenten season, we will continue offering a meatless option on March 5 for Ash Wednesday and meatless Friday options throughout the Lenten season.

Outside of dietary preferences, our head chef and sous chef are getting more comfortable adapting their offerings to suit the stomachs of clients.

The main takeaway is that the Senior Center has abundant food choices. Most changes to dining in the Senior Center are driven by client feedback, so please continue to let us know how we are doing and what you enjoy.

For more information, contact Archuleta Seniors Inc. (ASI) at (970)

264-2167.

Weatherization Assistance Program

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 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, ASI and District 1 LPEA Archuleta County Representative Holly Metzler, to learn more about this essential program. A local

■ See Senior on page 21

Community Foundation infuses more than \$5.2 million into area nonprofits in 2024

By Rachel Rosenthal

Community Foundation serving Southwest Colorado

In 2024, the Community Foundation serving Southwest Colorado infused \$5,203,489 into Southwest Colorado's nonprofit community. Those giving totals are broken down as follows:

- \$3,944,436 was facilitated through Community Foundation projects and programmatic granting.
- \$1,259,053 was granted from the Community Foundation donor-advised funds.

Funding was disbursed across various nonprofit sectors throughout Southwest Colorado. The top three sectors in which the foundation facilitated granting were human services, youth, and education.

Here is the breakdown by sector:

- Animal Protection: 5 percent (\$236,939).
- Arts and culture: 13 percent (\$664,423).
- County/impact: 10 percent

(\$525,774).

- Education: 16 percent (\$855,772).
- Environment: 3 percent (\$168,613).
- Human services: 42 percent (\$2,206,403).
- Youth: 10 percent (\$545,564).

The Community Foundation manages more than \$13 million in investments and is home to almost 80 donor-advised funds, agency funds, designated funds, scholarship funds, fiscal sponsorships and field-of-interest funds.

"This facilitation number reflects grants, capacity building and professional development for local nonprofits," said Briggen Wrinkle, executive director of the Community Foundation. "These dollars help cultivate a stronger nonprofit sector that is poised to support and enhance our community."

The Community Foundation serves Archuleta, Dolores, La Plata, Montezuma, and San Juan counties. For more information, please visit swcommunityfoundation.org.



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Body 
FACT:

Children are born with 20 of these, which will increase to 32 as they age.

Answer: Teeth

“How they say that in...”

- English: Dental
- Spanish: Dental
- Italian: Dentale
- French: Dentaire
- German: Zahn

What’s the Difference?

Find the four difference between pictures.

A



B



Answers: 1. Missing tooth 2. Smile on tooth is bigger 3. Missing toothbrush 4. Missing controls on machine

THIS DAY IN HISTORY



- 1775: The British East India Company factory on Balam-bangan Island is destroyed by pirates.
- 1909: Kinemacolor, the first successful color motion picture process, is first shown to the public.
- 1995: Barings Bank in England collapses after a broker loses billions.

NEW WORD

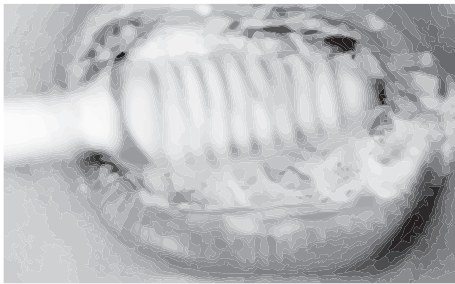
TARTAR
a hard deposit that forms on the teeth

Did You KNOW?

It is important to visit the dentist at least twice per year for a thorough dental cleaning and examination of the mouth.



Get the PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Brushing teeth

Senior

■ continued from page 19

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>.

Emotional Freedom Technique sessions

Join Judith Newman at the Senior Center the second Wednesday of each month to participate in the popular, ongoing "Tapping" class (also known as EFT, or Emotional Freedom Technique) from 10 to 11 a.m. that is free and open to all ages and walks of life.

The next session will be March 12.

