



Town council opts for alternative to Fourth of July Parade

By Derek Kutzer
Staff Writer

On March 4, the Pagosa Springs Town Council decided that it will forgo a traditional motorized Fourth of July parade for this year’s celebrations, mainly due to the Colorado Department of Transportation’s (CDOT’s) U.S. 160 reconstruction project happening this summer.

Instead of a parade, the council opted to have a celebration at Yamaguchi Park that will lead into the annual fireworks display, fire danger permitting.

At the previous meeting, Parks and Recreation Director Darren Lewis brought three options before the council: to have a parade following the same route as 2024’s parade, to have a “stationary” parade on 6th Street or to have celebration at Yamaguchi Park.

But, this time around, after being implored at the last meeting by council member Leonard Martinez and

■ See Parade A14

Charges filed in fatal February crash

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

Charges have been filed in the case of a Feb. 15 crash outside of Pagosa Springs that killed two.

According to 6th Judicial District Attorney Sean Murray, the charges against Justin McCelvey, 37, of Texas, include two counts of extreme indifference murder (a Class 1 felony), two counts of vehicular homicide (a Class 3 felony), one count of vehicular assault (a Class 4 felony), DUI (a misdemeanor), and illegal possession or consumption of alcohol in a motor vehicle (a traffic infraction).

Arrest charges in the case did not include the counts of extreme indifference murder. At a bond hearing in front of Archuleta County Court Judge Justin Fay, it was indicated the driver was alleged to have been traveling at a high rate of speed prior to the accident, though his then-attorney argued that was alleged to have taken place some time before the incident.

McCelvey’s bond was increased to

■ See Charges A8



SUN photos/Randi Pierce

Personnel from the Colorado Department of Transportation and U.S. 160 reconstruction contractor WW Clyde speak with and answer questions for the public at Monday evening’s open house. The project is set to begin March 24, weather permitting.

Start date for U.S. 160 project moved to March 24

By Derek Kutzer
Staff Writer

On Feb. 27, the Cone Zone Care Committee, an offshoot of the Main Street Advisory Board, hosted a public update on Colorado Department of Transportation’s (CDOT’s) upcoming U.S. 160 reconstruction project through downtown Pagosa Springs.

The packed-house meeting at Motel SOCO included representatives from the Town of Pagosa Springs, the Cone Zone Committee, as well as CDOT and its contractor for the project, WW Clyde and Companies.

The update, at times, turned contentious, with local business owners expressing unhappiness with the original planned start date of March 17, which would have fallen during the spring break busy tourist season.

Local business owners pleaded with CDOT to delay the project by one week, with one saying it would be “crushing” for downtown businesses if the project starts the week of March 17.

The following day, CDOT and its contractor reported that they had listened to public sentiment on the issue, announcing that they would delay the project by one week, with the updated start date slated for March 24, weather permitting.

Meredith Greene, one of CDOT’s public information managers for the project, stated that the contractor made the date change to be a good community partner.

On March 3, CDOT revealed more detailed information on the project’s planned work, phasing and work schedule at an open house where maps and posters were shown to the public.

CDOT’s informational webpage on the project explains that the scope of work taking place through the downtown will include:

- Transitioning to a concrete road surface between North 8th Street and North 1st Street.
- 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.

CDOT states that “replacing the asphalt with concrete” will be a significant improvement.

■ See Project A8



SUN photo/Clayton Chaney

Skiers take off down a freshly groomed cat-track at Wolf Creek Ski Area on Tuesday morning after 9 inches of new snow fell from Monday, March 3, to Tuesday, March 4, bringing the total season-to-date snowfall to 149 inches. According to the National Weather Service, anywhere from 11 to 19 inches of additional snowfall is expected through Saturday night.

Fire chief offers update on hydrant issue

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

Pagosa Fire Protection District (PFPD) Chief Robert Bertram offered an update on the ongoing fire hydrant issue at the district’s board meeting Tuesday evening, indicating personnel could be out flowing hydrants this spring.

“That’s always been a big thing, especially after the California fires, a bunch of people have interest,” Bertram said.

Bertram told the board the issue originally started with conversations with Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Association (PLPOA) General Manager Allen Roth, with people approaching PLPOA to ask about hydrants.

That then opened the conversation with the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD) about maintenance of the hydrants, he explained.

Bertram added he asked about testing hydrants when he began his current role and was told the fire department can’t test them “based off of something that happened 10 years ago.”

He added he met with the county manager, sheriff, town manager, PAWSD general manager and another PAWSD staff member Tuesday afternoon to talk about what the future will look like so they can all work together on the hydrants.

“Unfortunately, some of them may

not have been touched in 10 years and a lot can happen in 10 years if you’re not even just working that valve,” he said. “So, we’re working on a process to be able to at least go out there and start opening up the hydrants, whether we’re flow testing them or just initially opening ‘em up to flush them, trying to work with PAWSD on that.”

Bertram explained an intergovernmental agreement was in place 10 years ago or more where PAWSD paid the PFPD per hydrant.

“Ultimately, we’re trying to figure out how we can all work together, start flowing some of these hydrants to make sure they’re ready for us ..., be able to document maintenance on ‘em, and then, whether it’s PAWSD or us, how we share that information between us,” he said.

He added this spring they’ll be out getting hydrants flushed and figuring out what is there.

Later in the conversation, Bertram noted the only time flow tests are being done currently are for development.

He added the parties are trying to come together to figure out how to do it to be beneficial for everyone.

He added hopefully what happened 10 years ago can be put aside.

He acknowledged the hydrants have become a community discussion.

“However it went down, it is good

■ See Hydrant A8

PLPOA gymnasium project vote fails

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

On Saturday, March 1, the Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Association (PLPOA) announced that the vote

for the proposed gymnasium project did not pass.

Additional details were released on the PLPOA’s website at <https://www.plpoa.com/gymnasium/> on Monday, March 3, which indicated

there were a total of 5,316 votes submitted out of a possible 14,712.

The website indicates that 5,207 votes were submitted through the “e-vote” option, while 109 votes were submitted through the paper ballot.

■ See Gymnasium A8

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Opinion

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

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SUN STAFF

Owner, CEO

Jim O'Rourke, jorourke@orourkemediagroup.com

Publisher, Advertising, Circulation

Shari Pierce, shari@pagosasun.com

Editor

Randi Pierce, editor@pagosasun.com

Reporters

Josh Pike, josh@pagosasun.com

Derek Kutzer, derek@pagosasun.com

Clayton Chaney, clayton@pagosasun.com

Classified Advertising/Front Office

Cristin Flanagan, classads@pagosasun.com

Head Pressroom Robert Penton

Assistant Press Operator Matt McKinnon

Mallroom William Thomas

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OUR VIEW

Stay well

As we reported last week, and as many in our community can attest to, a number of illnesses are continuing to make their rounds.

Local health officials have reported high levels of flu and RSV, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) lists that flu activity is high in Colorado (although down from very high as it's been for weeks).

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment reports flu and RSV hospitalizations continue to be elevated, with COVID hospitalizations trending down.

Local officials are also preparing for the potential of more illnesses — including measles — to be added to the mix in the coming weeks as spring breakers make their way to Pagosa Country for some fun and relaxation and Pagosans set out on their own vacations.

That means it's a really good time to remember that we need to take care of ourselves and each other.

We need to remember to treat everyone with respect while at the same time being prepared and knowing what risks are.

According to the CDPHE, there are cur-

rently no reported cases of measles in Colorado, and the agency is closely monitoring the ongoing outbreaks in Texas and New Mexico.

The CDC reports that, as of Feb. 27, there were 164 measles cases were reported by nine jurisdictions: Alaska, California, Georgia, Kentucky, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York City, Rhode Island and Texas. There has been one death in 2025 due to measles.

We know that group of jurisdictions has grown.

Measles, the CDPHE outlines, "is a highly contagious viral disease that causes fever, rash, cough, runny nose, and red, itchy eyes. People with measles can spread the illness four days before the rash starts until four days after. The incubation period for measles ranges from 7 to 21 days. Two doses of the measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine are 97% effective against measles."

We also want to remind people that, although an illness may be mild for you or you may have the best protection available to prevent severe illness, how it may affect others can't always be predicted, and we

each need to do our part to prevent spread.

We have friends who can come down with a common cold virus and not miss a beat, and others who are fighting hard to avoid hospitalization from that same virus.

Please, do what you can to keep your germs to yourself and practice good hygiene.

The CDC recommends the following core prevention strategies against respiratory illness:

Staying up to date with immunizations.

Practicing good hygiene by covering coughs and sneezes, washing or sanitizing your hands often, and cleaning frequently touched surfaces.

Taking steps for cleaner air such as bringing in fresh outside air, purifying indoor air or gathering outdoors.

When you may have a respiratory virus, the CDC recommends:

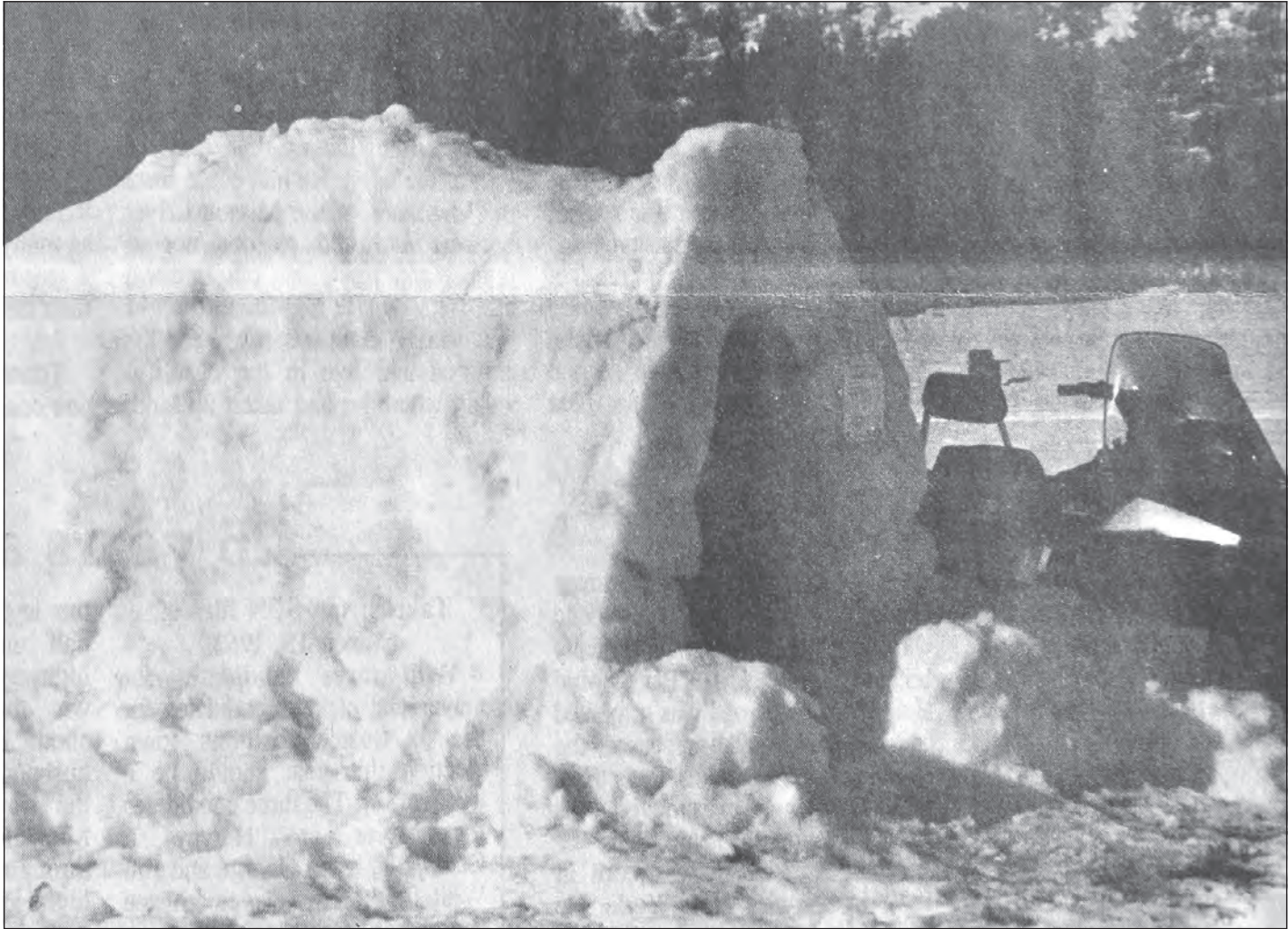
Taking precautions to prevent spread.

Seeking health care "promptly for testing and/or treatment if you have risk factors for severe illness; treatment may help lower your risk of severe illness."

Stay well.

Randi Pierce

LOOKING BACK



From the March 12, 1987 Pagosa SUN — ONLY KIDDING — H.C. Pruett realized it was only a joke when he discovered a building code violation citation tacked to his igloo. Pruett laughingly admitted he had failed to obtain a county building permit or clear his design with the Pagosa Lakes Environmental Control Committee prior to building the igloo at his home in Pagosa Meadows last week.

Archuleta County Commissioners		
Veronica Medina, Chair veronica.medina@archuletacounty.org • (970) 264-8305	John Ranson jranson@archuletacounty.org • (970) 264-8307	Warren Brown warren.brown@archuletacounty.org • (970) 264-8304
Pagosa Springs Town Council		
Pagosa Springs Mayor Shari Pierce spierce@pagosasprings.co.gov		
Matt DeGuisse mdeguisse@pagosasprings.co.gov	Mat deGraaf mdegraaf@pagosasprings.co.gov	Leonard Martinez lmartinez@pagosasprings.co.gov
Madeline Bergon mbergon@pagosasprings.co.gov	Brooks Lindner blindner@pagosasprings.co.gov	Gary Williams gwilliams@pagosasprings.co.gov



LEGACIES

By Shari Pierce

100 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
March 6, 1925

Sheriff Geo. A. Dutton and Deputies Wm. McComas and Price Kenney journeyed to Lone Tree Tuesday in quest of a still at the home of a ranchman in that vicinity, a complaint having been made that mula blanca was being manufactured and dispensed there. However, no supporting evidence was found.

Hazel M. Schmoll, curator of Natural History of Colorado, who spent last summer in the Chimney Rock district, makes the following report of her work to the State Historical Society:

"The research work of the summer of 1924, which is the first done by the Natural History department, consisted of an ecological survey of the botany in the Chimney Rock area southwest of Pagosa Springs, Colorado, where Dr. J.A. Jeancon conducted his archaeological research in 1921. The writer endeavored to collect one specimen of every plant there. Duplicates were obtained where time and material permitted.

"When these plants are finally mounted, labeled and filed into the herbarium they will be of great value to the state, because they have all been determined by specialists and compared with authentically determined material."

75 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
March 3, 1950

The Town Board at a special meeting last Thursday night passed an ordinance creating a planning commission. The ordinance was to be in effect from that date.

The ordinance provides for a creation of a special planning and zoning commission to be composed of five members. One member will be the Mayor, one will be a town board member appointed by the Mayor and three residents of the town appointed by the Mayor.

According to the ordinance the purpose of this board or commission will be to start planning for the growth of the community. They will be able to set up a zoning board, make plans for the finances of the town in coming years, make provisions for utilities and in general start a definite planning of the town so that it may grow according to plan and not just any way. The plan will do little to correct many of present ills but will certainly do much to prevent any more and to give the town a plan to operate under.

This plan will be of great benefit to every citizen of the town as well as doing much to provide for future growth.

50 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
March 6, 1975

Representatives of the Soil Conservation Service, the local Soil Conservation District, and Archuleta County Commissioners met last week to sign important documents.

These were the preliminary plans for the first RC&D plans to be approved in Archuleta County. The two plans are for improvement of the Trujillo road and for landscaping at Stevens Field airport. It is also the first time that such documents have been signed by SCS officials other than in Denver.

The two preliminary plans call for an expenditure of approximately \$82,755.00. Of that amount the county will provide \$17,650.00. The largest project calls for the widening of the Trujillo Road just above Trujillo, rip-rapping of the river in that area, and road improvement. Cost of this project is estimated at \$74,000.00.

The second project is estimated to cost \$7,755.00. This project will be to provide adequate drainage of areas along the runways at the airport, plus some leveling and the planting of grass.

25 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
March 2, 2000

The Archuleta County commissioners denied having anything to do with a full-page advertisement paid for by Piano Creek Ranches that ran some weeks ago in The Pagosa Springs SUN.

In response to a question asked by Elizabeth Feazel concerning the ad, Commissioner Gene Crabtree said, "That list (of names in the ad) looked like anybody who ever talked to or sold anything to Piano Creek. They came before us and made a talk one time. I read what was in print, took it with a grain of salt. We have not performed any service for them."

The road up the East Fork of the San Juan and through the proposed Piano Creek development was once a state road, Feazel said, and the county has an option to take over the road from the U.S. Forest Service. Feazel asked whether the county intends to exercise that option.

Piano Creek asked us and we told them we're not interested, answered Commissioner William Downey.



Weather data

Date	High	Low	Precipitation			
			Depth	Type	Moisture	
2/18	57	24	0.00	NA	0.00	
2/19	49	22	0.00	NA	0.00	
2/20	53	24	0.00	NA	0.00	
2/21	57	19	0.00	NA	0.00	
2/22	63	22	0.00	NA	0.00	
2/23	55	29	0.00	NA	0.00	
2/24	42	29	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.

Deeply disturbed

Dear Editor:

I was deeply disturbed by several letters published in the February 27 issue, particularly the letters titled “Save America!” and “Resist”, which were riddled with misstatements of fact. I hesitate to call them outright lies—perhaps the writers simply do not know they are spreading falsehoods. But as a publisher, you have a responsibility to verify basic facts before amplifying misinformation.

Publishing opinions is one thing; publishing factually inaccurate, misleading, or outright false claims under the guise of opinion is another. It’s a disservice to your readers and our community.

Regarding the claim that “Trump’s downsizing of government to balance our budget is completely transparent for all to see”—I strongly disagree.

For perspective, I support a balanced budget. In my lifetime, I’ve seen one president accomplish that: Bill Clinton. But facts matter. And if we look at actual facts, we will find some disturbing truths.

Elon Musk’s Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) is not cost-cutting—it is serving his own business interests. Consider:

- The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) had been investigating SpaceX following a rocket explosion.
- The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) had been reviewing Starlink’s operations in war zones.

If DOGE was genuinely about reducing bureaucracy and waste, it would have brought in auditors and accountants, not 22-yr old programmers.

It would have started with the Department of Defense—the second-largest budget item and the only federal agency to fail every single audit since 2018. Instead, this administration wants to give the Pentagon \$100 billion more. While cutting Medicaid – which will cripple our local health-care provider – and giving tax breaks to billionaires.

Make no mistake: DOGE is not about minding our money—it’s about minding Elon’s.

This country is handing itself over to a handful of billionaires, and it will not end well.

The Federal workforce is actually smaller than it was in 1990. What has ballooned are contracts. Contracts that enrich billionaires. What I would like to know is what five things every billionaire in the country did in the last week to serve their country. Far too many of them would fail miserably in that assessment.

So when cancer patients die because of cuts to NIH, or the next generation of terrorists is spawned because we gave up our soft power through USAID, or God forbid a child (or anyone) dies because an anti-vaxxer is running HHS, Trump supporters must own those consequences. I will certainly hold them accountable.

I didn’t agree with every decision the last administration made. Maybe the former president was sleepy—but he wasn’t exhausting. And he didn’t literally hand over the keys to Treasury to a billionaire with questionable motives.

I hope this country rights itself. In the meantime, I ask this paper to do better—and stop publishing demonstrably false claims.

And if I have misstated or misrepresented anything, feel free to publish a disclaimer—but do hold all writers to that same standard.