The first half of class is learning or reviewing the technique, and the second half of the hour is practicing the technique and answering questions.

This is a supportive, fun and informative class.

EFT is an evidence-based, self-regulating technique using acupuncture trigger points as well as elements from other therapeutic practices. Extensive research shows EFT to be effective in lowering both psychological and physical symptoms of anxiety, depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, insomnia, stress and more.

This technique is easy to learn and then use any time you want to lower your anxiety, gain clarity about emotional challenges and increase your ability to work with difficult transitions in your life.

Join the class and improve your well-being; meet new people in the community; support yourself and others while learning a powerful, helpful tool; find new ways to deal with insomnia, stress and change.

For more information or questions, please contact Newman at (505) 577-0194 or ASI at (970) 264-2167.

Community vaccine clinic March 28

In partnership with the Archuleta County Public Health Department, ASI is hosting a community vaccine clinic at the Ross Aragon Community Center on March 28 in the West Conference Room from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Flu and COVID vaccinations will be available to uninsured and traditional Medicare/Medicaid patients. Those with Medicare or Medicaid insurance will need to fill out a packet of paper work to prequalify.

Paperwork can be picked up at the Senior Center at 451 Hot Springs Blvd. and must be returned by March 12.

If patients need assistance filling out paperwork, staff from the Archuleta County Public Health Department are available to assist.

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

■ See Senior on next page

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Healthy Archuleta presents food system wheel

Healthy Archuleta

Healthy Archuleta is actively working to raise awareness of health-promoting foods and the importance of the local food system.

A central part of this initiative is focusing on how the local food system works and how everyone in our community both contributes to and benefits from it.

Healthy Archuleta has developed the food system wheel, which serves as an informative tool to explain how the food system operates within both society at large and our specific community.

The wheel is structured into six distinct sections, each representing a key component of the food system:

1. Growing and producing food.
 2. Transforming foods for storage and market.
 3. Marketing and distributing food.
 4. Getting and preparing food.
 5. Eating nutritious foods.
- In the center of the wheel is:
6. Food safety, food waste prevention and resource recovery.

Growing and producing food

We live in an age where food is accessible daily by merely going to the grocery store and, in season, the farmers market. There are several commercial food producers in Archuleta County who offer locally what they raise and grow.

Additionally, many people in our community grow fresh food in their backyards, greenhouses, containers or other methods.

Locally grown food is fresh. The sooner you harvest and consume a vegetable, the more vitamins and minerals you will give your body.

Transforming foods for storage and market

This is an interesting subject for both household and commercial food providers. Foods that have been grown, like fruit and vegetables, and foods that come from raised animals and livestock need to be transformed, or processed in some fashion, in order to get it stored or offered for sale for future consumption.

We don't buy a whole cow at the store; we purchase cuts of meat that have been rendered and packaged by a meat processor. The same is true with dairy products, baked goods, and canned and frozen fruits and vegetables. These are examples of transforming foods for storage and market.

Marketing and distributing food

Food is marketed to consumers in various ways, from eye-catching billboards to playful designs on packaged goods. In our local communities, farmers markets, word of mouth and social media play a key role in promoting locally grown and produced foods.

Food distribution occurs through multiple channels, including supermarkets, restaurants, farmers markets and food pantries, ensuring accessibility for different needs.

As an example, Healthy Archuleta uses the Food Distribution Center to collect and distribute food to the seven food pantries.

Getting and preparing food

While grocery shopping may sometimes feel like a chore, we are fortunate to have easy access to fresh ingredients through grocery stores, farmers markets and even our own gardens.

Food preparation, whether chopping fresh vegetables for a salad or cooking locally raised steak, is often considered a labor of love — one we share with family and friends. Many cherish traditional recipes passed down through generations, while others enjoy experimenting with new ingredients to bring creativity and excitement to their meals.

Eating nutritious foods

This topic has become a serious discussion for everyone.