Teri Chadwick

Editor’s note: As is stated at the beginning of the letters to the editor each week, letters are not verified for accuracy.

Fire hydrants

Dear Editor:

After reading the story about Fire Hydrants I must express my concerns.

Per Justin Ramsey of PAWSD- Fire hydrants have only been checked “If there is a house/ development, anywhere between 6-12 a year.” And, “There’s probably a lot of hydrants that haven’t been exercised in a decade or more.”

My initial thought is I am completely speechless. But hear me out. A fire fighter’s life is at risk if he has

no idea about a fire hydrant capability. A fire fighting team needs protection. Not to mention citizens and property. There are property taxes and federal money in the fire department coffers. This season coming up has a very strong possibility of a fire event. Ear marked emergency money from fire department taxes and/or the county emergency fund need to be applied for hydrant inspections this year and season.

And moving forward, the future county budget needs to provide money for yearly hydrant inspections. Tax distributions must include funds to the PSFD for this annual inspection.

A Citizen group checking hydrants sounds nice and community oriented. Yet, a couple citizens trained in a hurry isn’t the sound answer. It Would be open to flaws and continue to put the PSFD at risk.

The fact is, the Fire Department needs to check the working order of all hydrants and the water department needs to make sure water is available to all hydrants.

Again, I am in disbelief about this situation.

Nancy Chromy

Don’t accept it

Putting the wife of the CEO of the World Wrestling Federation in charge of the Department of Education is a great idea. Indiscriminately firing thousands of hard-working, devoted individuals from their jobs at the Forest Service and other time-honored, federally-funded governmental agencies, staffed by people who are raising families and who are crafting meaningful careers, in order to furnish an argument that money is being saved so that the massive, ridiculously unfair tax breaks that are on their way for Bezos, Musk, Trump and the rest of these anti-heroes can seem justified: also something that is producing a sense of great collective restfulness amongst us all. The vision that our country was founded upon is in safe hands. Siding with the broligarch’s broligarch Putin, a Nazi salute from Bannon, a Nazi salute from Musk.

The oligarchic kleptocracy that has suddenly taken control of this country is exactly wrong, is anti-American. We seem to be collapsing under the weight of having to accept this. But, I want to make something clear: We don’t have to accept it. We are people full of empathy and heart, concern for our neighbor, Christian values. So deeply and so despondently are we convinced that the political divides between us are insurmountable that we have forgotten who we really are.

The real Jeffersonian ideal the country was founded on would have us exporting love and respect for our brothers in Gaza. There is no other way. Jefferson, slave owner, knew well that he - and the lads - were only place kickers initiating the great experiment. Bold, full of heart, but also rife with fallibility. But our mistakes are perhaps among our most valuable assets in the long run, if we do not let them define us. The Founders had faith in us to recognize this and take up their pens to finish the paragraphs of which they had only written

the first sentences. I have watched Rocky II too many times to believe we are not about to start discovering who we really are again through all of this. Like Thelonius hitting a wrong note... it gets rolled in and gives the piece humor, makes the song better, as long as smiling Monk does not fall off his stool.

And even though Sylvester Stallone was there at the inauguration as an assault to the mind cheering for Clubber Lang... no... we’re still here. We’re not going to watch this country go down. I stand with the great American Muhammad, who may as well be acting here as ventriloquist for the true heart, actual self of this country, what it is all about, reminding us what it is still becoming and unstoppable always will be Becoming, who said, ‘If you even dream of beating me, you better wake up and apologize.’

Jonathan Dobson

Apology

Dear Editor:

Dear President Zelenskyy:

On behalf of the rational and caring people of the United States of America I am writing to apologize for the boorish and rude behavior of American President, Donald J. Trump and Vice President J. D. Vance. Never did I think I would feel the need to apologize for an American president, but those of us who suffer the humiliation and indignity of our current Chief Executive and the Vice President must make amends for the embarrassment of February 28 th, 2025 at the White House. Their behavior was un-American.

Americans are as a rule rational, compassionate and freedom-loving people. We are aghast at the deadly war to which the citizens of Ukraine have been subjected for the last three years, brought about by Vladimir Putin’s invasion. While we renounce the current U.S. Administration’s support of Putin’s atrocity, it now becomes our burden to atone for the duplicity and indignity by Trump and Vance.

Trump, Vance and their followers do not reflect the hearts and minds of most Americans. For most of us their dangerous reign of destruction and worldwide chaos cannot end soon enough. In meantime we will continue to offer our earnest and vocal support for your country and its people.

Again, President Zelenskyy, with a heavy heart I humbly apologize for

the reprehensible behavior perpetrated by President Trump and Vice President Vance. America will one day return to sanity and civility and will uphold the values of the United States Constitution and Declaration of Independence we have cherished for the past 250 years, and will continue its pursuit of peace, prosperity and safety for all people.

Peace.

Sincerely,
John Egan

Public lands

Dear Editor:

Do you prize our public land? Do you hunt, or fish, or hike, or ski, or ride an ATV or bike, or enjoy sitting around a campfire? Maybe you just value public land for its value in cleaning the air, absorbing CO2 and for the views from your deck. There is an insidious threat little publicized that puts public land in jeopardy.

On February 3, President Trump signed an executive order creating a Sovereign Wealth Fund (SWF) and said that the US will have the largest fund in the world. There is nothing wrong with having a SWF. Norway has one valued at \$1.8 trillion, and it has invested the revenue from its oil profit to cushion the impact of losing oil revenue. The president gave the Commerce Department and the Treasury Department 90 days to figure out where the money to run the fund is going to come from. Most SWF are funded by budget surpluses, but since the US is presently \$36 trillion in debt, where do you think that money is going to come from? Our only unencumbered asset is our public land. Doug Bergum, Secretary of the Interior, estimates that public land is valued at \$200 trillion, but all royalties and leases only produce \$17 billion. Some of that is used to manage public land, some is shared with the states, but most is returned to the Federal government. Leases and royalties should be priced at market value, and the money used to support managing public lands, the communities that rely on them, and to plan for the day when oil and gas is depleted. Republicans in Congress are quietly floating the idea that public lands could be sold to finance the SWF and to finance housing. Great! Let’s sell million dollar lots around Williams Reservoir for the oligarchs to build trophy houses! Yes, we need more

■ See Letters A4

BoCC to consider agreement to house Durango municipal court offenders

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

Archuleta County and the city of Durango have reached an agreement for the county to receive and house Durango’s municipal offenders from the city’s court “at a significant cost savings to the taxpayers,” according to a news release from the city of Durango posted on Feb. 28.

The news release explains that Archuleta County offered a daily rate of \$110, compared to a rate of \$198 per day from La Plata County.

Durango’s city council unanimously approved the intergovernmental agreement (IGA) at its regular meeting on Tuesday, March 4.

According to a presentation during that meeting, Durango was initially notified by the La Plata County Jail in August 2024 that it would stop holding municipal inmates.

The presentation indicates that efforts to reach an agreement became “overly ambitious” in January, leading Durango officials to reach out to Archuleta County.

The presentation notes that Durango officials first met with Archuleta County staff on Feb. 10, and Durango received a proposed agreement on Feb. 26.

The presentation noted that under the agreement, the Archuleta County sheriff “retains discretion based on security, medical needs, and facility capacity,” and that it only applies to sentenced municipal offenders.

It was noted later in the meeting that Durango had a total of 10 sentenced municipal offenders in 2024 who served a total of 81 days in jail.

The presentation also notes that

Durango will provide transportation of inmates to and from the Archuleta County Detention Center, with inmates being released in Durango once their sentence is served.

The daily rate of \$110 will cover meals, security and routine medical care, while additional medical treatments, mental health care and additional transportation will be billed to Durango.

The agreement is set for a two-year term, with a two-year renewal option, according to the presentation. It also notes that either party can terminate the agreement with a 14-day notice.

Prior to voting on the matter, mixed comments were given from Durango city council members, with some praising Archuleta County’s willingness to work with Durango while highlighting a \$5,500 estimated cost savings to Durango’s taxpayers.

Other comments expressed concern that the estimated cost savings is “misleading,” and that it was “devastating” to Durango for La Plata county to no longer accept “low-level” inmates.

Archuleta County Sheriff Mike Le Roux is scheduled to brief the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners on the IGA this morning, Thursday, March 6, at a work session beginning at 8:30 a.m.

County Attorney Todd Weaver explained in an interview that the proposed IGA is similar to the IGA passed by the BoCC in August 2023 to house inmates from Costilla County.

Weaver also indicated that the BoCC will likely vote on the IGA during its meeting scheduled for Tuesday, March 18, at 1:30 p.m.

clayton@pagosasun.com

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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.



■ **Continued from A3**
housing, but there are solutions that do not involve selling lands that we all enjoy, regardless of our income. Let Representative Hurd (phone #202-225-4676) know that you value public lands and want to keep them publicly held.

Lynn R. Frederick

Collective security

Dear Editor:

It was recently suggested on the front page of a national daily (New York Times, March 1, 2025, p. 1), in the aftermath of the embarrassing meeting last Friday in the White House, that President Trump is intent on abandoning collective security, the bedrock American foreign policy for 80 years -- longer, if we include WWII. The published analysis asserts that the President hopes to establish a world order in which the US, Russia and China divvy up the pie amongst themselves. Why might he wish to do that? Well, because collective security puts “unfair” burdens on the US, plus it allows minor pests like Ukraine, Poland and the like to have influence beyond their meagre importance -- such a bother!

Is the analysis accurate? It certainly is consistent with the President’s expressions of frustration over limited European contributions to NATO, and his evident taste for playing the power-broker with Putin. But if it is accurate, then Mr. Trump may be shooting from the hip without clearly seeing the target.

Yes, there’s a cost to collective security; but there’s a cost if you buy a house too.

Every choice involves costs and benefits. Has the President considered the benefits of collective security?

How about the value to the US of our dollar being recognized around the world as THE currency? Does he realize that American businesses are welcome all over the globe because of the peace and stability the US umbrella promises? Does he know that history recognizes the value of “buffer” states?

It appears he does not.

On the other hand, does he think we were better off in 1948, with a ravaged, near stone-age Europe than we are today with a modern, sophisticated Europe lifted-up by collective security? Does he blindly imagine that nations like India and Japan will just cravenly accept orders from him, Putin and Xe? Does he really fail to understand that George Orwell’s 1984 was a satire? And, does he just assume that because he has dominated the Republican party composed of figures who bend with the breeze like Lindsay Graham, Marco Rubio, and Mike Johnson, it is reasonable to believe he will also be able to stuff this down the throats of all?

Well, on these points, it appears perhaps, yes, he does think these things.

Let’s assume for argument, that the subject of the ultimate utility of collective security is worth a discussion. In that case, how should it begin? Here’s an idea: let’s call in the President of a small country under attack by Russia (one of our future “partners”), farcically castigate him as a dictator, accuse him of gambling with the prospect of world war for having the gall to resist a brutal invader, attempt to secure his country’s minerals through naked extortion, and accuse him of ingratitude. Will that do it?

Yes, just the ticket -- if you want discussion. If not, it’s good TV, at least.

Yours truly,
Jim Garrett

More local cuts

Dear Editor:

By now, everyone has heard that Congress plans to cut \$880 billion from Medicare and Medicaid to help fund tax cuts that will cost \$4.5 TRIL-LION (and benefit mostly rich Americans). We’ve also heard about local

job losses at the U.S. Forest Service.

What other cuts could affect our local health and safety? Here’s one to think about as we head toward a hot dry summer with fewer federal employees to support safe use of our public lands.

Emergency communications. KSUT, the public radio station operated by the Southern Ute Tribe to serve communities in SW Colorado, has been forced to stop work on equipment upgrades that would enhance alerting capabilities and improve resiliency. The Trump-Musk team froze funding committed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency for Next Generation Warning System projects. KSUT’s \$537,000 is frozen. Who knows if it will be restored.

Emergency communication is not an extravagance or waste.

If you agree, tell Rep. Jeff Hurd. He serves on the Indian and Insular Affairs Committee. He should be paying attention to local funding for the services provided by KSUT. Hurd didn’t hold any town halls when he was in Colorado at the end of last month. Call him at (202)225-4674 or through 5calls.org.

Candace Jones

Rise Above Violence funding

Dear Editor:

As a local nonprofit, I am simply wanting to inform and educate on the current funding Rise Above Violence receives that is dependent on Federal funding. Overall, 84% of Rise funding comes from federal sources, either directly or as a flow through in state programs. While Rise may be out of the direct cross hairs for funding cuts, not having specialized DEI or immigration programming, we aren’t necessarily out of the woods. I am especially appreciative of recent federal court rulings guaranteeing our current contracts. Time will tell if they hold up for future funds.

I also want to convey to our community that Rise is required, but most importantly, committed to serving anyone experiencing domestic or sexual violence, regardless of race, age, gender, ethnicity, ability and sexual orientation. I can guarantee anyone needing our services will be supported, safely and ethically. We are also strongly committed to confidentiality, we don’t need your ‘demographics’, and frankly we don’t necessarily care, and won’t ask unless you want to tell.

We do not want anyone suffering in silence when we can be a source of support. We will be available for you, as always, 24/7. Do not allow current events to dissuade you from reaching out.

Carmen Lewis and the Rise team

Fire hydrants

Dear Editor:

RE: Fire hydrant article in February 27, 2025, Sun by Clayton Chaney, staff writer (page A1)

Having over thirty years experience in the waterworks industry, I was surprised to read PAWS and BoCC have no coordinated policy concerning periodic maintenance/exercise of fire hydrants.

As a supplier of several known fire hydrant brands, it was a common occurrence to be called upon to service in-warranty or other hydrants. Routine concerns included leaks, opening or closing problems, etc. Malfunctions were sometimes the result of inadequate training and knowledge pertaining to the operation of the unit. Testing if not properly performed can cause damage.

Before initiating a testing program, it would be my recommendation that adequate training be provided to insure proper hydrant operation and preventing damage to water mains. Since the fire hydrants appear to have not been opened for some time, it would be wise to have necessary repair parts available such as new valves or o-rings for each brand. Often disassembly tools are

required.

Hydrant suppliers or even manufacturers will often offer workshops to customers and fire departments addressing all the various operational and repair procedures.

Gene Mashburn

Defining greatness

Dear Editor:

In March of 1941, Congress passed, and President Roosevelt signed, the Lend-Lease Act, which allowed US food and military supplies to flow to Great Britain and other nations attacked by Nazi Germany. The Act was a dramatic shift in US policy that had previously required supplies to be bought with cash on hand. The Lend Lease Act, allowed supplies to flow to our allies through deferred payments (loans) that could be made under appropriate conditions.

Notably, the Act took two months to get through Congress facing stiff opposition and vigorous debate, demonstrating the virtues of a democratic process in the face of adversity.

Between 1941 and 1945, the US provided some \$50 billion in aid to the allies; \$48 billion of which never needed to be repaid due to the terms of these loans. This was roughly 4.75% of the annual GDP.

It is widely acknowledged that without American aid from Lend-Lease in 1941, Great Britain would not have been able to hold out against the Nazis, leading to a very different historical outcome and world order.

Following the war, Congress passed the European Recovery Program, otherwise known as the Marshall Plan. The plan was signed by President Truman on April 3, 1948 and provided approximately \$13 billion in grants to European nations between 1948 and 1952. The Marshall Plan represented approximately 5% of the US GDP at the time. 90% of the Marshall Plan grants never had to be paid back, by design.

At the time, the Lend-Lease and Marshall plans were seen as long term investments in the future of America. Most Americans today, who are aware of this history, don’t doubt the efficacy of these plans; that both saved perhaps millions of lives and contributed to what is often referred to as the “Golden Age of Capitalism” between 1945 and 1975. These years set the foundation of American greatness in the 20th Century. These policy decisions demonstrated a deep understanding of the mechanics of geopolitical and economic influence based on a foundation of American ingenuity, sacrifice and compassion for the suffering of millions worldwide.

These acts defined what American greatness looks like.

What happened on Friday February 28th in the Oval Office was not a show of greatness. It was not putting America first. It was simply and sadly two bullies trying to humiliate a world leader who is fighting for the existence of his nation and who is not willing to appease or give in to aggression. People may believe that talking tough and waving a big stick are what will make us great again. I think we know what will make us great again and this is not it.

Ed Matlack

Preserving tradition

Dear Editor:

What makes a people? A culture? And better yet, how does that continue through the centuries, passing down through the generations, all that is worth saving, the best parts of a people and their culture?

The answer can be found in tradition and the embracing of our cultivated past.

Faces change, the decades come and go, but the culture and the people remain only as long as their traditions remain. Gustov Mahler said, “Tradition is not the worship of ashes, but the preservation of fire.” In order

to keep alive the flame of previous generations, it is imperative that the current generation recognize and stoke the fire of culture. Not only for us, but for our descendants, generations to come. If we do not keep alive the traditions of our culture, future generations will be robbed of their rightful inheritance.

Instead of enjoying and experiencing the rich historic, artistic, and literary fullness of the past, they will find themselves left within a sterile world.

We keep alive our customs and traditions only by how much we embrace them, and our flame is worth preserving. We have been gifted with an incredible inheritance stretching back centuries, not only to our country’s founding, but beyond, to Europe. Passed down through the centuries came the most beautiful riches of Western Civilization.

Philosophy and rhetoric from Athens and Rome. Artworks from the Renaissance Masters, lines of verse from Chaucer and Shakespere, Burns and Poe, Kipling and Thoreau.

Not only were the knowledge of these bulwarks of Western Civilization well known a century ago, but they were embraced and promoted. Our predecessors knew what rich treasures they had been gifted. Parents instilled in their children a knowledge and appreciation of their past, schools promoted the arts, emphasizing virtue over employment, poets and authors were the celebrities. But sadly today, many know little, if anything of our abounding past.

Our modern world is losing its grasp on the very things that made us – our traditions and cultural foundations. In a time when the entirety of known human knowledge is available within only a few clicks, we hold at our fingertips the ability to enrich ourselves more thoroughly than any previous generation could. Instead of embracing materialistic consumerism, cheap entertainment, and doom scrolling of social media, let us look behind us to the monumental treasure trove of culture and tradition that our ancestors left us. It is up to us, modern man, to take the initiative. As adults we must educate ourselves, as parents we must ensure our children not only appreciate their past, but that they in turn continue the passing down of these treasures.

The beauty of our cultural past is in danger of slipping away. The flame of our traditions has diminished to just glowing embers. Without any fanning in our present time, we risk watching that fire become tragically extinguished. Once the hearth of tradition grows cold it becomes nearly impossible to rekindle the cultural flame that formerly burned so strong.

Caleb Monroe

What Jesus would do

Dear Editor:

Trump’s evangelical Christian disciples think that he was sent by God and may be the second coming of Jesus. Since they like to frame political discourse totally in religious terms, I’d like them to look at some of Trump’s actions and ask a simple question,” Is this what Jesus would do?”

Trump is taking away health care from millions of poor Americans on Medicaid, some of whom will likely die, as well as food stamps, to give billionaires a massive tax cut. Is this what Jesus would do?

Trump has suspended basic human rights for women, people of color, the disabled, and the LGBTQ+ community and is promoting white supremacy. Is this what Jesus would do?

Trump has cancelled programs that fight disease and starvation around the world, already causing people to die. Is this what Jesus would do?

Trump has terminated the em-

■ See Letters A5

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SUN photo/Clayton Chaney

Dozens of protesters gathered at the Bell Tower Park on Tuesday, March 4, for the “March 4th for democracy” protest organized by Equality Pagosa. Protesters sported signs expressing support for Ukraine and the disapproval of recent actions taken by President Donald Trump and Elon Musk.

DHS director discusses forthcoming child care assistance challenges

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

Archuleta County Department of Human Services (DHS) Director Heidi Martinez gave a 2024 fourth-quarter report at a recent meeting held by the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC), providing an update on potential upcoming challenges for child care support in Archuleta County.