There are many benefits of eating nutritious foods for our bodies and minds. Some benefits may include building a strong immune system; lowering the risk of disease such as heart disease, type 2 diabetes and some cancers; supporting digestive system functions; strengthening bones and muscles; and supporting healthy pregnancies and breastfeeding.

Eating nutritious foods is what powers our bodies to get through the day at work, school, exercise and other physical activities. It is important to pay attention to the foods that we use to fuel our bodies.

One way is to consider eating more fresh foods by selecting vegetables, fruits and other whole foods. Learning how to read labels is also an important step in understanding what is in the food we purchase at the

store and to make informed choices about what we purchase and eat. Whole foods have fewer ingredients, are healthier choices and are more easily digested and nourishing for our bodies.

Remember, we as community members can support a collective mindset of eating nutritious foods by purchasing, growing or raising local foods.

Food safety, food waste prevention and resource recovery

These three components are at the center of our food system wheel as they are important to all the parts of the food system.

Starting with food safety not only refers to food preparation safety, but also storage of prepared foods and making sure they are stored in ways that will prevent illness.

By paying attention to what and how much we buy, expiration dates, how it will be prepared and making sure certain proper storage practices are followed, we can reduce the amount of food being dumped into the landfills.

Some simple tricks like “shop your fridge first” can help to reduce food waste at home. Composting, or “resource recovery,” can also be used to prevent waste. Resource recovery allows us to gather food scraps and waste, and put them to use in another way that does not adversely affect the environment.

Composting is becoming more prevalent and there are many ways households can compost in our community, including starting their own composting system or participating in a commercial composting service.

To learn more about the food system wheel and the efforts of Healthy Archuleta, please visit <https://www.foodcoalition4archuleta.org/nutrition-security.html> or send us an email at fsfearchuleta@gmail.com.





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1 BEDROOM APARTMENT downtown. Partially furnished, utilities included. \$1500/month, \$1500/ deposit. NO PETS OR NO SMOKING. (970)749-4769 or (970)749-6374.

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JAND 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 check us out on Indeed.com.

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Classifieds

(970) 264-2100

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Classified Deadline: Tuesday 10 a.m.

PERSONALS

FREE. CONFIDENTIAL. HELP. 24-hour domestic violence and sexual assault helpline. (970) 264-9075.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONCERNED ABOUT ANOTHER'S DRINKING? Pagosa Springs Al-anon Family Group meets Tuesdays 6-7p.m., Pagosa Bible Church. Questions? Call/ text (303)815-8569. www.al-anon.org.

PAGOSA AA: M-W-F 5:30p.m. Mens' meeting Tuesday 5:30p.m. Saturday and Sunday 10a.m. Tuesday and Thursday at noon. 315 N. 2nd St., County Road 200 (.2 miles off 160). Zoom Sunday 10a.m. Zoom Thursday noon women only; ID 858 319 763, password 754 234. Call Kathi (970)946-1482 or Central Office (888)333-9649.

THERE IS A SOLUTION GROUP of Alcoholics Anonymous meets Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, 5:30-6:30p.m. Pagosa Bible Church, 209 Harman Park Drive. Questions? Richard: (970)903-1456. Diamond: (970)264-1073. More resources: www.aa.org, www.aa-westerncolorado.com, (970)245-9649, (888)333-9649 (24 hours).

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WE HAUL. WE WILL haul off anything but your marijuana or your mother-in-law. No job too big or too small. We also move buildings. We don't haul pigs. Dan Snow (719)849-8873.

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HOT SPRINGS HEALERS. Sessions at hot springs! Introducing Quantum Reset. Also, cranial sacral, bodywork, massage. Serving Pagosa 27 years, Dr. Dean and Amanda, (970)844-0645, (970)903-5309.

HELP WANTED

COLORADO DREAM HOMES is looking for painters and finish carpenters. Work year round! Paid time off 48 hours per year. Paid holidays and bonuses. Pay will be based on experience. Please bring resume to Colorado Dream Homes office 2283 Eagle Drive 8-5, or call (970)731-3071 for information. You can also submit a resume to coloradodreamhomesinc@gmail.com.

COLORADO ROCK & DIRT EXCAVATION is expanding our team. We are looking for experienced CDL Drivers -local driving only. This is a full-time position, offering competitive pay, health insurance, 401K and PTO. Please email resume to coloradorock08@gmail.com.

ELI STEPHENS LANDSCAPING LLC. is looking to hire. We are looking for someone willing to learn. Pay will be based off of experience. Looking for labor and equipment operators. Call Eli (970)946-0268.

EMPLOYMENT AT SILVER DOLLAR LIQUOR. Must be 21. Full-time or part-time. Nights and weekends. (970)264-2749.

EXPERIENCED HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR: We are currently seeking a skilled and experienced Heavy Equipment Operator to join our team. This is a full-time position that offers competitive pay, health insurance, a 401(k) plan and paid time off (PTO). Please submit resume to coloradorock08@gmail.com.

HELP WANTED at Cattlemen's Cafe! Experienced cooks, wait staff, and bussers / dishwashers needed. Email resume to misty@buckedoffboutique.com.

HOMETOWN INSURANCE is looking to fill a full-time receptionist/ administrative assistant position. Prior experience is required. Must be detail oriented, able to multitask and be proficient in Google Docs, Sheets, Excel, Word and Adobe. Strong phone and typing skills are a must. Our ideal candidate will have a friendly and warm personality while being professional, responsible and motivated. A customer-oriented approach is essential. Bilingual skills in Spanish are a plus but not required. Send resumes with references to info@hippsllc.com.

HELP WANTED

NEWSPAPER REPORTER — We are searching for a talented reporter to fill a full-time 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.

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HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED



Walmart Pagosa Springs Supercenter

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Starting pay \$18-\$25 *position and qualifications dependent

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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.

JAND 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 check us out on Indeed.com.

LAZY ONE PAJAMA SHOP looking for part-time employee. 1 -3 days/ week. Call or text (805)405-1339.

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

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Detail oriented,
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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.

MOUNTAIN SPIRITS IS SEEKING customer service associates. Must be available nights and weekends. We offer accrued vacation/ personal time, performance-based bonuses twice a year, and employee discounts. Please apply in person.

NORTH PAGOSA MARATHON is hiring a full-time cashier nights and weekends. Competitive wages. Please apply in person at 30 N. Pagosa Blvd.

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Ponderosa Lumber is seeking a customer service oriented individual to assist contractors with purchasing building materials. Knowledge of building materials is necessary.

Responsibilities include:

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- Completing required paperwork
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HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

PETS



We're Hiring: Digital Marketing Consultant

Are you passionate about driving results through innovative marketing strategies? Do you thrive on helping businesses grow their online presence? Join our team as a **Digital Marketing Consultant** and make an impact!

What You'll Do:

- Develop, implement, and optimize digital marketing campaigns across multiple platforms-Search Engine Marketing, SEO, Facebook, Video and much more. Plus, have a competitive advantage by including our own Pagosa Springs SUN digital and print audience.
- Bring cost-effective, website development opportunities to local businesses to help build long-term, win-win partnerships.
- Analyze campaign performance and generate actionable insights to maximize ROI.
- Collaborate with clients to understand their business goals and create tailored marketing strategies.
- Stay ahead of industry trends and identify new opportunities for growth.

What We're Looking For:

- 2+ years of experience in digital marketing, preferably in a consultancy or agency role.
- Proven expertise selling digital advertising solutions.
- Strong analytical skills with proficiency in tools like Google Analytics, Ads Manager, and SEMrush.
- Exceptional communication skills and a client-first mindset.
- A passion for creativity, strategy, and measurable results.

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.

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Send your resume and a brief cover letter to
CEO Jim O'Rourke at jorourke@orourkemediagroup.com.

The Pagosa SpringsSUN

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PAGOSA LIQUOR IS HIRING a full-time cashier. Please come and apply in person at 30 N. Pagosa Blvd.