“Child care assistance is currently under a troublesome forthcoming,” Martinez said, explaining the state recently performed an audit which determined that child care providers are not being adequately compensated for their services.

“Which is understandable,” Martinez added, further explaining that the state is increasing what it pays to providers, but decreasing the overall child care support budget.

“The measures that they took to compensate for this means that, in Archuleta County, we will be able to probably serve 33 percent of what we were previously able to serve because they increased what we’re paying providers, but they didn’t increase the budget. They actually decreased the budget,” she said.

Martinez noted that the child care support budget is based on a three-year structure, “and at the end of those three years the amount of children in Archuleta County who will be able to receive health care assistance will be extremely, extremely low.”

Martinez added that larger counties around the state have already initiated a wait-list freeze.

Human services departments initiate a wait-list freeze once 90 percent of their child care support budget has been spent, Martinez explained, noting, “at the current

rate, we will not hit that,” but as the situation progresses, “we will at some point have to not take names on the wait-list anymore.”

Martinez clarified that once a wait-list freeze is initiated, it will take someone coming off of the wait-list to be able to add a new name.

She indicated in a later interview that a wait-list freeze is not expected to happen this year, but will likely occur in 2026 for Archuleta County.

In response to a question from Commissioner Veronica Medina at the meeting, Martinez indicated that she expects DHS to “cap out” once these changes come to fruition.

According to Martinez’s report attached to the meeting agenda, Archuleta County currently has seven open fiscal agreements with child care providers serving families in Archuleta County, with one provider in Lone Tree serving a family involved

with child welfare.

The report also notes that the number of applications to the Colorado Child Care Assistance Program for Families (CCCAP) received by Archuleta County increased from November 2024 to December 2024, indicating that 10 applications were received, with five being approved and five pending.

The state lets each county set requirements for eligible families, but “must help families that have an income of 185 [percent] or less of the federal poverty guideline,” according to the Colorado Department of Early Childcare’s website.

Martinez’s report also states, “The amount paid out per child to attend full-time care per year increases, while the number of families in each county receiving CCCAP at a time is decreased.”

clayton@pagosasun.com

Letters

■ Continued from A4

ployment of hundreds of thousands of dedicated Federal workers, including young people who wanted a career in public service and veterans, without any concern for their welfare, using a lie to justify the action. Is this what Jesus would do?

Trump has tried to extort tribute from a war-torn nation in exchange for desperately needed assistance. Is this what Jesus would do?

Trump admires and empowers dictators and despots. Is this what Jesus would do?

Trump delights in taking spiteful revenge against anyone who disagrees with him, inflicting pain and humiliation. Is that what Jesus would do?

Trump lies about nearly everything from migrants eating pets to Ukraine starting the war. Is this what Jesus would do?

Trump ordered law abiding migrants to be dragged from their homes and jobs, often dividing families, and taken to concentration camps. Is this what Jesus would do?

Trump is destroying the planet for our children and grandchildren to benefit his financial benefactors in the petroleum industry. Is this what Jesus would do?

Trump pardoned over a thousand insurrectionists, many of whom instigated injury or death to police officers. Is this what Jesus would do?

Trump is using his office to enrich himself at the expense of American citizens. Is this what Jesus would do?

Trump’s has stopped critical research on cancer, Alzheimer’s disease, and other illnesses. Is this what Jesus would do?

Trump commands unconditional loyalty from everyone around him yet gives none in return. Is this what Jesus would do?

Trump is an egomaniac who demands nonstop admiration and loathes people who criticize him. Is this what Jesus would do?

Trump called a minister who asked him to be merciful “nasty” and demanded an apology. Is this what Jesus would do?

If you answered “No” to all these questions, perhaps you should reconsider the holiness of our Dear Leader. People at home and across the globe are already suffering after just five weeks of the Trump administration. And the end of this dangerous chaos and turmoil is nowhere in sight. Is this really what we want for America? John Porco

U.S. 160 problem

Dear Editor:

Last week’s SUN (2/28) ran an article about the repairs to be made to Main Street [US 160] this summer, and mentioned the physical things to be done, they included; ‘water lines, sanitation sewer lines, gas lines, geo-thermal lines, communication and electrical conduit, and storm drainage system’ But not even a mention of the real problem, which is sub pavement drainage, i.e. ground water collection and disposal from the subbase. This is not the same as storm drainage, and involves a completely different piping system. CDOT is simply ignoring it, while “hanging their hat” on concrete pavement to solve all the problems, or as even they admit, delaying the pavement breakup. Concrete is not the fix-all, and will be more expensive to replace when it does fail. Take a look at Eight Steet in front of the Library, and this doesn’t carry anywhere near the wheel loads of Main Street.

What IS the underlying drainage problem on Main Street and how can it be fixed? The problem is “Perched Water, Perched water is water held in a water table(s) above the normal water table. It can be temporary or more permanent. In our case both. It is due to the steep, side hill gradient approaching the river, where the uppergradient, or gradientS are closing in on the river level. Old thoroughfares like MainStreet are built a piece at a time. And underpavement drainage is not addressed, but NOW is the time.

This project is a ‘Poster child’ for perched water. It is everywhere and maybe that’s why it has not been addressed earlier: it has been hiding in plain view. Last summer we had a period of heavy rain. Within two days the west and east bound lanes at Hot Springs Blvd broke up. It is summer, so can’t be frost action. Also west-bound at 8th street, same thing. Then there is the perennial water draining in front of the Rock shop. I could go on and on.

Surely, CDOT has a competent soils Engineer that can solve these problems. It’s certainly not new, and is not rocket science. Failure to address this basic problem will result in this massive two year project being..... all for naught.

Richard W. Riethmiller

Not normal

Dear Editor:

How I wish we had a leader with

the gravitas of Volodymyr Zelenskyy. Instead we have two buffoons who, in that Oval Office meeting last Friday, showed the whole world what horrible people they are. Trump displayed his art of the deal by behaving like the mob boss he is, completely losing his cool, berating Zelenskyy with Russian talking points. Vance, seemingly there just to start the attack, displayed his own childishness by claiming Zelenskyy wasn’t grateful enough —he didn’t say thank you even once during that meeting! (he did) — then went on to criticize Zelenskyy for “litigating” in front of the press, a situation set up by the White House. The Ukrainian president maintained his dignity throughout, while trying to defend himself, barely able to get a word in edgewise. The whole episode could be used in perpetuity as a video on how NOT to negotiate.

Trump even mocked Zelenskyy’s attire and was helpfully reinforced in this by a suck-up journalist from Newsmax. I’ve got eyes and Zelenskyy was the coolest looking guy in the room. Never mind that Elon Musk wears similar (less cool) outfits when presiding over Cabinet meetings and Oval Office pressers. Elon does not possess gravitas.

Speaking of Elon, he repeatedly says that he and the DOGE boys will make mistakes but will correct them. He claimed the air traffic control system, run by Verizon, is dangerously outdated and that Starlink should take over the \$2 billion Verizon contract. Oops! Verizon just landed that contract — Elon corrected his libel of Verizon but I’m guessing he still wants that contract — keep an eye out for how that conflict of interest pans out.

Our unelected president stand-in made a big deal about accidentally cancelling research on Ebola. Elon must have a personal fear of Ebola, and not all of the other deadly diseases, so he corrected his mistake! The reality is that Ebola research and control is not some separate stand alone entity but rather part of a larger effort, spanning agencies, to locate and control various disease outbreaks around the world. There is no magic switch to turn on everything involved in Ebola. When you fire a huge portion of the staff manning all of these agencies, it has far-reaching, devastating impacts that are not easily reversed. So Elon lied — but give

the guy a break! How accurate can you be when you don’t sleep and “micro-dose” ketamine all day?

Elon is a bad joke and Trump is aligning our country with Russia, abandoning and insulting all of our traditional allies. I know Canadians and they are furious with us for the assaults Trump has made on their sovereignty. Their grocery stores now label US products so shoppers can avoid them. One of Norway’s largest marine fuel companies, Haltbakk Bunkers, now refuses to refuel US Navy vessels. I am increasingly concerned for our national security. Our country is controlled by kleptocrats and clowns. This is not normal.

Lee Stophor

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Business

Region 9 receives grant for growing Colorado’s semiconductor and advanced industry ecosystems

By Alissa Johnson
Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade

On March 4, the Global Business Development Division of the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT) announced the latest market study grant recipients of the Colorado CHIPS Community Support Program.

These grants will support Colorado communities interested in starting or growing local and regional semiconductor and advanced industries, including support for 15 counties and two tribes across Colorado, from Archuleta to Routt to Yuma counties.

“Colorado’s semiconductor ecosystem is primed for growth from within. By supporting its expansion in more parts of the state, we can help more Colorado communities leverage this opportunity and grow the state’s semiconductor industry,” said OEDIT Executive Director Eve Lieberman. “The grants announced ... support our work to build a Colorado for all, helping communities across the state diversify their economies and benefit from the good-paying jobs these industries provide.”

The Semiconductor Industry Association places Colorado in the top 10 states with the resources and busi-

ness ecosystem to support a strong semiconductor industry.

The Colorado CHIPS Community Support program is one of several state programs launched by the Polis administration to strategically grow Colorado’s semiconductor and advanced industry ecosystems, including the CHIPS refundable tax credits and CHIPS zones.

The Colorado CHIPS Community Support Program was designed to foster the expansion of Colorado’s existing semiconductor and advanced industries while supporting their growth in new and emerging markets, including rural development.

“Colorado was ahead of the curve prioritizing the semiconductor industry for growth. Critical and emerging technologies are significant economic drivers, and this funding opportunity helps to advance the goals of local economies outside of the Front Range,” said Michelle Hadwiger, director of OEDIT’s Global Business Development Division.

Through this program, the Global Business Development Division is working to uncover supply chain and value chain assets that support the semiconductor industry throughout the state.

The grants announced will fund market studies to identify opportunities for development, as well as

marketing and promotional activities to increase awareness of Colorado’s strengths in these industries.

- Receiving grants are:
- Northeastern Colorado Economic Development Organizations Consortia, \$50,000: Sedgwick, Phillips, Morgan, Logan, Washington, and Yuma counties.
 - Region 9 Economic Development District of Southwest Colorado, \$47,000: Archuleta, Dolores, La Plata, Montezuma and San Juan counties, and the Southern Ute Indian Tribe and the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe.
 - Denver South, \$45,000.
 - Clear Creek Economic Development Corporation, \$50,000.
 - Routt County Economic Development Partnership, \$50,000.

About OEDIT’s Global Business Development Division

Global Business Development is a division of OEDIT. It supports Colorado businesses and communities by using a data-driven approach to recruit, support, and retain businesses that contribute to a robust and diversified economy.

We align our portfolio of programs, services and incentives with industries that benefit Colorado companies and elevate the state’s national

and international competitiveness.

The division also hosts foreign delegations and participates in trade and investment missions around the world to strengthen global awareness of Colorado.

With a highly educated and motivated workforce, a thriving innovation economy, and nation-leading entrepreneurial spirit, Colorado is a top market for business development.

About OEDIT

OEDIT works to empower all to thrive in Colorado’s economy.

Under the leadership of the governor and in collaboration with economic development partners across the state, we foster a thriving business environment through funding and financial programs, training, consulting and informational resources across industries and regions.

We promote economic growth and long-term job creation by recruiting, retaining and expanding Colorado businesses, and providing programs that support entrepreneurs and businesses of all sizes at every stage of growth.

Our goal is to protect what makes our state a great place to live, work, start a business, raise a family, visit and retire — and make it accessible to everyone.

Tickets available for April 29 Building Business Excellence Forum

By Mary Jo Coulehan
Pagosa Springs Area Chamber of Commerce

The Pagosa Springs Area Chamber of Commerce is excited and proud to bring the first Building Business Excellence Forum to Pagosa Springs on April 29, 2025 at the Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Association Clubhouse.

This half-day business forum, beginning at 1 p.m., will be a mix of inspiring speakers, business professionals conducting informative breakout sessions and a networking reception to round out the day.

The Chamber has been fielding a lot of questions and consultations with our business community wanting more information on running, starting or developing their businesses and themselves. Based on the general theme of questions we have been receiving and inquiring of other

business resources, a menu of topics was developed.

The Chamber will host noted author and inspirational speaker Dale Wilsher to the keynote podium. “Finding Success Through Your Purpose” will be Wilsher’s keynote.

With more than 71 percent of business owners feeling they need to be all things to all people, how do you take the best direction for your business? Wilsher will show you how you can capitalize on your authentic strengths, align your business with your core values and tap into full potential by thinking with a purpose-driven mindset.

You will determine your true strengths and eliminate personality masks, learn how to use your passion to find motivation and strategic direction, and how to tap your potential.

The day will continue with four breakout sessions, or two sets of two sessions, designed to help you

streamline your business efforts, work on your financial strategies and be a stronger you.

Breakout speakers will be Terryl Peterson, business consultant and owner of CFO Services; Sherry Waner, chief development officer with 1st Southwest Bank; and Wilsher, author of “Your Authentic Personality.”

There will also be a breakout session with a panel of presenters highlighting time- and cost-saving measures in the digital world focusing on accounting, scheduling, marketing and social media.

This forum will be fast-paced, information-packed and high-energy.

After you gain a lot of workable knowledge, take time to decompress and network with fellow business leaders at the end of the day. Oftentimes, these networking sessions can be the most important part of your day, allowing you to make new

contacts, reconnect with old ones, or conduct business in a relaxed setting.

Tickets are now on sale for this event. They are \$35 for Chamber members and \$45 for nonmembers. This includes all the topic sessions, breakout snacks and a drink ticket for the reception. There will be more information in the upcoming weeks about this conference, but you can get your tickets now.

This forum is offered at an extremely reasonable price to encourage businesses to send leaders in their industry or coax business owners to get out and work on you and your business.

For those trying to start a business, this conference is meant for you, too, both in price and content.

To register for the event, visit the Chamber website at www.pagosa-chamber.com and click on the Building Business Excellence graphic under Chamber and Community News.

You don’t have to travel to Durango or Ignacio to attend a high-quality, comprehensive business forum. That high-caliber forum is coming to you.

Should you have any questions, please contact the Chamber at (970) 264-2360. Watch for more details in the weeks to come.

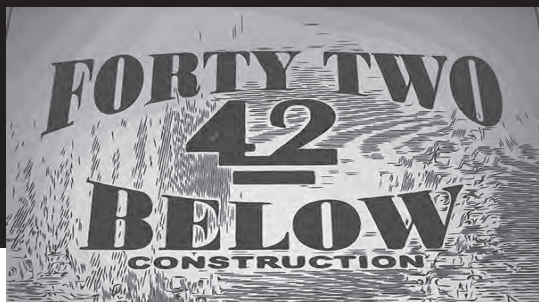
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Regional partners awarded \$1.7 million in Proposition 123 funds to create affordable homeownership housing units

Regional Housing Alliance of La Plata County

The Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA), Division of Housing, has awarded \$1,753,000 to Ignacio, Pagosa Springs and Silverton, as part of Proposition 123 (Prop 123) initiative to support the development of affordable housing.

These funds, made available through the State Affordable Housing Support Fund, will assist the awarded communities in creating new housing units to address the growing need for affordable and attainable homes.

Prop 123 created a state-level funding mechanism, dedicating 40 percent of the funds to the Affordable Housing Support Fund, administered by DOLA, and 60 percent to the Affordable Housing Financing Fund, overseen by the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT).

These funds are allocated to support local housing programs aimed at addressing the affordable housing

crisis in Colorado.

Through this funding, the following projects will receive support:

- Ignacio: Rock Creek Phase 2, which will consist of an 11-unit housing development.
- Pagosa Springs: Chris Mountain II Phase 2.
- Silverton: Anvil Walsh Townhomes, which will include nine modular housing units.

Pagosa Springs project details

The Pagosa Springs Community Development Corporation’s (PSCDC’s) Chris Mountain II Phase 2 project was awarded \$675,000.

Phase 2 of the Chris Mountain project will consist of 10 single-family detached homes, with expected completion in 2025. The entire project will include 35 homes.

These units will serve families employed full-time, with Habitat for Humanity providing USDA 502 loans to qualifying households.

Due to rising labor and material costs as well as the remote location, building affordable homes within the 100 percent area median income (AMI) range has become challenging.

The PSCDC is working with local partners to bridge this gap and continue developing affordable housing.

“The proposed 10 homeownership units, affordable to households earning 100 percent AMI, will address a critical need in the market, particularly for first-time homebuyers and the ‘missing middle,’” said Emily Lashbrooke, PSCDC executive director. “While I’m not a builder or developer, I’m a problem solver. We’re learning by doing, and our focus is on getting things done, as that’s what the town and the county have tasked us with.”

The stakeholder/partners for the project include: Archuleta County, Pagosa Area Water and Sewer District, Habitat for Humanity of Archuleta County, Archuleta County Housing Authority, and various other grant partnerships.

Reminder: Rotary scholarship applications due March 17

By Meg Wempe
Rotary Club of Pagosa Springs

Attention, high school seniors: The deadline to apply for the Rotary Club of Pagosa Springs’ annual scholarships is fast approaching.

Applications must be submitted by 4 p.m. on March 17, so don’t miss your chance to secure funding for your education.

Each year, Rotary awards scholarships to deserving students, with total funding typically exceeding \$20,000 annually. Since the program began, we’ve awarded \$564,125 to 201 graduates, and we’re excited to continue this tradition in 2025.

These scholarships are open to seniors from Pagosa Springs High

School, GOAL Academy, Pagosa Valor Academy, San Juan Mountain School, home-school students and those earning a GED by spring.

Whether you’re heading to a four-year college, university or vocational school, there’s a scholarship opportunity for you. Separate applications are available for traditional college-bound students and those pursuing vocational education.

Applications have been distributed at Pagosa Springs High School, San Juan Mountain School, Pagosa Valor Academy and GOAL Academy. If you don’t attend these schools, you can request an application via email or visit <https://tinyurl.com/yc5xf5h3>.

Recipients are selected based on financial need, academic achieve-

ment, extracurricular involvement, personal interviews, letters of recommendation, a personal essay and resume quality.

The Rotary Club of Pagosa Springs, established in 1979, is a dedicated community service organization with more than 80 active members. Our scholarships are funded through generous contributions from businesses, individuals and fundraising events, including the annual Jewels and Jeans Barn Dance each October.

To request an application or submit a completed one, email megwempe@hotmail.com with the subject line “Rotary Scholarship.”

Time is running out — apply today.



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Town, county discuss options for Country Center Drive maintenance

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

On Feb. 25, the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) and Pagosa Springs Town Council held a joint work session at which concerns and possible action steps were discussed for addressing needed maintenance on Country Center Drive.

Pagosa Springs Community Development Director James Dickhoff initiated the conversation, stating that the community has been dealing with large potholes at both entrances of Country Center Drive “for many years.”

Country Center Drive is a service road that is located on private property serving multiple businesses between North Pagosa Boulevard and Talisman Drive.

“Obviously we’ve all experienced potholes on both entrances from North Pagosa Boulevard and Talisman,” Dickhoff said.

He explained that multiple attempts have been made to work with the property and business owners, noting there are seven different property owners in the area.

Dickhoff mentioned that it took a great deal of effort “to get almost to the finish line” in coordinating a repair with the owners, adding the last attempt was when North Pagosa Boulevard was reconstructed.

Dickhoff indicated that the topic will come again soon, as the last repair was a “Band-Aid” that will only last a few years, explaining that the asphalt failing is not the main concern, but rather the base of the roadway that is failing.

“So, it’s gonna come up again soon,” he said, noting the intention is to improve the entire corridor.