PART-TIME FRONT DESK OPPORTUNITY. Are you friendly, organized, and customer-focused? We are looking to add a reliable and enthusiastic member with strong computer skills to our team! Shifts may include a combination of mornings, days, nights, and weekends. Our front desk is open 8a.m. to 10p.m. daily, including holidays. Download application at www.pshotsprings.com or stop by to pick one up. Resumes/applications can be emailed to: sales@pshotsprings.com, Attention Front Desk Position or dropped off at Healing Waters Resort & Spa, 140 Hot Springs Blvd.

ROOF LABORER NEEDED with some construction experience. Will train. \$20-\$25/ hour to start. (970)749-0830.

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.

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.

THE PAGOSA SPRINGS CHAMBER of Commerce is accepting applications for an Executive Director. Key responsibilities include strategic planning, member services, financial management, event management, business advocacy, and community engagement. Ideal candidates should possess strong business acumen, excellent communication skills, the ability to build community partnerships, event planning expertise, and a passion for economic development. The role reports to the Chamber Board of Directors. For more information on the position, visit www.pagosachamber.com. Resumes accepted until March 28, 2025 and may be sent to director@pagosachamber.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 to hire a **Utility Operator** in the Public Works Division. The individual selected for this position will perform a variety of working level, skilled, and technical duties related to the construction, installation, maintenance, and repair of the Sanitation District collection system, pump stations, and Geothermal System. This is a full-time position with benefits. For more information on the position and to apply, go to the Town's website at www.pagosasprings.co.gov and select Employment.

WEEKEND BAKER WANTED. Join Root House Coffee +Shop and bring your baking talents to life in a warm, welcoming environment. Imagine filling our space with the irresistible scent of fresh cinnamon rolls and stocking our display case with a variety of house-made treats. Be a vital part of our close-knit team, where we create a haven for community connection, great coffee, delicious snacks, and a carefully curated retail selection. PERKS: With tips, pay is over \$20 per hour. Morning shifts with plenty of time to enjoy the rest of your day. Employee discounts on our retail offerings, food, and beverages. Bonus: Take your break with a relaxing walk along the San Juan River, right in the heart of downtown Pagosa. If you're passionate about baking and community, we'd love to have you on board! Email us at howdy@roothouseco.com to request an application and share more about yourself.

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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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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.

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DRY FIREWOOD- PINE. Pick up \$255 a cord. Delivery available. Call for prices. Bayfield. Gabe (970)403-2784.

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4 OFFICE SPACES. Freshly remodeled, \$400-\$525. Well suited for spa services, 140-270 sq. ft. Beautiful spacious restrooms. (970)946-3232.

DOWNTOWN OFFICE Upstairs with skylight. Month-to-month, \$325/ month including utilities, internet and shared kitchen. No smokers. No pets. (970)946-2728.

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

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HOMES FOR SALE

HOMES FOR SALE

HOMES FOR SALE

HOMES FOR SALE

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OWNERS, WE ARE BOOKED UP AND NEED MORE VACATION RENTAL PROPERTIES! Call us today for lowest commission and highest customer service. All you have to do is wait for your rent check to come in. We do the rest! Rocky Mountain Realty & Rentals (970)507-1192.

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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.

3 BEDROOM, 2 BATH manufactured home in Vista. Fenced yard on corner lot with two sheds. \$1750/ month. (970)946-3983.

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.