Dickhoff also mentioned that North Pagosa Boulevard is the “highest-traveled county road,” with more than 7,500 average daily traffic vehicles.

Dickhoff went on to explain that there are multiple groundwater springs in the area with old drainage patterns on the south side of U.S. 160, “and they just flow under the road,” with some of the water entering culverts and some of it staying as groundwater.

As far as a total cost to repair the section near McDonald’s, Dickhoff mentioned that he received a quote from Davis Engineering indicating that it would be approximately \$250,000 “to do it right.”

“And it needs to be done in concrete,” Dickhoff said, explaining that asphalt will deteriorate quicker with the amount of traffic the road gets.

Dickhoff noted that there are seven different property owners between North Pagosa Boulevard and Talisman Drive, “so there’s a lot of finger-pointing going on.”

He explained that the potholes exist on vacant property, with different ownership than the businesses.

“So, those property owners have no interest in repairing a driveway that’s accessing a business,” Dickhoff said, noting the road is through an easement on the property.

He also mentioned that a new Tesla charging station has been proposed in the shopping center, and that, as a new development, “we have ability to say, ‘we need you to figure this out,’” explaining that the town’s Land Use and Development Code (LUDC) could be used to require a new development to bring the roadway up to code standards.

Dickhoff mentioned that one way for the property owners to address the issue is by creating an owners’ association that each owner could pay into in order to take care of the road maintenance, instead of “piecemealing it constantly.”

Dickhoff indicated that the Tesla charging station proposal will be going in front of the town’s planning commission for consideration.

He then mentioned that the town’s LUDC is “very new-development oriented,” with lots of requirements that new developments need to meet, while being “almost silent on maintenance.”

Dickhoff noted that the town is going to look at proposing the adoption of a property maintenance code as part of its building code.

He explained that the last building code series was adopted in 2015.

“It really is time to update our codes,” he said, explaining the last adopted code was jointly adopted with the county to avoid having different codes in the same area.

Dickhoff acknowledged the possibility of the town “taking over” Country Center Drive, but noted it would be a big expense for the town to bring it up to code standards, comparing it to the driveway that serves the Walmart parking lot, which is also often littered with large potholes.

“I don’t think that’s the right answer,” Dickhoff said. “I really think it’s a private property owner maintenance issue, and they do really need to step up.”

Commissioner Warren Brown commented that he was appreciative of Dickhoff’s perspective on the matter, while mentioning that multiple elected officials in both the town and county have been inundated with calls, emails and meetings with residents expressing concern over the road.

“At some point ... you cut your losses, you don’t care who fixes it, you just fix it,” Brown said, inquiring if the town could fund the needed repairs and charge back the business and put a lien on them “if they don’t get off their hind end.”

Brown also noted that “it’s not safe” sometimes entering in or exiting the shopping center while trying to dodge potholes and oncoming traffic or large vehicles.

“It’s a real mess, as everybody knows,” he said, adding “we’re heading the wrong way” when private businesses are taking on liability to fix a driveway that they do not own.

Dickhoff noted that the town has also shown up and put resources into repairing the roadway because of concerns being raised by residents, but “also didn’t want the public to know that we’re spending public money on fixing private-property potholes.”

Dickhoff reiterated that it would be a large investment and that any sort of legal strategy would need to include all of the property owners.

County Attorney Todd Weaver commented that other similar cases in other communities have resulted in public entities suing due to it being a public nuisance.

“That might be a route,” he said.

Pagosa Springs Town Manager David Harris commented that “in-depth” conversations have been held with legal counsel about “alternate options,” though he noted that it

would be simpler if the property owners could be coaxed into doing “what’s right” rather than the town or county having to “bring out the hammer.”

Commissioner Veronica Medina mentioned that previous BoCC members proposed the option of having the entrance at North Pagosa Boulevard closed off when attempting to have that entrance reconstructed the last time.

She explained that if both entrances are blocked off the owners would either be forced to resolve the issue or patrons would have to figure out another way to access the business.

Dickhoff mentioned that would be the “knee-jerk reaction,” while noting it gets complicated with City Market owning its own entrance off of Village Drive.

“It’s definitely not a knee-jerk reaction,” Medina replied, relating to Dickhoff’s earlier comment that this has been a problem for many years now.

She added, “We’re all in this together,” explaining that folks are simply tired of the problem not being fixed.

“I feel like there’s something that we can do, and if we can’t get them to come to the table and talk to us, we need to think about a different alternative,” she said.

Medina also commented that she doesn’t believe it’s right to pass the issue onto a new development when they would be walking into a problem that “the others want to deny is there.”

“Somehow we need to get this fixed,” she said.

“I absolutely agree,” Dickhoff said.

Medina indicated that a joint letter could be sent from the town and county to the property owners laying out what steps will be taken if the matter is not resolved, that may include a time frame for the road to be fixed, otherwise the entrance will be closed off.

Commissioner John Ranson expressed support for putting a time frame on the matter, stating, “This has gone on way too long.”

In a later interview, Dickhoff explained that a letter has not yet been sent to the property owners, but he has started to make contact with some of them, noting this is now his fourth attempt to coordinate a solution between the owners.

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Water conservancy board talks lawsuit costs

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

At its Feb. 17 meeting, the San Juan Water Conservancy District (SJWCD) Board of Directors continued its discussion of the high costs of litigation concerning the potential sale of the Running Iron Ranch and its impact on the SJWCD budget.

The Running Iron Ranch is jointly owned by Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD) and the SJWCD, and the SJWCD is undertaking efforts to build a reservoir on the site.

In the fall of 2024, PAWSD initiated efforts to sell the property, which the SJWCD has opposed.

Following disputes between the districts over PAWSD’s ability to sell the ranch under a 2015 agreement between the SJWCD, PAWSD and the Colorado Water Conservation Board, PAWSD filed a lawsuit against the SJWCD in December 2024 seeking a judgment that PAWSD is allowed to sell the ranch despite the SJWCD’s objections.

At its Jan. 20 meeting, the SJWCD board discussed the costs of the lawsuit, noting that it had already spent about \$4,600 of the \$10,000 allocated in its budget for Running Iron Ranch litigation.

At the Feb. 17 meeting, SJWCD board member and treasurer Joe Tedder explained that the district has

now spent \$11,353 in two months of litigation, overrunning the budget for the year.

Tedder proposed that the district increase the Running Iron Ranch litigation budget to \$25,000, although he noted he was unsure if this would be the “right number.”

He added that the district could reduce another spending category by the amount increased or increase the district’s overall budget and take money out of reserves.

SJWCD board member Charles Riehm commented that the district should increase the overall spending budget to ensure it does not have to pick and choose between reducing other programs until its reserves are low enough that other items must be cut.

SJWCD legal counsel Jeffrey Kane commented that the district would likely have to hold another budget hearing if it increases its overall spending, although it would not have to do so if it moved funds out of contingency.

In response to a proposal from Riehm, Tedder explained that the district has \$10,000 in contingency for its 2025 budget and that it could move this to the legal fund to increase its litigation budget to \$20,000.

SJWCD board president Candace Jones proposed that the board use contingency to pay its current legal costs and prepare to hold a hear-

ing to amend the budget, which she noted requires 30 days public notice.

Tedder raised concerns that, if the lawsuit is lengthy, the board could overrun even the \$25,000 budget he proposed.

He added that the budget was based on the assumption that the judge would make a quick ruling on the matter.

Jones commented that the board could take money out of its engineering budget to pay for the litigation costs and that it should potentially discuss an overall revision to the budget in few months when it has received an engineering report on the reservoir project from engineering firm Yeh and Associates and has a clearer idea of the direction of the lawsuit.

Tedder noted that the district has considerable flexibility to move money between funds if it does not impact the district’s bottom line, which Kane confirmed.

Tedder then moved to transfer \$15,000 from the engineering and studies fund to the district’s litigation fund.

“I hate doing this,” SJWCD board member Bill Nobles commented.

“I do, too, but we can always recover later,” Tedder said.

The board unanimously voted to approve the transfer.

josh@pagosasun.com

Archuleta County Democratic Club to meet March 10

By Lynn Frederick
Archuleta County Democratic Club

The Archuleta County Democratic Club will meet for lunch at Coyote Moon at 11:30 a.m. on Monday, March 10.

The speaker will be Ethan Proud, Archuleta County Weed and Pest supervisor.

Come and hear about the damage that noxious, invasive plants are do-

ing to our local agriculture, native vegetation, and how they disrupt our ecosystems.

Proud joins us at an opportune time, just as we head outside and survey our property for spring clean-up.

We also expect to have available copies of the new pocket handbook, “Noxious Weeds of Colorado, 15th Edition,” edited by Proud with Alicia Doran for the Colorado Weed Management Association.

information on the Cone Zone Care Committee.

There will be social time and ordering lunch from a special menu from 11:30 a.m. to noon.

The meeting will be from noon to 1 p.m. at Victor’s Sushi, 118 N. Pagosa Blvd.

Archuleta County Republican Women meeting set for March 12

By Karen Griggs
Archuleta County Republican Women

Join the Archuleta County Republican Women meeting on Wednesday, March 12.

The guest speaker will be Kat McFadden, who will provide up-to-date

Community news.

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Project

■ Continued from front

crete will increase the lifespan and longevity of the roadway, requiring less frequent maintenance,” and that concrete is also less susceptible to weather damage and regular wear and tear than asphalt.

The project, according to CDOT, is slated to last two construction seasons.

Greene and fellow public information manager Tracy Trulove explained that the first season of the project will include putting up barricades and establishing “the work zone.”

Greene encouraged all affected business owners to sign up for email updates “so everybody is informed” about what is happening.

She also explained that she will help make business owners aware, in advance as much as possible, when the brunt of the work zone would be impacting their businesses.

“When we know we are about to impact you, we will contact you,” Greene said, assuring that two lanes of traffic, one going each direction, as well as pedestrian access to businesses will remain open during the construction.

Main Street Advisory Board Coordinator Kathleen McFadden explained that the Pagosa Springs Community Development Corporation (PSCDC), in coordination with the Region 9 Economic Development District of Southwest Colorado, has set up a business assistance program to help businesses experiencing economic disruptions during the reconstruction project.

McFadden described the program as offering “low-cost loans to businesses” during the CDOT project, but also said that she’s “heard loud and clear” from the public that business owners prefer “grants, not loans.”

She explained that Archuleta County “has earmarked \$100,000 to go towards grant funding,” adding, “we are now combining that grant money with the loan money.”

She explained that she’s still figuring out how the guidelines and the application process will work, “but we are going to give you the option of a low-cost loan or a grant, or perhaps a combination of both of those.”

She added, “We are just thrilled to now have that grant option,” thanking the county commissioners for making the funds available, which was met with applause from the audience.

But some in the crowd expressed frustration with what they saw as a low grant amount, saying that they don’t think the county’s grant program will be enough to go around

to make up for the lost revenues if the project causes major economic disruptions.

One of the major concerns among both business owners and patrons alike is that there will be no on-street parking on U.S. 160 through the work zone. It’s estimated that up to 188 downtown parking spaces will be lost during the project.

Cone Zone member Rosanna Dufour, who also spearheaded a task force to offset lost parking during the construction, explained that the task force, in conjunction with the town, has “negotiated temporary parking west of the library, as well as south of the hot springs resort.”

She added that with these two temporary town-run parking areas, “we more than made up for the 188 spots.”

A map of the available parking during the construction will be circulated by the town and Archuleta County to help folks be aware of available parking, Dufour explained.

At the Cone Zone meeting, Dickhoff explained that it is important for the town to update the utilities under the roadway while the road is torn up, because it would be “very expensive to fix utilities in the future” after the concrete roadway has been installed.

The Pagosa Springs Town Council moved forward with directing staff to implement time-restricted public parking during the project at its March 4 meeting.

Development Director James Dickhoff explained that this will allow “for customers to turn over quickly” to aid downtown businesses during their business hours.

Staff recommended two-hour limits along 1st Street, North 2nd Street, South 2nd Street, 3rd Street between the highway and Lewis Street, on Hermosa Street near Cotton Hole Park, as well as the parking areas at Town and Mary Fisher parks, Dickhoff noted. Other areas also proposed to be two-hour parking.

“Generally, those are the areas,” he said, explaining that Lewis Street would be the most “complicated” to implement parking restrictions on because of the middle school.

Parking areas near The Springs Resort, the library and Reservoir Hill will not have time restrictions, Dickhoff noted.

He recommended that staff implement 30-minute parking restrictions at the Visitor Center to keep that parking lot turning over throughout the day.

When asked in a later interview if staff would consider implementing the two-hour limit only during certain business hours, allowing patrons of downtown bars to leave vehicles parked on the street for longer periods of time if they are too intoxicated to drive, Dickhoff indicated staff would consider the issue.

Pagosa Springs Police Chief Bill Rockensock also noted that time restrictions only during certain times were not part of the original conversation, but that this could be considered before implementing the new parking rules.

Town contribution and upgrades

In partnership with CDOT, the Town of Pagosa Springs will also be replacing and updating outdated utilities underneath the roadway, as well as beautifying main street.

At the Cone Zone meeting, Dickhoff explained that it is important for the town to update the utilities under the roadway while the road is torn up, because it would be “very expensive to fix utilities in the future” after the concrete roadway has been installed.

The town’s expenses for the project will run somewhere between \$4 million and \$5 million and will include new street lights, side street improvements, new street trees and new sidewalks in areas that CDOT is not already improving, in addition to the utilities upgrades, Dickhoff explained.

In conversation after the meeting, Mayor Shari Pierce expressed that she wants the public to know about this significant public investment from the town, not only to upgrade the utilities under the roadway, but also to make main street more aesthetically pleasing.

At the council’s March 4 meeting, the council unanimously authorized staff to spend up to \$310,000 for new street lights for the main street corridor.

An agenda document states that “the order is for approximately 62 street lights/poles and 14 intersection/crosswalk lights and poles.”

Staff recommended making the

purchase for the street lights as soon as possible, because although “the steel used for the poles are manufactured in Utah with American made steel, the pending 25% tariffs on steel and aluminum will impact American Made steel products, thus price increases of 25% are expected in the coming month,” the document states.

Also at the meeting, financing for the bulk of the town’s utilities upgrades during the project was discussed with the town’s financial advisor, Joey McLiney, on hand, and Town Manager David Harris saying that the town’s “portion of the fixes” would land between \$4 million and \$5 million.

Harris noted the town could pay for these upgrades out of its reserve fund, but that reimbursing the fund comes with some uncertainty.

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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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There are a lot of “unknowns that could affect our sales tax collections,” Harris said, citing the possible impacts on business from the CDOT project, as well as the looming possibility of a national recession.

The town just doesn’t know what will happen with the economy, Harris indicated, recommending that the town “preserve cash on hand.”

McLiney added that he could prepare a “reimbursement” plan for the council to consider at a later time.

Support for local businesses

An audience member at the Cone Zone meeting commented that it would be important, now more than ever, for locals to support local businesses during the construction project, suggesting that a promotional

program should be implemented to implore folks “who don’t normally go out to eat” to go out and support local businesses.

Dufour noted that the Cone Zone Committee, in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce, is working on exactly that, seeking a “forum” where businesses could come up with ideas to support each other and for the community to “support these businesses.”

“It’s absolutely on our radar on where we are trying to head with this group,” she added.

Mike Coggins, who represented CDOT’s contractor at the meeting, closed by saying, “Pagosa Springs is a resilient community ... we have a job to do, and we’re going to get through this. We’re gonna work together ... and we’re gonna make it happen.”

derek@pagosasun.com



Delani Smith

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Gymnasium

■ Continued from front

mitted through the telephone option.

The question PLPOA members were being asked to vote on was, “Do you approve the funding for the construction of a gymnasium through a one-time special assessment of \$255 which will be billed April 1, 2025 and due July 1, 2025?”

According to the additional information released by PLPOA, a total of

4,789 “weighted votes” were cast for that question, and 3,419 votes disapproved while 1,370 votes approved. That equates to approximately 71.4 percent of voters disapproving of the project, with 28.6 percent of voters approving it.

Votes from Wyndham timeshare owners were also collected, with 524 voters indicating a choice on this ballot. Total weighted votes cast on

this ballot are shown 10.07652, or .1 percent of 9,649.27 total weighted possible votes. Of those weighted votes, 67.9 percent disapproved and 32.06 percent approved.

Attempts to reach PLPOA board members and General Manager Allen Roth for additional comment were unsuccessful as of press time Wednesday.

clayton@pagosasun.com

Hydrant

■ Continued from front

that we’re now coming together to talk about this and move forward and hopefully be flowing hydrants this spring,” he said.

PFPD board member Wayne Hooper noted he’s had a lot of phone calls and discussed the effect the issue could have on fire insurance ratings, which would cost everybody.

Hooper then asked the district’s attorney, Dino Ross, whose liability it would be if there’s a life safety issue, adding the PFPD has a moral obligation.

Ross confirmed PAWSO owns the

system before indicating it is up to PAWSO to provide water and maintain the working order of equipment and appurtenances.

Hooper later noted the district has about four minutes of water with a typical engine.

After Ross gave an example of a similar issue another district he works with is facing, Hooper acknowledged people are upset and concerned about the issue.

Bertram noted spring is the best time to flow hydrants before the summer water demand and they don’t want to do it in winter, but PAWSO

has over 1,200 hydrants.

The chief later added there is momentum on the issue and things are moving in the right direction.

Bertram also explained that there are 39 pressure zones in the PAWSO water system due to the elevation, which he noted is a lot.

Some hydrants are known to have lower flows, he noted, indicating the hope is to eventually do color coding of the hydrants based on flow.

He added PAWSO has also stated if problems are found with hydrants, those problems will be fixed.

randi@pagosasun.com

Charges

■ Continued from front

\$1 million at that hearing and he was remanded into custody.

McCelvey, who is again out on bond, appeared virtually in front of 6th Judicial District Chief Judge Jeffrey Wilson alongside his attorney, Jeffrey S. Pagliuca, on Monday afternoon for the filing of charges.

McCelvey’s charges stem from a two-vehicle crash that took place on U.S. 84, near milepost 18 (near Pagosa Springs) at 5:29 p.m. on Feb. 15.

According to a press release from the Colorado State Patrol (CSP), a 2021 Ford F250 was northbound on U.S. 84 when it moved into the southbound lane where a 2022 Chevrolet Trailblazer was traveling. The Trailblazer moved into the northbound lane and then the Ford F250 returned back into its original lane, colliding with the Trailblazer.

The Trailblazer, the press release notes, was pushed northbound and hit the guardrail on the northbound

side of the road. The Ford F250 traveled into the southbound lane, colliding with the guardrail on the south side of the highway.

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

The front-seat passenger of the Trailblazer was transported to an area hospital with serious injuries, according to the press release.

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Sports

BASKETBALL

No. 7 Lady Pirates to host playoff action Friday, Saturday

By **Randi Pierce**
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Lady Pirate basketball team will host first-round playoff action Friday evening after nabbing the No. 7 spot on the 32-team playoff bracket.

The Lady Pirates secured the No. 7 playoff spot with a March 1 win over the Bayfield Wolverines.

The Lady Pirates held the Wolverines to single digits in all four quarters on March 1, outscoring their visitors 11-6 in the first, 14-4 in the second, 11-7 in the third and 21-9 in the fourth to log the 57-26 win.

"I thought it was a good way to end our regular season and senior night with a win against [Bayfield]," coach Sarah Osborn wrote in an email to The SUN. "Pagosa and [Bayfield] rivalry goes way back and no matter what it always feels good to get a win against [Bayfield]."

"We aren't done yet this year, we are practicing hard and going back to the fundamentals and details in order to go into our post season playing our best basketball."

Coach Sarah Osborn

Eight Lady Pirates scored in the matchup, led by Elizabeth Currier's 19 points, which included two 3-pointers.

Kaila Limebrook and Karsyn Shahan each put up nine points, with Shahan landing one 3-pointer.

Adelyn Hittle notched eight points, and Kylie Ketchum and Victoria Currier each had four. Lexi Campbell and Amber Snarr tallied two each.

The team made 12 of 17 free-throw attempts.

Shahan led the team in rebounding with eight, followed by Lexi Campbell with six. Limebrook, Hittle and Snarr pulled down five each. Elizabeth Currier notched four, Ketchum tallied three, and Charity Domingo and Victoria Currier had one each.

The team picked up 13 steals and turned the ball over nine times.

"It was a fun and emotional game," Osborn wrote of it also being the night the team honored its seniors. "Our seniors have given so much to this program and it always feels good to get them the recognition they deserve but on the other hand when they are gone the juniors and other girls will have huge shoes to fill. I am beyond grateful to have had the opportunity to coach those three for so long and we are going to miss them next year."

But, Osborn acknowledges, the team isn't done.

"With all that being said," she adds, "we aren't done yet this year, we are practicing hard and going back to



SUN photo/Randi Pierce

Lady Pirate Adelyn Hittle fights to keep possession against a trio of Bayfield Wolverines on March 1. The Lady Pirates won the matchup and are entering the postseason as the No. 7 team.

the fundamentals and details in order to go into our post season playing our best basketball."

As the No. 7 seed, the Lady Pirates will welcome the No. 26 Fort Morgan Mustangs to town for a 5:30 p.m. game on Friday, March 7.

The Mustangs are 8-15 on the season.

Pagosa Springs High School will also be the site of the matchup be-

tween the No. 10 Lamar Thunder and No. 23 DSST: Montview Knights at 7 p.m. on Friday.

The Thunder are 18-5 on the season, while the Knights own a 15-7 record.

The winners of Friday's games will advance to Saturday's Sweet 16 matchup, which is set for a 1 p.m. tip-off at Pagosa Springs High School.

"We won't over look anyone," Os-

born wrote, adding, "every team has something to prove in post season, but our girls and hungry and determined to find themselves back at state."

randi@pagosasun.com



Play hard, Pirates!

Visiting Angels 2025 Best of Home Care® – Leader in Experience Award



Visiting Angels announced today that they have received the distinguished 2025 Best of Home Care® –Leader in Experience Award from Activated Insights, formerly Home Care Pulse, the leading firm in experience management for post-acute care. The Leader in Experience Award is the highest recognition awarded by Activated Insights and is given to select home care businesses that consistently rank among the very highest in 10 or more quality metrics. As a Leader in Experience, Visiting Angels is now recognized among the top 10% of home care providers participating in the nationwide Activated Insights Experience Management program.

This accomplishment demon-

strates Visiting Angel's long-term dedication to excellent care and quality improvement. To qualify for this award, 10% of Visiting Angels' clients and caregivers were interviewed each month by Activated Insights. Over a 12-month period, Visiting Angels received high client and caregiver satisfaction ratings in areas such as caregiver training, compassion of caregivers, communication, scheduling, client/caregiver compatibility, and more. Using feedback from clients and employees, as well as quality benchmarks from Activated Insights, the Visiting Angels management team set goals to reach the highest level of Experience possible.

"We are so excited that our team of amazing caregivers and staff have

achieved this award. Our team is committed to providing the excellence in all we do to serve our communities. I could not be prouder of their accomplishment." -says Michelle Johnson, CEO.

The Best of Home Care® – Leader in Experience Award highlights the top-performing home care businesses in the nation. Activated Insights believes that by honoring these providers, families looking for in-home care for a loved one will be able to recognize and choose a trusted home care provider.

To find out more about Visiting Angels commitment to experience, please visit www.visitingangels.com/southwestcolorado or call 970-264-5991.



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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



SUN photo/Randi Pierce

Pirate Colt Lewis works the ball toward the basket in his return to action on March 1 against Bayfield. The Pirates fell in overtime, but will head to the postseason this week as the No. 30 team in 4A boys' basketball.

No. 30 Pirates to face No. 3 Aspen to open playoffs

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

The No. 30 Pagosa Springs High School Pirate basketball team will take on the No. 3 Aspen Skiers Friday evening in Aspen in the first round of the 4A state playoffs.

"It's a tall task ahead, there's no doubt about it," coach Wes Lewis said of the Pirates' upcoming match. "That's why they're the three and we're the 30."

The Pirates are 7-16 entering the playoffs, with the Skiers owning a 20-3 record.

The teams have played three common opponents this season — Delta, Holy Family and Peak to Peak — with the Skiers going 2-2 in those games and the Pirates dropping all three.

Play is set to begin at 7 p.m. in Aspen.

Lewis explained the team has looked at Aspen on film and found areas they think they can be successful in against Aspen to try to take advantage of.

"The guys are staying pretty positive, and, you know, it's that old saying, 'That's why we play the game' — we're going to give it our best effort and our best shot, and we're glad to be in the playoffs," Lewis said. "We're going to see where it goes."

The coach added the Pirates will have to take care of the basketball,

stay out of foul trouble and make shots to be successful.

Also playing in Aspen Friday evening will be the No. 14 Montezuma-Cortez Panthers and the No. 19 Timnath Cubs.

The Panthers are 17-6 on the season, and the Cubs are 16-7.

The winner of Friday's games will advance to Saturday's Sweet 16 game at 1 p.m.

The Pirates closed out the regular season with an overtime loss to the Bayfield Wolverines on March 1.

It was smooth sailing for the Pirates for the first half of the game, with the home team leading 13-7 at the end of the first and 25-16 at halftime.

"We were just kinda playing pretty good with them in the first half. They tried a little zone and we did a really nice job of attacking it and scoring against it, which helped sustain our lead a little bit, or building our lead," Lewis said. "Then they got out of that zone and ... their man defense gave us more fits than their zone, and I was wishin' they'd stayed in that zone."

In the second half, Lewis recalled, the Wolverines "slowly chipped away at the lead."

The Wolverines put up 20 points in the third, while the Pirates put up 12, leaving the Pirates with a 37-36 lead heading into the fourth quarter.

"We didn't have a great third quarter," he said.

Bayfield outscored Pagosa 14-13 in the fourth to send the game into overtime tied at 50-50.

"Obviously it was a tight game throughout. I was proud of the guys. They fought hard," Lewis said. "We had a chance to win it in regulation."

He added that, while the team didn't come away with the win, he's proud of the Pirates for giving themselves the chance to win.

"It just kind of got away from us; we couldn't put the ball in the hole in overtime and had some turnovers, and they were able to hit some shots and pull away."

Bayfield ultimately won 61-51.

Seth Zeigler led the Pirates' scoring on the night with 16 points. In his return to action, Colt Lewis picked up 11 points, which included a 3-pointer.

Ty Richey put up eight points, including a pair of 3-pointers, and Creede Dozier put up seven, which included one 3-pointer. Jaxten Schiel added six points, Bode Hubbard tallied two and Jayton Ross had one.

The team was 9-for-14 from the free-throw line.

Zeigler pulled down nine rebounds in the matchup, with Dozier and Schiel each having seven.

Richey logged six rebounds, Colt Lewis had two and Hubbard had one.

The Pirates stole the ball twice in the matchup and tallied 18 turnovers. randi@pagosasun.com

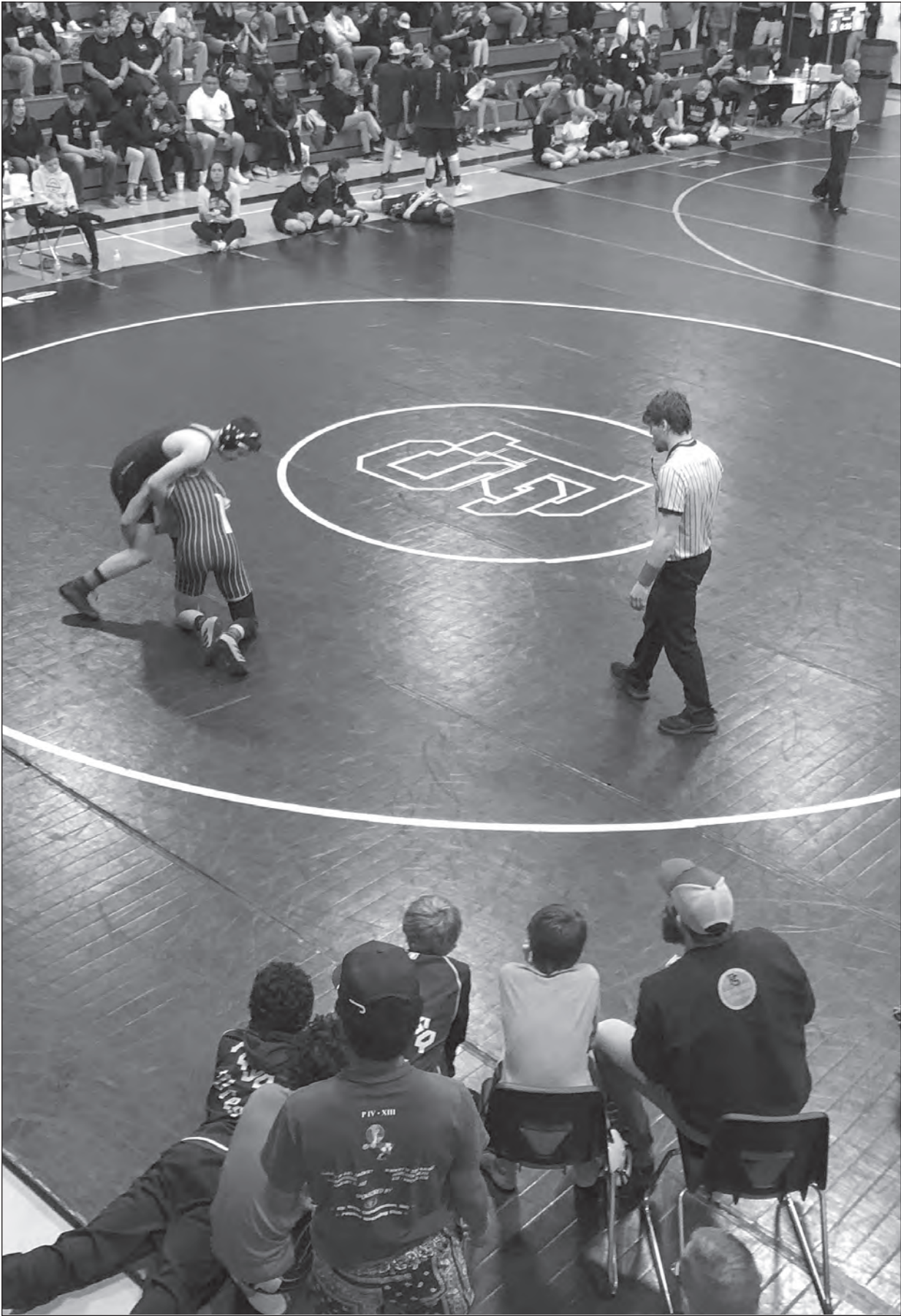


Photo courtesy Pagosa Springs Middle School

Pagosa Springs Middle School held the ninth annual Wolf Creek Rumble middle school wrestling tournament last weekend, hosting 14 teams and approximately 300 wrestlers in this full-day event. The school thanks all the volunteers and workers who made the event run smoothly, as well as the community.



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GOLF



Photo courtesy Pagosa Springs High School

Morgan Galloway sits next to parents Robin and Scott Galloway after signing to play golf at Adams State University. In back are Pagosa Springs High School (PSHS) golf coach Mark Faber, PSHS Athletic Director Chantelle Jordan and PSHS Principal Sean O'Donnell.

TRACK

Pirates to travel to Durango for season opener

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Pirate track and field team is beginning the spring season with an eye on the end of the season and the potential for several Pirate athletes to represent the school at the state championship meet.

According to an email from coach Connie O'Donnell, there are 62 athletes on the roster to start the season, including 24 girls and 38 boys.

That, she notes, includes 10 seniors, seven of whom are returning: Rylie Carr, Tristan Frame, Abi Nehring, Jayslynn Perea, Sienna Rose, Jaxten Schiel and Honesty Sweet.

"The biggest group is the 21 juniors that we have out this year with 14 returning,"O'Donnell wrote. "We only have 4 freshman girls out, so that is a bit concerning for the future of the girls team."

O'Donnell notes the roster also includes several returning state-qualifiers: Nehring, Lexi Campbell, Carr, Rose, Gavin Carter, Colton Lucero, Creede Dozier and Jeremiah Jones.

The coach indicates she's hopeful for state qualifiers in several events this year.

"Our strengths are going to be in some of our individual track and field events," O'Donnell wrote. "We have the potential for some state qualifiers/placers in the sprints, jumps and throws. Hopefully, we can get some

of our distance athletes qualified too. They are a bunch of hard working individuals so it wouldn't surprise me to see some of them really make some significant progress on their times. Hopefully, we will be able to put some competitive relays together."

The teams will open the season, however, with a meet that will not be a qualifying meet, O'Donnell notes.

That meet will be the Dust Off Durango meet at 10 a.m. on Saturday, March 8.

"It will still be good for our athletes to get a starting mark to see where they are at the beginning of the season," she wrote. "The first time that athletes compete during the season is always kind of fun because they are almost always better than they were at the start of last season. It gives them motivation to keep working."

Schedule

The following schedule was ac-

curate as of press time, but is subject to change.

All meets will start at 9 a.m. unless otherwise stated.

O'Donnell indicates the team's schedule looks a bit different this season, explaining, "This year, we will be splitting our team up on several weekends. Our varsity athletes will be traveling to Pueblo on three occasions to change up the competition a bit. Sometimes it's nice to know your competition, but it's also nice to compete against someone new."

After opening the season in Durango on Saturday, the Pirates will be back in action on March 14 for the Bayfield Invite 1.

After a short hiatus, the teams will head back to Bayfield for the Bayfield Invite 2 on March 29.

On April 4, the team will compete at the John Tate Invitational in Pueblo, and the following day will be in action at the Abel Velasquez Invite

in Ignacio.

On April 7, the team is scheduled to take part in the Durango JV meet, with a time to be announced.

The team will be back at it on April 11 for the Bob Archibeque meet in Cortez, and the Thunder Storm Invite the following day in Pueblo.

On April 19, the team is scheduled to participate in the Ron Keller Invitational in Durango.

On April 26, the team will again head to Bayfield, this time for the Pine River Invitational.

The Pirates will host the Terry Alley Invitational at Golden Peaks Stadium on May 3 before again hitting the road on May 6 for the Centauri Invitational in La Jara, with a start time to be announced.

The team is scheduled for two meets on May 9 — the Monte Vista Last Chance Meet and the Friday Night Lights at Pueblo West.

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Public Notices

FOR BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HEARING ON April 1, 2025

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to CRS 30-28-116 that the Board of County Commissioners of Archuleta County, Colorado, will hold a public hearing to consider revising the County Land Use Regulations. The language proposed to be adopted is available for review at the County Development Services Department 970-264-1390 and on the County Website. The public hearing will be held on Tuesday, April 1, 2025, at 1:30 p.m. in the County Commissioner's Meeting Room at 398 Lewis Street, Pagosa Springs, Colorado, at which time all interested parties will be heard. Written comments may also be submitted to the Archuleta County Board of Commissioners, P.O. Box 1507, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147, at or prior to said public hearing. Published March 6 and 27, 2025 *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (259180)

FOR PLANNING COMMISSION HEARING ON March 27, 2025

Travis and Sarah Troxtell have applied for a RE-ZONE on the Parcel in RURAL Sec. 9 Twn: 34 Rng: 1W A TRACT OF LAND IN THE SW4 TRACT DESC 170368 IN SW4; 9-34-1W 167340-341 TRACT DESC, at 5503 US HWY 164, Pagosa Springs, CO (PL-RE-ZONE-25-017). The property is zoned AGRICULTURAL RANCHING (AR). Comments regarding this case may be submitted to Archuleta County Development Services-Planning Department, P.O. Box 1507, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147-1507, telephone: (970) 264-1390 or to Planning@

archuletacounty.org prior to the public hearing by the Archuleta County Planning Commission on March 27, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. in the County Commissioners Meeting Room, 398 Lewis Street, Pagosa Springs and via Zoom Link. Published March 6 and 20, 2025 *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (259212)

INVITATION TO BID

Separate sealed BIDS for the **South Pagosa Boulevard Resurfacing** project will be received by **Archuleta County, Colorado** at the office of Davis Engineering Service, Inc. located at 188 South 8th Street, P.O. Box 1208, Pagosa Springs, Colorado 81147, until 2:00 P.M. local time on **April 3, 2025**, and then at said office publicly opened and read aloud.

The project consists of resurfacing an existing asphalt roadway being approximately 1.25 miles of South Pagosa Boulevard from the northerly intersection of Capricho Circle to just north of Heath Drive. The project will be pursued as a Full Depth Reclamation (FDR) project on a road that was last reconstructed in 2001. The project generally maintains the existing horizontal and vertical alignments, with minor longitudinal and cross slope corrections as appropriate. Project work includes, but is not limited to asphalt pulverization, excavation, embankment, removal, gravel placement, erosion control, asphalt paving, shouldering, ditching, pavement marking, signage, traffic control, seeding and mulching, and other items typically associated with road construction. Copies of the CONTRACT DOCUMENTS and PLANS may be obtained on or after **March 6, 2025**, at the office

of Davis Engineering Service, Inc. located at the address mentioned above, upon payment of \$100.00 for each set. No refund will be made for returned copies. A **mandatory** pre-bid conference and inspection trip for prospective Bidders will be held at the office of Davis Engineering Service, Inc. (phone number (970) 264-5055), located at the address mentioned above, at 2:00 P.M. local time on **March 25, 2025**. Published March 6 and 20, 2025 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (258961)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Estate of JACQUELYNN M DODD KRIEGLER, also known as JACQUE DODD KRIEGLER, also known as JACQUELYNN M. KRIEGLER, Deceased
Case Number 2025.PB.30002
All persons having claims against the above-named estate are required to present them to the personal representative or to the District Court of Archuleta County, Colorado on or before **July 31, 2025**, or the claims may be forever barred.
Jonathan Kriegl
Personal Representative
PO Box 63
Chromo, CO 81128
Published March 6, 13, and 20, 2025 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (258975)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Estate of John Matthews Brittingham
Case Number 2025.PB.30008
All persons having claims against the above-named

estate are required to present them to the personal representative or to the District Court of Archuleta County, Colorado on or before **July 7, 2025**, or the claims may be forever barred.

Daniel L. Fiedler, Attorney at Law
190 Talsman Drive, Suite D-5
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
Published March 6, 13, and 20, 2025 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (258972)

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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Estate of **Dennis Ernest Schutz, AKA Dennis E. Schutz, Deceased**
Case Number: 25PR30005
All persons having claims against the above named estate are required to present them to the personal representative or to District Court of Archuleta County, Colorado on or before **June 27, 2025**, or the claims may be forever barred.

Adam J. Schutz
657 Glenhaven Drive
Ablene, Texas 79603

Published February 27, March 6 and 13, 2025 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (258416)

The Southwest Basins Roundtable is accepting applications for an At-Large-Environmental position representative. One of the current vacant seats shall represent environmental interests and shall be selected from nominees submitted by one or more regionally, state-wide,

or nationally recognized environmental conservation organizations that have operated in Colorado for at least five years.