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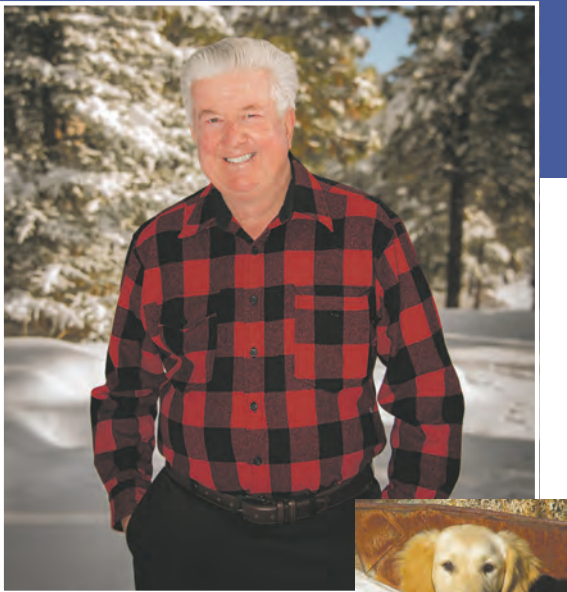
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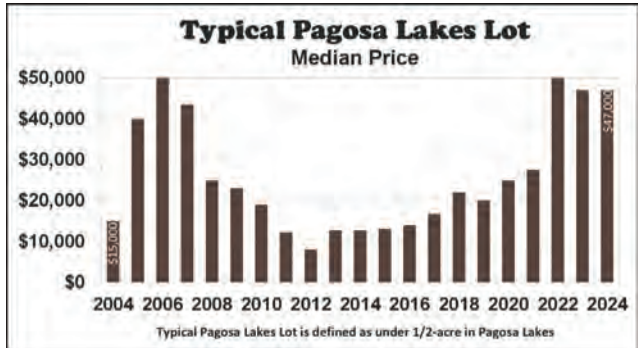
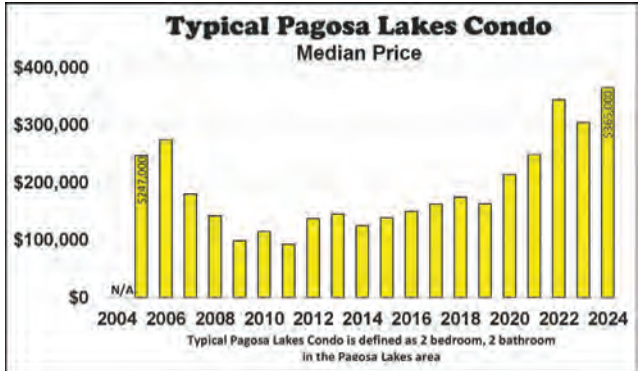
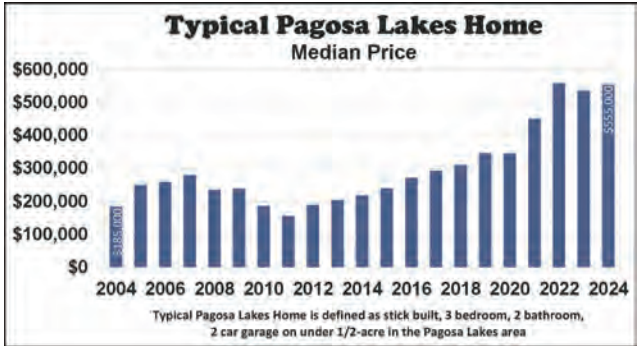
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PAGOSA SPRINGS REAL ESTATE STATISTICS												
Jan-Dec of Last 5 Years												
Stats collected from the CREM MLS system												
Stats are intended to show trends in the area; they include activity for all area agents, not just Lee Riley												
	YTD Properties Sold						Inventory Available					
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	% Difference	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	% Difference
Homes												
All	531	504	368	328	313	-5%	88	50	102	106	133	+25%
	YTD Properties Sold						Inventory Available					
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	% Difference	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	% Difference
Condos												
All	103	96	84	55	68	+24%	4	3	5	22	29	+32%
	YTD Properties Sold						Inventory Available					
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	% Difference	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	% Difference
Vacant Lots												
All	437	713	379	281	286	+2%	377	163	251	261	267	+2%
	YTD Properties Sold						Inventory Available					
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	% Difference	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	% Difference
Other												
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 Construction Permits												
YTD Total Sales	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	% Difference	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	% Difference
	1087	1335	847	679	686	+1%	124	153	127	99	131	+32%



If you are working with another Real Estate Professional,
please disregard.

JANN C. PITCHER

REAL ESTATE