Applicants should submit a letter describing their qualifications. Please note in your letter if you own water rights, share in a ditch or reservoir company, or represent an agent with a Reclamation contract. Letters of support for your application are welcome but not required. Please submit your letter to Ed Tolen, etolen@laplawd.org and Wendy Weyandt, contact@swbasinsroundtable.org no later than Friday, April 18, 2025. Elections will be held Thursday, April 24, 2025 at the LaPlata County Fairgrounds and Event Center (and via Zoom) at 3 pm at which applicants will have an opportunity to address the Roundtable. Please contact Ed Tolen, Roundtable Chair, at 970-442-1303 for specific questions. Additional information may be found on the website: <https://swbasinsroundtable.org>. Published March 6, 2025 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (258979)

This notice is to inform Brian Humphries, last known address: 185 Spring Court, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147, that the items stored in unit B06 of Renner's Mini Storage located at 177 Bastille Drive, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147 will be sold or disposed of due to lack of payment. This notice will be published in the Pagosa Springs Sun on both February 27, 2025 and March 6, 2025 with the sale or disposal of items taking place at a later date of our choosing. Published February 27 and March 6, 2025 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (258652)

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Pirate baseball team is starting the season ahead.

The mild weather and having a number of players not participating in winter sports gave the team an opportunity to put in a lot of time over the winter, coach Ben Garcia indicated.

"We had a really good winter," he said. "We had a chance to go over a lot of things that last year we started and we were trying to .. in essence we were trying to get information to 'em like gettin' it from a fire hose because it was a lot of stuff."

That, he added, was because the Pirates started competitive play so quickly after the season started.

"This year we're a little ahead," he said.

Garcia noted there are nine players who had quality time playing last year, with seven being starters, returning this year, as well as several others who saw "sufficient time."

He added those are being paired with some "very good athletes" in the freshman group.

While acknowledging some of the team's members are still playing basketball, Garcia stated he thinks there will be 13 to 14 athletes on the team who could start at any time.

Garcia is also hopeful about the team's pitching heading into the season.

"We will probably have one of the strongest pitching cores that I think we've had in a long time from numbers," he said, adding there may have been better individual pitchers who have come through, but that the Pirates have about six pitchers who could start, come in in middle relief or possibly close. "So, I'm excited about that. That seems to be a really big plus in our favor."

While the team will still have to perform and throw strikes, he added, the core group of pitchers should help the team, especially in league play.

The coach indicated he's looking to Chris Young-Martinez, Kyler Henderson, Zach Pouyer and Cooper Ralston to lead the team in hitting.

Expected to filter in with those hitters, Garcia said, will be Dylan Dempster, Ty Richey and Charles Washburn.

"I think we have some potential hitters," he said.

The coach also spoke about the team's defense and depth.

"I think this is one of the best defensive teams we could put together," Garcia said, adding that the team has

■ See Baseball A13

ARCHULETA COUNTY DECEMBER 2024 PAYABLES			
VENDOR		DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
UMB BANK		BUS FACILITIES CONSTR	\$ 1,026,774.19
CORAL CONSTRUCTION CO		COP LOAN	\$ 624,975.01
LA PLATA CNTY TREASURER		GUARDRAIL REPAIR	\$ 133,585.00
NONSTOP ADMINISTRATION		Q3 2024 DA SHARED EXP	\$ 131,157.92
HEALTHY ARCHULETA		EMPL BENEFITS	\$ 76,823.49
INLAND KENWORTH US		ARPA #30/CONTRACT SVCS	\$ 44,315.00
WELLS FARGO BANK		ENGINE REPAIR/SUPPLIES/PART	\$ 44,036.92
SHORT-ELLIOTT-HENDRICKSON		CNTY P-CARD EXP	\$ 37,633.26
DAVIS ENGINEERING SERVICE		SWL LF MONITORING	\$ 36,703.90
ARCHULETA HOUSING CORP		RESURFACING	\$ 24,000.00
FOUR STATES TIRE AND SVC		ARPA SUBMISSION #7	\$ 23,700.00
RUBY M. SISSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY		CNTY TIRES	\$ 22,643.31
TURN KEY HEALTH CLINICS		2024 DONATION MOC	\$ 20,000.00
MODSTREET		INMATE MEDICAL SVCS/LABS	\$ 17,751.52
A SAFE PLACE IN PAGOSA		TRANSIT CONSTRUCT	\$ 17,280.00
KP LLC		ARPA #29	\$ 17,058.58
ECONORTHWEST		2024 GEN ELECT BALLOTS/ENVELOPES	\$ 16,442.00
IDEMIA IDENTITY & SECURITY USA		PROFESSIONAL SVC	\$ 16,370.50
KOY DINGBOOM OATES		OP EQUIP	\$ 15,771.00
FLYERS ENERGY		DHS LEGAL SVCS	\$ 15,585.79
PAWSD		CNTY FUEL	\$ 14,973.60
BRUCKNER'S TRUCK & EQUIP		WATER BREAK/UTILITY	\$ 14,505.98
SHAMROCK FOODS		FLEET ACCS	\$ 13,672.07
PEAK PERFORMANCE INSULATION		INMATE FOOD	\$ 13,671.45
VAL'S VIP CLEANING		SO INSULATION INSTALL	\$ 13,371.60
ARCH CNTY HOUSING AUTH		CNTY CLEANING SVCS	\$ 12,600.00
OPEN GOV		ARPA #13	\$ 12,560.29
LPEA		OPEN GOV	\$ 12,278.91
REYNOLDS ASH & ASSC		CNTY UTILITY	\$ 10,514.83
MICHAEL F. ARNALL, M.D. P.C.		TRANSIT FACILITY CONSTR	\$ 9,500.00
BLACK HILLS ENERGY		AUTOPSY FEES	\$ 9,000.00
MUTUAL OF OMAHA		CNTY NATURAL GAS	\$ 8,253.94
HUMANE SOCIETY OF P.S.		EMPL BENEFITS	\$ 8,001.20
PAGOSA COMMUNITY INITIATIVE		CNTY IMPOUND FEES	\$ 7,500.00
DAY LUMBER COMPANY		CMP CONTRACT SVCS/SUPP	\$ 6,928.60
GO GOVAPPS		CULVERT PIPE MATERIAL	\$ 6,591.63
AT&T MOBILITY		PUB HEAL COLAB LAB FEES	\$ 6,535.26
ARCH CNTY VICTIM ASSISTANCE PGRM		CNTY CELL & DATA USAGE	\$ 6,036.17
AXIS HEALTH SYSTEM		DHS CONTRACT SVCS	\$ 5,000.00
TRAUTNER GEOTECH		INMATE HEALTH SVCS	\$ 4,913.85
ROSE MOUNTAIN		CONCRETE TESTING	\$ 4,881.65
EMPLOYERS COUNCIL SERVICES		DHS MTHLY LEASE	\$ 4,166.67
ROCKY MOUNTAIN SUPPLY CO		INVESTIGATION SVCS	\$ 4,162.50
YEH AND ASSOCIATES		FLEET SUPPLIES	\$ 4,141.00
WINDING EARLY CHILDHOOD CNTR		TRANSIT FACILITY TESTING	\$ 4,002.50
DB TECH		CONTRIBUTION 2024	\$ 4,000.00
RMMI DIGITAL DOCUMENT SOLUTIONS		PHD TECH SVC & PARTS	\$ 3,855.00
VALUEWEST		SO ADMIN SUPPLIES	\$ 3,843.70
ODP BUSINESS SOLUTIONS		COMMERCIAL APPRAISER FEE	\$ 3,800.00
CENTURYLINK		CNTY SUPPLIES	\$ 3,722.59
BRANTLEY DISTRIBUTING		911 PHONE SVCS	\$ 3,440.88
CAPITAL BUSINESS SYSTEMS		EQUIP & SUPPLIES	\$ 3,381.40
JESSE AUGUSTUS RAY		CNTY COPIER LEASE & USE	\$ 3,264.65
PFIZER		2024 FAIR-LIVESTOCK SALE	\$ 3,244.65
TOPS		VACUINES	\$ 3,198.95
COOPER FIRE PROTECTION SVCS		CNTY UTILITY/PHD SUPPLIES	\$ 3,103.75
WILLIAM RAY		SO DETEN LABOR & EQUIP	\$ 2,783.31
STATE OF CO (IDS)		2024 FAIR-LIVESTOCK SALE	\$ 2,642.28
DOMINION VOTING SYSTEMS		CLERKS RNWLS	\$ 2,561.83
CO DEPT. OF HUMAN SVCS		ELECT 2024 PROGRAMMING	\$ 2,548.06
DELL MARKETING L.P.		BRAIS SURCHARGES	\$ 2,440.00
ECHO IT CONSULTING		COMP EQUIP	\$ 2,397.58
PONDEROSA LUMBER CO		DISP LABOR OCT 2024	\$ 2,345.00
AMERITAS LIFE INSURANCE CORP		CNTY SUPPLIES	\$ 2,336.75
PARTS PLUS OF NM		EMPL BENEFITS	\$ 2,319.84
THE P.S. SUN		ARCCO SUBSCRIPT	\$ 2,028.59
GEORGE T. SANDERS CO		PARTS & SUPPLIES	\$ 1,980.81
TERRY'S ACE HARDWARE		CNTY PUBLICATIONS	\$ 1,870.48
EDUCE		CNTY SUPPLIES	\$ 1,815.87
PACE SYSTEMS		CONTRACT WORK	\$ 1,800.00
CLEAN DESIGNS		DISP SFTWR	\$ 1,760.00
VALE VICTIM ASSISTANCE & LAW ENFORCEMENT		REPAIR SVC	\$ 1,720.23
SUMMIT SUPPLY CORP. OF CO		VALE SURCHARGES	\$ 1,710.00
CPOW		CNTY SUPPLIES	\$ 1,684.01
BUCKSKIN TOWING & REPAIR		CPOW MBRSHIP/REGIST ANN CONF	\$ 1,610.00
RUNBECK ELECTION SERVICES		CNTY TOWING SVC	\$ 1,560.97
CROSSFIRE AGGREGATE SERVICES		ELECT PROGRAMMING	\$ 1,532.00
DIGITCOM ELECTRONICS		SALT SAND/SUPPLIES	\$ 1,516.96
SR WELDING		FLEET SUPPLIES	\$ 1,499.42
CO ASSC OF LOCAL PUB HEALTTH OFFICIALS		MOTOR GRADER BUMPER	\$ 1,460.00
FAMILY SUPPORT PMT CNTR		PHD DUES	\$ 1,446.20
GOGOVARPS		CHILD SUPPORT PMT	\$ 1,384.64
NEWEGG BUSINESS		ARCCO SUBSCRIPT	\$ 1,368.00
ACE APPRAISAL		COMP EQUIPMENT	\$ 1,240.99
TRIAD EAP		SW LANDFILL APPRAISAL	\$ 1,200.00
ALPINE PORTABLE TOILETS		EMPL BENEFITS	\$ 1,179.90
ELITE RECYCLING & DISPOSAL		TOILET RENTALS & SVC/PUMP SEPTIC TANK	\$ 1,155.00
ALSCO		CNTY TRASH DISPOSAL	\$ 1,124.84
AMAZON		CNTY PROFESSIONAL CLEANING	\$ 1,118.85
SATELITE FULFILLMENT		CNTY/INMATE SUPPLIES	\$ 1,103.47
EVON THRESA LUCERO		WINDSHIELD/SVC & PARTS	\$ 1,039.21
CONSERVANCY OIL CO. OF DURANGO		2024 ELECT JUDGE/RLA	\$ 1,035.00
HINSDALE CNTY		FLEET SUPPLIES	\$ 1,001.00
WILDFIRE ADAPTED PARTNERSHIP		2024 RGCT IGA AGREEMENT	\$ 1,000.00
WESTERN PAPER DISTRIBUTORS		CONTRIBUTION	\$ 1,000.00
MIGHTY AUTO PARTS		CNTY JANTL SUPPLIES	\$ 975.02
AXXIS AUDIO OF DURANGO		TIRE REPAIR/SUPPLIES	\$ 967.06
NANCY FORD		ANN FIRE/SEC MONITORING 2025	\$ 958.80
MASA		2024 ELECT JUDGE	\$ 937.50
ASPIRE		EMPL BENEFITS	\$ 909.00
FORMAX		FLEET SUPPLIES	\$ 833.67
JEAN-PAUL WRIGHT		MEN'S CLASSES	\$ 833.32
CO DEPT OF REV		ANN CONTRACT RENWL	\$ 793.00
ALTITUDE RECYCLING EQUIPMENT		REIMB BLD PERMIT	\$ 766.40
CO BUREAU OF INVESTIGATIONS		STATE LIQUOR FEE CHIMNEY ROCK	\$ 750.00
		PAG TS SUPPLIES	\$ 700.00
		CCW BACKGROUND CHECKS	\$ 682.00

Published March 6, 2025 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (258989)

Soccer

Lady Pirates to kick off season in Del Norte

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Lady Pirate soccer team kicks off its season today, Thursday, March 6, with the team traveling to Del Norte to take on the Del Norte Tigers at 4 p.m.

The Pirates will then host Telluride at Golden Peaks Stadium in Pagosa Springs at 11 a.m. on Saturday, March 8.

Official practices began on Monday, Feb. 24, giving the team just two weeks to prepare for its first regular season game, coach Trevor Gian explained.

He mentioned that some of the squad has been able to participate in voluntary training sessions beforehand, noting that some players are still involved in winter season sports.

Gian mentioned the Lady Pirates are entering this season with a little more experience than they did in 2024, adding the Lady Pirates “did fairly well” in 2024, despite not being able to log a win in Intermountain League (IML) play.

“We’ll have a little more experience this year from last — I’m already seeing it,” Gian said, explaining that he’s noticed in training sessions that the Lady Pirates are already “starting off better than we did last year.”

The Lady Pirates finished their 2024 season with an overall winning record of 6-5-3, including a league mark of 0-3-3.

Gian noted the Lady Pirates “finished strong” last season, and he hopes the team can build off that late-season momentum for the 2025 season.

“We had a really positive season last year,” he said, “and we finished strong last year.”

He also mentioned that he expects the IML to “be a hypercompetitive league,” noting there is not a clear favorite to win the league.

Gian explained that this year’s roster for the Lady Pirates will consist of an evenly mixed group of upper and lower classmen, with around 20 players anticipated to be on the varsity squad.

As far as goals for the season, the Lady Pirates are focused on getting positive results in IML play while making it tough on their opponents, Gian explained.

He also mentioned he anticipates some “tough games” this season, but that “it should be fun,” as the Lady Pirates look to notch a couple IML wins.

For the two games scheduled this weekend, Gian mentioned that he is hopeful the Lady Pirates will come away with a positive result against Del Norte, adding that the Lady Pirates will be going up against a tough opponent in Telluride.

“That’ll give us a good test,” he added.

Schedule

The following schedule was ac-

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PUBLIC NOTICES: YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW

The notices you see on this page include important information from local governmental bodies and attorneys that may be of interest to you. These notices can include information about public hearings, property assessments and changes in assessment, assumed names, name changes, claims notices, public meeting dates and financial statements.

Legal advertising Deadline: Friday 4 p.m.*

Bring your legal advertisement or public notice to our offices at 457 Lewis Street, or email to legal@pagosasun.com

**Deadlines are moved up for holiday weeks. Please check for an ad in the paper for specific dates and times.*

curate as of press time, but is subject to change.

Following this weekend’s matches, the Lady Pirates will continue their season on Thursday, March 13, as they take on the Ignacio Bobcats in Ignacio at 4:30 p.m.

The Lady Pirates will then head to Buena Vista on March 15 to face off against the Demons at 11 a.m.

Pagosa will then take a nearly three-week hiatus around spring break before returning to action with their first IML game scheduled for April 5, when they will host the Montezuma-Cortez Panthers beginning at 11 a.m.

On April 11, the Lady Pirates will travel to Alamosa to take on the Mean Moose at 4 p.m. before heading to Leadville on April 12 to square off against the Lake County Panthers at 1 p.m.

On April 15, the Lady Pirates will be back at home to host the Bayfield

Wolverines at Golden Peaks Stadium at 4 p.m.

On April 19, the Lady Pirates will travel to Cortez to take on the Montezuma-Cortez Panthers at 11 a.m.

On April 22, the Lady Pirates will host the Ignacio Bobcats at Golden Peaks Stadium at 4 p.m., followed by another home match against the Alamosa Mean Moose on April 24 starting at 4 p.m.

The Lady Pirates will play their final away game of the regular season on April 29 as they face off against the Bayfield Wolverines in Bayfield at 4 p.m.

Senior night will be on May 1 as the Lady Pirates host Del Norte at Golden Peaks Stadium, with kickoff scheduled for 4 p.m.

The last regular-season game is scheduled for May 2, with the Lady Pirates hosting Fruita Monument at 4 p.m.

clayton@pagosasun.com

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

Dial in by phone

+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 –

- 1) 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);
- 2) 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
- 3) 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:

- 1) 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
- 2) whose subcontractors are owned or controlled by one or more citizens or nationals of a foreign country on such USTR list; or
- 3) 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:

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. 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:

1. The names and addresses of Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) firms that will participate in the contract;
2. A description of the work that each DBE firm will perform;
3. The dollar amount of the participation of each DBE firm listed under (1);
4. 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;
5. 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
6. 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)



The following meetings are subject to change.

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, pass-code: 4141885. For more information, visit <http://archuletacounty.org/agendacenter>.

Pagosa Springs Town Council planning work session. 8:30 a.m., Pagosa Springs Medical Center, 95 S. Pagosa Blvd. See town website for participation information: <https://pagosasprings.civicweb.net/portal/>.

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, pass-code: 4141885. For more information, visit <http://archuletacounty.org/agendacenter>.

Combined Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting. 5:30 p.m., Town Hall, 551 Hot Springs Blvd. See town website for participation information: <https://pagosasprings.civicweb.net/portal/>.

Baseball

■ **Continued from A11**
The Pirates will hit the road on welcomed Taylor Wells, a freshman, who can play every infield position, and is looking at being able to make fewer defensive changes each time a pitching change is made. "That is a huge, huge plus for us."

Garcia indicated the team is still looking at how to fill the hole left by catcher Hunter Pouyer, who graduated. "The thing that is the tough part and probably the hardest thing to do is replace our catcher," Garcia said. "Hunter was absolutely a great catcher and did some great things for us last year."

Garcia noted the team is thin in that area, but there are several who want to try.

He indicated Kyler Henderson is leading the way in catching for the team, but has throwing issues due to injury.

"That will be our Achilles heel, if you will," the coach said.

But, he added, the team has a lot of speed and some mature athletes returning, and he sees the Pirates "being a pretty solid team."

The Pirates went 11-11 last season and finished third in the Intermountain League a 4-4 league record.

The team capped off the season with a playoff loss to Coal Ridge.

The Pirates will open the current season against the 2A Dolores Bears with a doubleheader in Dolores beginning at 2 p.m. on Thursday, March 6.

Garcia noted he'll be looking for players to step up and be leaders during the game to help make sure the team is heading in the right direction.

"We've got to go out and execute," he said, adding, "We're playing against Pagosa Springs, not really Dolores.... That's really what I want us to do, is be able to measure ourselves on how we're going to continue to get better. And, we don't want to beat ourselves, but we want to be able to play the best possible baseball."

He added the Pirates are championing at the bit to play after having plenty of practices.

Schedule

The following schedule was accurate as of press time, but is subject to change.

After this week's season opener in Dolores, the Pirates will next travel to Cedaredge for a 3 p.m. matchup.

The following day, the team will take on North Fork for an away doubleheader beginning at 11 a.m. After a hiatus, the team will be back in action for a series of games April 3-5 at the Roaring Fork Tournament.

The Pirates will open league play on April 12 with an 11 a.m. doubleheader in Alamosa against the Mean Moose.

On April 15, the team will host the Durango Demons for their first home games of the season, with a doubleheader set to begin at 3 p.m.

The Pirates will be back on the road on April 19, this time for an 11 a.m. league doubleheader against the Montezuma-Cortez Panthers.

The team will be back on its home field on April 26 for an 11 a.m. league doubleheader against the Centauri Falcons.

Friday, March 7

Pagosa Springs Town Council planning work session. 8:30 a.m., Pagosa Springs Medical Center, 95 S. Pagosa Blvd. See town website for participation information: <https://pagosasprings.civicweb.net/portal/>.

Tuesday, March 11

Archuleta School District Board of Education meeting. 6 p.m., Pagosa Springs Middle School, 309 Lewis St. Visit www.mypagosaschools.com for more information.

Wednesday, March 12

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

Thursday, March 13

Main Street Advisory Board meeting. 4 p.m., Visitor Center, 105 Hot Springs Blvd. See town website for participation information: <https://pagosasprings.civicweb.net/portal/>.

Monday, March 17

San Juan Water Conservancy District special meeting. 4 p.m., 46 Eaton Drive, Suite 5. Visit <https://www.sjwcd.org/> for Zoom option.

Pagosa Springs Town Council and Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners work

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

Archuleta School District Master Plan Advisory Committee meeting. 5:30 p.m., Pagosa Springs Middle School Library, 309 Lewis St.

Tuesday, March 18

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, pass-

code: 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, pass-code: 4141885. For more information, visit <http://archuletacounty.org/agendacenter>.

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



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MCKESSON MEDICAL-SURGICAL
DIVISION OF PROPERTY TAXATION

DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
2025 CAPP CONTRIBUTION	\$ 785,965.00
BROADBAND/ARPA-FIBER INSTALL/ECON DEV	\$ 434,572.00
EMPL BENEFITS	\$ 325,742.17
GARVAX PAYMENT 1	\$ 143,000.47
TRANSIT FACILITY CONSTRUCT	\$ 113,269.07
2021 JOHN DEERE 772	\$ 79,392.07
Q1 2025 GRANT FUNDS	\$ 70,000.00
ASCO WALL INSTALL	\$ 49,320.00
CNTY P-CARD PURCHASES	\$ 42,935.07
CHIPSEAL	\$ 40,893.91
INMATE MED SVCS/HEALTH FAIR SVCS	\$ 35,233.51
WORKMANS COMP PREMIUM 10F9	\$ 32,098.00
EQUIP RENTALS/SUPPLIES/SVC	
REPAIR MILEAGE	\$ 25,297.91
DHS LEGAL SVCS	\$ 23,250.82
SURVEY SOUTH PAGOSA	\$ 20,635.00
2025 CNTY DUES	\$ 19,011.00
BUS DESIGN CONSTRUCT MGT	\$ 19,000.00
INMATE FOOD/KITCHEN SUPPLIES	\$ 18,171.52
ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING	\$ 17,641.82
ARPA #31 & #32	\$ 17,583.39
EMPL BENEFITS	\$ 17,252.14
SEMI-ANNUAL BILLING/WEB CHGS-EFTB	\$ 17,222.00
CNTY FUEL	\$ 17,154.17
CNTY FUEL	\$ 16,940.42
2025 CNTY DUES - CCI	\$ 14,520.00
PLOWOPS SUBSCRIPT	\$ 14,280.00
CNTY ELECTRIC	\$ 12,688.19
CNTY CLEANING SVCS	\$ 12,600.00
ARPA #9 & AMENDED #7	\$ 11,472.87
CNTY NATURAL GAS	\$ 10,567.92
CNTY BROADBAND	\$ 10,377.20
CNTY WATER & SEWER	\$ 10,066.81
COMP EQUIP	\$ 9,402.10
EMPL BENEFITS	\$ 8,551.68
MTHLY LEASE AGREEMENT	\$ 8,333.34
POSTAGE DEPOSIT	\$ 7,800.00
CMP CONTRACT SVCS/SUPPLIES	\$ 7,365.41
MSEC CONSULTING MBRSHIP DUES	\$ 7,350.00
PROFESSIONAL SVC	\$ 7,348.75
LAMINATE GLASS COVERINGS	\$ 7,001.09
FLATBED & TOOLBOXES	\$ 6,518.15
NIXIE360 ANN SUBSCRIPT	\$ 6,283.00
INMATE INS RENWIL	\$ 6,163.20
4TH QTR 2024 SUTA	\$ 5,771.63
FLOOD & PETERSON INSURANCE	\$ 5,627.00
INMATE MED SVCS	\$ 5,556.81
CNTY CELL PHONE USAGE & DATA	\$ 5,408.80
CNTY COPIER LEASE & USE	\$ 5,323.93
CNTY SUPPLIES	\$ 4,943.03
TAX DOCS/ENVELOPES	\$ 4,029.60
2024 BOCC CONTRIBUTION	\$ 4,000.00
2025 MBRSHIP DUES	\$ 3,974.00
FLEET PARTS & SUPPLIES	\$ 3,902.50
POSTAGE METER ANNUAL LEASE	\$ 3,849.84
COMMERCIAL APPRIASER FEE	\$ 3,800.00
FLEET SUPPLIES	\$ 3,785.40
LG ANIMAL RESCUE	\$ 3,318.00
CORPORER EQUIP	\$ 3,057.31
WINDSHIELD REPLACEMENTS/CHIP REPAIR	\$ 3,010.00
PARTS & SUPPLIES	\$ 2,952.18
SEPTIC TANK	\$ 2,945.25
CNTY SEWER/GEOTHERMAL	\$ 2,918.52
TESTING MATERIALS	\$ 2,804.31
CNTY SUPPLIES	\$ 2,789.10
PMT #4 CONTRACT SVCS/PUB HEALTH SVCS	\$ 2,696.12
CONTRACT SVCS	\$ 2,500.00
EMPL BENEFITS	\$ 2,289.88
FLEET SUPPLIES	\$ 2,177.33
PARTS & SUPPLIES	\$ 2,149.10
2025 DUES	\$ 2,072.00
FLEET SUPPLIES	\$ 2,065.25
ASCO RECRUITMENT VIDEO	\$ 2,000.00
FLEET SUPPLIES	\$ 1,821.59
EMPL BENEFITS	\$ 1,782.00
PLOW REPAIR & PARTS	\$ 1,759.00
SFTWR SUBSCRIPTS	\$ 1,754.84
WINDSHIELD REPLACEMENTS/CHIP REPAIR	\$ 1,735.25
PARTS & SUPPLIES	\$ 1,716.16
JANTL SUPPLIES	\$ 1,627.53
FLEETS PARTS & SUPPLIES	\$ 1,624.88
FLEET PARTS	\$ 1,614.03
RENTALS/SUPPLIES/EQUIP	\$ 1,578.88
CNTY SUPPLIES	\$ 1,546.88
EMPL TESTING/2025 YRLY FEES	\$ 1,535.00
RFND (3) PLNG PERMITS	\$ 1,500.00
CORPORER MBRSHIP DUES 2025	\$ 1,480.00
WORK BOOTS	\$ 1,392.69
TIRES	\$ 1,372.98
MOTOR GRADER BUMPER	\$ 1,300.00
R&B SUPPLIES	\$ 1,278.84
COMP EQUIP	\$ 1,270.96
CNTY TRASH DISPOSAL	\$ 1,185.08
FLEET SUPPLIES/TRIP CHG-REPAIR BUS #340	\$ 1,182.80
SFTWR MAINT	\$ 1,163.00
2025 PUBLIC LAND DUES CCI	\$ 1,162.00
CNTY PROFESSIONAL CLEANING SVCS	\$ 1,158.15
MTHLY SFTWR SUBSCRIPT	\$ 1,147.50
BOOTS	\$ 1,071.30
FLEET PARTS	\$ 1,063.70
2025 SUBSCRIPT	\$ 1,000.00
CLERKS RNWLS	\$ 998.34
MED SUPPLIES	\$ 971.50
Q4 CLASSES	\$ 900.00

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Southwestern Water Conservation District to present San Juan River research

By Sally High
San Juan Water Conservancy District

Risks to the Upper San Juan River will be described in a presentation by the Southwestern Water Conservancy District (SWWCD) and Wright Water Engineers at the Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts at 4 p.m. on March 25.

The free presentation is open to the public.

The risks result from Colorado's obligation to comply with the Colorado River Compact and our decreasing water supplies associated with a warmer, drier climate. Shortfalls in delivery of Colorado River water to Lake Powell and points beyond pose risks to water users in the Upper San Juan Basin, including Archuleta County.

In 2019, the Colorado River Risk Study was completed after Western Slope water roundtables requested answers to specific questions about our future water supply and compact compliance. The 2019 analysis was conducted by Hydros Consulting Inc., the Colorado River District and

the Southwestern Water Conservancy District in the context of the Colorado Water Plan.

In 2023, the original risk study was updated, when the SWWCD contracted Wright Water Engineers to provide additional analysis. The updates focus on evaluations of each sub-basin, including the Upper San Juan River in Archuleta County. The hydrological data, as well as the methodologies used, will be explained in the March 25 public presentation.

The SWWCD was created in 1941 by the Colorado General Assembly. The district covers six water conservancy districts in southwest Colorado, including the San Juan Water Conservancy District (SJWCD).

The purpose of the SWWCD is “to protect, conserve, use, and develop the water resources of the San Juan and Dolores River Basins for the welfare of all the inhabitants, and safeguard for Colorado all waters to which the state is entitled.”

In 1987, the SJWCD was created through the Colorado Water Conservancy Act of 1937 and by local Archuleta County voters. The mis-



Photo courtesy Josh Kurz

A shallow San Juan River runs by the Riverwalk in August 2018. An updated scientific study of risks to the upper San Juan River will be presented to the public on March 25.

sion of the SJWCD is to be an active leader in all issues affecting the water resources of the Upper San Juan River Basin.

The public is welcome to the free

presentation beginning at 4 p.m. at the Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts, 2313 Eagle Drive. Time for networking will follow the presentation. There is no cost to the public.

Water conservancy discusses filing opposition to water right action

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

The San Juan Water Conservancy District (SJWCD) Board of Directors considered at its Feb. 17 meeting if it should oppose efforts to make a water right on the West Fork of the San Juan River absolute due to concerns about the amount of water diverted and the amount of property irrigated.

According to the Colorado Water Court District 7 resume for January 2025, River Ridge LLC applied to make its water right for the Caribou Ditch, which diverts water from West Fork of the San Juan River, and for Caribou Springs, a spring tributary of the San Juan River, absolute due to the applicant having put the water to beneficial use irrigating, providing aesthetic enhancements and water for wildlife on their property.

The resume explains that the Caribou Ditch diversion is for 1 cubic foot per second (cfs) of water, while the Caribou Springs right is for 10 gallons per minute (gpm).

According to the resume, both rights will be used to improve the

aesthetic and wildlife attributes of the owner's property, for stock watering and to irrigate 25 acres of land.

It adds that, in 2022, the applicant began to apply the water that was conditionally decreed to beneficial use by irrigating 2.25 acres using the Caribou Ditch water right.

The resume continues that the applicant seeks to expand the area irrigated and eventually fully utilize both the conditional water rights in Caribou Ditch and Caribou Springs.

At the meeting, SJWCD legal counsel Jeffrey Kane explained that both rights were adjudicated in 2004 and have 2004 priority dates.

He explained that he was concerned about the application due to the high amount of water being used to irrigate the 2.25 acres.

He noted that, in the resume, the applicant claimed it had diverted 1 cfs to irrigate the 2.25 acres, “which is a really extreme duty of water.”

Kane commented that 1 cfs of water would normally irrigate 40 or 60 acres and that, in “really extreme cases” only 20 acres can be irrigated with 1 cfs.

He added that the adjudication on this case predates a Colorado Supreme Court ruling that direct diversion water rights cannot be used for artificial streams or other water features, which this right involves.

Kane stated that he would be concerned about the right to use water in this way being made absolute.

“In terms of my thoughts on this, it's not a big amount of water,” Kane said. “On the other, it's extreme to claim you've used a cfs to irrigate 2.25 acres, and it is troubling that they've continued with the conditional aesthetic and wildlife direct diversion uses even after [the Colorado Supreme Court case barring such uses].”

SJWCD board member Susan Nossaman commented that she has a water right on her property for the irrigation of 5 acres that allows diversion of 0.1 cfs.

SJWCD board president Candace Jones commented that there could be a “typo” in the documentation for the case, but that it would be worth inquiring about if the facts in the notice are correct.

Kane commented that he could

reach out to the applicant's counsel and see if the resume is correct.

He added that he has until the end of the month to file a statement of opposition to the right.

Jones questioned if the board should authorize Kane to file a complaint since it would not have another meeting before the end of the month and did not want to lose the opportunity to object.

Kane stated that the board could authorize him to file a statement and have him work with a board member about whether to file a statement or not.

Jones commented that “for the integrity of staying on top of all of this stuff, every cfs is going to count.”

Following more discussion of the issue, SJWCD board member Robert Hagberg moved that the board direct Kane to file a statement of opposition if the information in the resume concerning the amount of water used and the area irrigated are accurate.

The board unanimously approved the motion.

josh@pagosasun.com

Parade

■ Continued from front

Mayor Shari Pierce to keep exploring motorized parade route options, Lewis brought some new potential routes for the council to consider.

The 8th Street option, mentioned by Martinez at the previous meeting, was ultimately rejected, with Lewis saying that staff “did not feel like that was the right route to go.”

Lewis explained that having a parade route on a residential street would require “the closing of each and every driveway” along that street for both the staging and the actual parade.

Another idea, he stated, is to stage the parade on Hermosa Street and then have the parade go from Hot Springs Boulevard to Yamaguchi Park.

But, during public comment, Pagosa Springs Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Mary Jo Coulehan expressed concern that anything involving Hermosa Street, including staging for a Hot Springs Boulevard route, would cause disruption to the annual arts and crafts festival in Town Park.

She noted that Hermosa Street is usually shut down to allow pedestrian-only traffic between the parks for those attending the festival.

Lewis added that he had spoken to Coulehan and that he “can't disagree with her” about anything involving Hermosa Street for a parade.

“We're trying to give you options, but if we are going to have a parade, it's gonna either be down Hermosa Street, and if that's what you want, then that's what we'll do, or having the parade the way we did it last year,” he said.

Public Works Director Karl Johnson suggested using the five-acre parking area near The Springs Resort, whom the town entered into an agreement with for public parking during CDOT's roadway reconstruction, for staging for a parade down Hot Springs Boulevard.

This would have allowed the town to keep the north section of the street open, allowing access in and out of The Springs Resort. Hindered access to the resort during last year's parade was one of the main complaints of the Hot Springs Boulevard route, Lewis explained.

This would also allow parking for the parade to be at Reservoir Hill, which was used as the staging area last year, and would keep parking for

the vendors of the arts-and-crafts event, which is also at Mary Fisher Park, he indicated.

“If we staged it in the five acres, we could close Hot Springs Boulevard off just to the south of Spring Street so if people came down Hot Springs Boulevard there's a way to turn around,” he said.

However, Pagosa Springs Police Chief Bill Rockensock said, “This is the first I've heard about the five-acre thing, and as I understand it, there's logistical issues with that ... because when you talk about parking there, there's a problem with grade in that area.”

Lewis said that this idea “just came about, and I guess what I'm saying is that if you decide you want a parade, you've heard three options ... and if it's a possibility to stage it on these five acres and if that will work ... from what I see, if we were to do this on the five acres, we're not messing up the flow of traffic from The Springs Resort.”

“In two months, they will have tripled their occupancy,” he said, speaking to the resort expansion, “and if we close that off, we're talking about people not being able to leave from 8:30 in the morning until 11.”

He added, “The chaos, we all know, is going to occur on [highway] 160, and we are trying to look at the least chaotic situation if we are going to have a parade.”

Pierce expressed that her main concern is if the town hosts a parade on Hot Springs Boulevard, “How are we going to get the floats there? Because we can't really have them coming through that construction zone.”

Lewis then reminded the council, “You know, the other option,” instead of a motorized parade, “is a Yamaguchi [Park] celebration.”

When opened to comments from the council, it became apparent that the body was moving toward the idea of temporarily skipping the parade during CDOT's reconstruction project in favor of a celebration at Yamaguchi Park.

Council member Mat deGraaf

said, “It seems like every option [for a motorized parade] is riddled with unknowns and questions. I am not in favor of having a parade.”

Council member Gary Williams added, “I'm with my colleague here. There's a lot of disruptions with CDOT. We all know that. The town understands that, so I'm in favor of a fair in Yamaguchi Park for the Fourth of July that rolls right into the music and fireworks.”

Council member Madeline Bergen said, “I could also agree that a community celebration” at the park would amount “to the path of least resistance for this year, and it opens up opportunities for more volunteer buy-in from local nonprofit groups and would alleviate some of the pressure on town staff.”

She added, “Hopefully, this would lead to more relationships, as we move back to a parade, with some of those volunteers who will be willing to do some of that heavy lifting when we decide to put a parade on again, so I would like to start fostering those relationships.”

Pierce said, “My heart wants us to have a parade for our community, but my head tells me it's not really gonna be feasible, because of the construction and traffic and lack of parking.”

She added that she hoped a small, parade-like event could at least be organized for the youth, with Lewis adding that honoring “our veterans and first responders could be part of that,” and “town staff would come up with something.”

“So, I feel like the motorized parade is off the table,” Pierce said, asking the council what it thought about a stationary parade on 6th Street.

It became apparent that the council was in favor of the celebration at Yamaguchi Park, with Pierce saying it looks like “we're going towards the celebration” at the park.

She directed staff “to see what you guys can do.”

More details on the Fourth of July celebration will be reported as they are decided.

derek@pagosasun.com

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preview

ARTS & LIFE

Knights of Columbus Fish Fry

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Photo courtesy Don DeMarco

Annual Lenten Fish Fry to begin March 7

By John DeMarco
Knights of Columbus Council

The Pagosa Springs Knights of Columbus will be having their 29th annual Lenten Fish Fry beginning Friday, March 7, at the John Paul II Catholic Church located at 353 S. Pagosa Blvd.

The fish fry will run for six Fridays and will conclude on April 11. This year the event will feature both dine-in and drive-through dining, and the hours are 4 to 6 p.m.

The meal will feature fish fillets, french fries, home-made coleslaw, tartar sauce and cocktail sauce. Beverages will also be included for dine-in guests.

The cost of the meal is \$15 and is a fundraiser for the Pagosa Springs Knights of Columbus.

The Pagosa Knights support numerous initiatives both within our parish and within our community. In addition to providing college scholarships for graduating seniors, the Knights also support our veterans, new mothers, teens and those in need within our community.

This marks the return of indoor dining for this annual event and will once again feature Pete Dach's renowned secret seasoning recipe, the best this side of Buffalo, N.Y.

Please stop by and enjoy a delicious meal and wonderful fellowship. The Knights of Columbus Council 7560 thanks you for your support.

Live Performers

Thursday
Coyote Moon Lounge: Karaoke with DJ Marcus, 6 p.m.
The Pagosa Bar: Karaoke, 7:30 p.m.
Pagosa Peak Open School: Live music, 7 p.m.

Friday
Coyote Moon Lounge: Carbon Red, Totally Happy Campers, 6 p.m.
The Springs Resort lodge atrium: Bob Hemenger, 5 p.m.

Saturday
Coyote Moon Lounge: Jamie and the Dreamers, 6 p.m.
The Springs Resort lodge atrium: Maxwell Miller, 5 p.m.

Sunday
Coyote Moon Lounge: Jonny Keys, 5 p.m.

Monday
Coyote Moon Lounge: Dustin Burley, 5 p.m.

Tuesday
The Springs Resort lodge atrium: Steve Blechschmidt, 5 p.m.

Established 1909.
The Pagosa Springs **SUN**

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Owner, CEO
Jim O'Rourke, jorouke@orourkemediagroup.com
Publisher, Advertising, Circulation
Shari Pierce, shari@pagosasun.com
Editor
Randi Pierce, editor@pagosasun.com
Reporters
Josh Pike, josh@pagosasun.com
Derek Kutzer, derek@pagosasun.com
Clayton Chaney, clayton@pagosasun.com
Garrett Fevinger, garrett@pagosasun.com
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San Juan Stargazers to discuss new ideas, hear presentations March 6

By Joan Mieritz
San Juan Stargazers

The January monthly meeting of the San Juan Stargazers will be on Thursday, March 6.

We will meet at the regular time of 6 p.m. for our social time.

We will meet at our regular location — the Community United Methodist Church at 434 Lewis St. Please use the convenient parking lot and side door that leads into the kitchen and fellowship hall. We keep the front doors locked.

Club activities

For the next few months, we will be using the time starting at 6:30 p.m. to brainstorm new ways to restructure the San Juan Stargazers Astronomy Club.

We are realizing that having a few officers is not adequate to work with the number of members and all the possible activities. Also, no one has stepped up to take Jerry Granok's work with telescopes. We need to work on an organizational plan.

When we get some creative ideas, new plans will be presented, approved and an election will be held. We want to get modern and creative, and invent an exceptional plan that will help the club to continue and thrive for many years into the future.

Since we will be working so hard, the club will provide cherry pie and ice cream to fuel our efforts.

After we've made enough business progress, we will switch over to our primary goal of astronomy education with a special travel presentation by Patrick and Holly Hasenbuhler.

They recently visited Easter Island. The unbelievable huge statues would be considered archaeology, but there are connections to star alignments as with so many other ancient archaeological sites in the world. It will be amazing to learn more about such a place.

Then, we will continue our program with the new activity that we started in January. Denise Fisk will present a summary from Sky and Telescope Magazine.

Her husband, Eric, shared with the Stargazers seven years ago when he worked at Martin Marietta on sending a satellite, Osiris-Rex, to the asteroid Bennu. The satellite was completed, launched, traveled there, remained for two years to study and explore the asteroid, and then came home.

The rocks and retrieved dirt were divided up and are being studied by several institutions. The many details of this project are featured in the article from Sky and Telescope Magazine

that Denise Fisk will present.


About the Stargazers

If you would like to join the San Juan Stargazers, you will also receive Reflector Magazine, which is the publication of the National Astronomical League of which you automatically become a member. To join both groups and get an excellent

astronomy magazine, annual membership is only \$25 per family.

You can join the club at any of our events or you can join using PayPal on our website, sanjuanstargazers.org.

Check out our continuously changing website with new information and spectacular photos. We can be your connection to our extraordinary universe.



Coffeehouse Nite

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Photos courtesy St. Patrick's Episcopal Church

The world's shortest St. Patrick's Day Parade will return to Pagosa Springs on Saturday, March, 15 at 11:15 a.m., at St. Patrick's Episcopal Church.

St. Patrick's Day Festival slated for March 15

St. Patrick's Episcopal Church

The world's shortest St. Patrick's Day Parade will return to Pagosa Springs on Saturday, March, 15 at 11:15 a.m., at St. Patrick's Episcopal Church. Featuring the emerald decorated float with green-clad Pagosa children, majorettes, bagpipers, Tin

Lizzie mini-cars and first responder vehicles, this annual march signals spring is on its way. Even leashed dogs and their owners are encouraged to participate in the parade. Eighteen local vendors will be on-site in the St. Patrick's parking lot, along with free hot dogs, plus Irish coffee and beer for sale.

Plenty of parking will be available at the adjacent hospital and Pope John Paul II Church lots. Attendees are welcome to contribute to the St. Patrick's Food Bank with donations of canned fruit and vegetables. With activities for kids and adults alike, this festival promises to be a "shamrocking" good time.

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Photo courtesy Thingamajig Theatre Company

Olive Madison (played by Ivy King) loses her patience and douses Florence Unger's (Karisa Bruin) linguini with Pledge in a heated moment of frustration during "The Odd Couple (Female Version)" at Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts.

'The Odd Couple (Female Version)' continues run at Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts

By Tim Moore
Thingamajig Theatre Company

The Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts (PSCA) is seeing continued success as "The Odd Couple (Female Version)" enters its second weekend of performances.

The show, which opened to packed houses last weekend, has been well received by audiences enjoying Neil Simon's classic comedy with a fresh perspective.

Under the direction of Dennis Elkins, the cast has brought a new energy and humor to the production, capturing the essence of the mismatched roommates, Olive Madison and Florence Unger. Their contrasting personalities lead to plenty of comedic moments, keeping audiences

entertained throughout the show. "The response has been really positive," said Laura Moore, PSCA executive director. "We knew this show would resonate with people, but it's been great to see the enthusiasm from all walks of the community."

Many theatergoers have praised the cast's performances, particularly Karisa Bruin as Florence and Ivy King as Olive. The supporting cast, including the Trivial Pursuit group and the Costazuela brothers, adds to the bombastic humor and energy of the production.

Performances continue this weekend at PSCA, with showtimes on Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m., and Sunday at 3 p.m. Tickets are available online at pagosacenter.org or at the PSCA box office by calling (970) 731-SHOW (7469).

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Be the light: Rise Above Violence seeking volunteer advocates

By Phoebe Schroeder
Rise Above Violence

Do you believe in the power of kindness? Do you want to make a real difference in our community? Have you ever felt the urge to help someone find hope in their darkest moments?

If so, Rise Above Violence invites you to step forward and become part of something truly transformative.

We are seeking compassionate individuals to join our team as certified confidential advocates. As a volunteer advocate, you'll provide unwavering support, encouragement, and resources to survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault.

This is your chance to be a steady, caring presence for those who need

it most.

Our next volunteer training is on Friday, March 15, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., and we'd love for you to be a part of it. We only hold this training two times a year.

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- Breakfast and lunch.

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Ready to make a difference? Contact Phoebe at (970) 264-1129, ext. 6 or email Phoebe@RiseAboveViolence.org to sign up or for more details.

Your kindness can be a lifeline for someone in need. Will you answer the call?

Rise is dedicated to ending domestic and sexual violence through advocacy, education and support services. Together we rise.

Aspen Services announces evening for families with special needs

By Becky Thompson
Aspen House

On Friday, March 14, from 5 to 8 p.m., Aspen Services will host a unique and delightful event for families with children or adults who have developmental disabilities.

This evening promises an unforgettable experience with a pizza dinner followed by group photos.

The evening will begin with a warm and welcoming pizza dinner at St. Patrick's Episcopal Church parish hall at 225 S. Pagosa Blvd. Families can look forward to a relaxed and family-friendly meal, ensuring that everyone, regardless of their dietary needs, will be well-catered for. This event aims to create a space where families can connect, share stories and build lasting friendships within the community.

Following the dinner, the fun will continue when families will have the opportunity to capture timeless memories with group photos, dressed in charming vintage attire. These photos will serve as cherished keepsakes, preserving the joy and

togetherness of the evening.

In our fast-paced world, families with special needs often find it challenging to participate in events that cater specifically to their requirements. This evening is a rare and valuable opportunity for these families to come together, enjoy each other's company, and celebrate their unique bonds.

Aspen Services warmly invites all families who have not yet been involved in such gatherings to join this wonderful event. The cost for the event is \$10 per person and includes dinner and photos to take home. It's an excellent chance to meet other families in the community, share experiences and build a supportive network.

To ensure that there is plenty of food for everyone, please RSVP. For any questions or further information, feel free to call Aspen Services at (970) 507-0122 or email aspenserVICES@aspenhousepagosa.org.

Let's make March 14 an evening filled with laughter, love and lasting memories.

Veterans for Veterans to hold 13th annual golf tournament

By Frank Wiley
Veterans for Veterans

On May 24, Veterans for Veterans of Archuleta County will be holding its 13th annual charity golf tournament.

The tournament will be played at the Rio Grande Club in South Fork with an 8:30 a.m. check-in and 10

a.m. shotgun start.

It will be a scramble format, and the fee is \$125.

We want you to play, but if you don't play you can still help veterans in various ways:

1. Memorial recognition: a sign on the course with the name and military service branch designation

■ See Tournament on next page



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Visiting Angels

2025 Best of Home Care® – Leader in Experience Award



Visiting Angels announced today that they have received the distinguished 2025 Best of Home Care® –Leader in Experience Award from Activated Insights, formerly Home Care Pulse, the leading firm in experience management for post-acute care. The Leader in Experience Award is the highest recognition awarded by Activated Insights and is given to select home care businesses that consistently rank among the very highest in 10 or more quality metrics. As a Leader in Experience, Visiting Angels is now recognized among the top 10% of home care providers participating in the nationwide Activated Insights Experience Management program.

This accomplishment demonstrates Visiting Angel's long-term dedication to excellent care and quality improvement. To qualify for this award, 10% of Visiting Angel's clients and caregivers were interviewed each month by Activated Insights. Over a 12-month period, Visiting Angels received high client and caregiver satisfaction ratings in areas such as caregiver training, compassion of caregivers, communication, scheduling, client/caregiver compatibility, and more. Using feedback from clients and employees, as well as quality benchmarks from Activated Insights, the Visiting Angels management team set goals to reach the highest level of Experience possible.

"We are so excited that our team of amazing caregivers and staff have achieved this award. Our team is committed to providing the excellence in all we do to serve our communities. I could not be prouder of their accomplishment". -says Michelle Johnson, CEO.

The Best of Home Care® – Leader in Experience Award highlights the top-performing home care businesses in the nation. Activated Insights believes that by honoring these providers, families looking for in-home care for a loved one will be able to recognize and choose a trusted home care provider.

To find out more about Visiting Angels commitment to experience, please visit www.visitingangels.com/southwestcolorado or call 970-264-5991.



Photo courtesy Healthy Archuleta

More than 525 items were donated during Healthy Archuleta’s Feb. 22 food drive and distributed among the seven food pantries in Archuleta County.

Healthy Archuleta supports local food system

Healthy Archuleta

On Feb. 22, community members and visitors came together to support our neighbors who access food through the Food Pantry Network during one of Healthy Archuleta’s quarterly food drives hosted at City Market.

More than 525 items were donated during the food drive and distributed among the seven food pantries in Archuleta County. Volunteers from the local food pantries supported the event to hand out shopping lists and collect the requested items for donation. Thank you to everyone who came out to support our neighbors during this food drive.

If you missed the food drive, non-perishable items can be donated at any time at Healthy Archuleta’s donation bin located at the UPS Store, 135

Country Center Drive, Suite F.

In addition to supporting our neighbors accessing food at food pantries through quarterly food drives, Healthy Archuleta is also working to support the next generation of local food system champions by engaging with high school students.

This semester, Healthy Archuleta is engaging youth through two high school classes, where students have the opportunity to learn about the local food system, from growing and producing food to eating nutritious foods and all the elements in between. Each week, students are participating in interactive discussions, learning from guest speakers and engaging in hands-on activities.

Some examples of the food system activities the students are participating in include a session on nutrition and learning how to read food labels,

followed by a scavenger hunt to put the lessons into practice and visiting Healthy Archuleta’s Food Distribution Center to learn about hydroponic food production and see the grow towers in action.

Healthy Archuleta is committed to advancing a local sustainable and resilient food system that all community members can contribute to and benefit from.

Community events, such as food drives, working with youth, and sharing the importance of health and local foods are just some of the ways Healthy Archuleta is working in the local food system.

To learn more about the efforts of Healthy Archuleta and how you can get involved, please visit our website at www.foodcoalition4archuleta.org or send us an email at fsfearchuleta@gmail.com.

Tournament

■ continued from previous page of a family member or friend for \$100. You get the sign after the tournament.

2. Business sponsorship sign on the golf course: \$100 (we’ll need a business logo if you want it on the sign).

3. Live online auction: vfvpagosa.winningbidder.com/event/3920. Log in to view items.

4. Direct donation (personal check): Sponsorships or donations

by check can be sent to Veterans for Veterans, P.O. Box 5331, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147.

For additional information or to sign up, contact Ted Eckerson at (970) 238-6323.

Our mission statement: “Vets-4Vets is a partnership of Veterans and their families and friends working within the community, in order to improve independence, physical and mental wellness, and overall

dignity of the Veterans of Southwest Colorado.”

Vets4Vets quickly responds to get financial assistance to vetted veterans as fast as the same day that they submit an application. We are a 501(c)(3) with a board of directors of eight. No one in our organization is compensated. We contributed almost 11,000 documented volunteer hours in our community in the last 12 months. Thank you for your help.

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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.

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. 12:30-1:30 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.

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.

What is light pollution?

By Dena Laterza
Pagosa Sidewalk Astronomers

Light pollution is the human-made alteration of outdoor light levels from those occurring naturally. Every light alters the night. Light pollution can negatively affect both humans and wildlife.

In humans, artificial light disrupts natural circadian rhythms, leading to sleep disturbances. Poor sleep can lead to overall health issues such as increased stress and anxiety. Nocturnal animals (of which Colorado has many) can be disoriented or attracted to artificial light sources, impacting their foraging, mating and migration patterns. Light pollution can also lead to increased predation on animals, as well as negatively affecting their mating.

Components of light pollution include:

- Glare: excessive brightness that causes visual discomfort (especially

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.

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.



COMMERCIAL OPPORTUNITIES

GREAT POTENTIAL

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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■ See Light on next page

Multitude of free magazines and newspapers available in print and online

By Carole Howard
PREVIEW Columnist, and the library staff

We want to remind you that your library has about 45 physical magazines and newspapers in our collection for your free reading enjoyment, plus multiple online publications.

Print magazine titles in our collection include The New Yorker, Taste of Home, Time, Bon Appetit, Consumer Reports, People, National Geographic, Discover and Sports Illustrated, to name just a few. Especially for youngsters we have Sports Illustrated Kids and National Geographic for Kids.

Popular print newspapers in our collection include The Pagosa Springs SUN, The Durango Herald and The Southern Ute Drum.

You're welcome to enjoy reading the newspapers and current magazines at the library in one of our comfy chairs in the reading areas. All past magazine issues are available for free check out.

We also offer access to articles in a variety of journals and publications, including The Denver Post, through the "Online Resources" tab at the top of our home page. It's available 24/7 under Newspaper Source, which is listed right below The New York Times in the digital collections section on our website.

Probably our most popular online newspaper is the New York Times, which comes with all its extra-cost features — Cooking, Games, Wirecutter and the Athletic — included. Note you cannot be a current New York Times subscriber to access this site.

Visit <https://pagosalibrary.org/online-resources/> to find a variety of media for people of all ages. Your library card number is required to access some of the online resources.

Library closure

Your library will be closed Friday, March 7, for all-day staff training.

Online author talks

Our highly popular free online author talks with New York Times bestselling authors continue with three talks in March for you to watch live on Zoom or via a recording later.

For details and to register go to <https://libraryc.org/pagosalibrary/upcoming>.

Wednesday, March 12, at noon will showcase Dan Heath on "Power of Reset and How to Change What's Not Working."

Thursday, March 20, at noon will feature Clara Bingham on "How



Woman's Liberation Transformed America."

Wednesday, March 26, will star novelist Jennifer Weiner on "Dreams We Chase."

Special bilingual storytime tomorrow

Saturday, March 8, from 10 to 11 a.m., join us for Hora de Cuentos, a free bilingual educational hour of reading, singing and free play to build early literacy skills.

Chess Club Saturday

Learn how to play chess with free quick lessons and game time to practice your skills on Saturday, March 8, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. All ages and abilities are welcome.

Adult knitting Saturday

Join new and experienced knitters Saturday, March 8, for our free Knitters Circle from 1 to 3 p.m. It is aimed at anyone over the age of 18 who would like to knit together or get some help if you are stuck on your project.

Exercise program Monday

In a new community outreach program, Judy, adult services librarian, will lead an exercise program at the Pagosa Senior Center every Monday in March 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.

Habitat for Humanity application help

Habitat for Humanity will be building four homes in our community next year and is looking for applicants now.

Come to your library on Monday, March 10, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. for an orientation on how you can apply. Applications for its 2026 builds are due by July 1.

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

Light

■ continued from previous page
nized authority on light pollution.

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Ruby's Book Club Tuesday

Ruby's Book Club meets from 2
■ See Library on next page

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.

New features

High Country Title offers state-of-the-art technology and services including:

- Cash transactions can be closed remotely 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The client does not have to commute to closings.
- Sellers can close remotely 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
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Delani Smith

board, reminders.

- Competitive market pricing.
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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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Library

■ continued from previous page

to 3 p.m. on Tuesday, March 11, to discuss “Plainsong” by Kent Harut. Copies are available at your library.

This book club is held the second Tuesday of each month, alternating between fiction and nonfiction titles. Anyone is welcome to attend. Snacks will be provided.

Therapy dog visit

Next Wednesday, March 12, from 11 to 11:45 a.m., all ages are invited to a free visit with a certified therapy dog. The visits will be limited to 10-15 minutes — just the right amount of time to pet the dog, read to the dog or just say “Hi.”

Legal clinic

This month’s free legal clinic is by appointment on Wednesday, March 12, from 2 to 3:40 p.m. Come to the library to meet privately via Zoom with our volunteer civil attorney.

To schedule an appointment, phone (970) 264-2209. When you call, let us know if you need a translator. Registration opens the first of the month and is required as space is limited.

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 13 and 20, from 4 to 5:30 p.m. for an afterschool adventure. Registration is required. Participants must be in middle school and registered with the PCI afterschool programs.

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.

Large print

“Order of Swans” by Jude Deveraux is a fantasy about a woman with the power to alter fairy tales. “The Crash” by Freida McFadden follows an injured woman rescued in a storm who finds things are not what they seem. “The Big Empty” by Robert Crais is an Elvis Cole and Joe Pike mystery. “Last Twilight in Paris” by Pam Jenoff begins when a woman discovers a necklace in a London secondhand shop. “Bonded in Death” by J.D. Robb is an Eve Dallas mystery. “Citizen” is Bill Clinton’s memoir about his life after the White House.

Nonfiction

“Your Income Tax 2025” is a J.K. Lasser guide to preparing your 2024 tax return. “At Home in Nature” is a history of Colorado’s 43 state parks, with tributes written by employees and retirees of Colorado Parks and Wildlife. “The Illustrated Guide to Rocks and Minerals” by John Farndon is a visual encyclopedia about the world’s most fascinating specimens. “Citizen” is Bill Clinton’s memoir about his life after the White House.

“The Complete Book of Origami” is a beginner’s guide to the most popular folded paper models. “The Strength Training Bible for Seniors” by Dr. Karl Knopf offers customized workouts to stay strong, active and healthy. “Money for Couples” by Ramit Sethi is a 10-step plan to help couples plan their financial lives. “Mayo Clinic Guide to Fertility and Conception” helps maximize reproductive health. “Japanese Paper Craft” by Aya Nagaoka is a guide to making books, notepads and keepsakes. “Heal Your Gut, Save Your Brain” by Dr. Partha Nandi is a proactive plan for good health.

Mysteries, suspense and thrillers

“Midnight Black” by Mark Greaney is a Gray Man thriller set in Russia. “Queens of Crime” by Marie Benedict features the five crime writers who form a secret society. “Nemesis” by Gregg Hurwitz is an Orphan X black ops story. “Open Season” by Jonathan Kellerman is an Alex Delaware and Milo Sturgis thriller.

“Bonded in Death” by J.D. Robb is an Eve Dallas mystery.

Other novels

“Three Days in June” by Anne Tyler focuses on a woman who was just fired dealing with her daughter’s wedding and an unwelcome ex-husband. “Isola” by Allegra Goodman features a woman who lost her fortune based on a 16th century heroine. “Deep End” by Ali Hazelwood tells of a budding romance of a competitive diver and an ace swimmer.

DVDs

“Wicked” is an Academy Award nominee for best picture. “Juror #2” is directed by Clint Eastwood. “September 5” follows ABC Sports during the 1972 Munich Summer Olympics massacre. “Attenborough’s Life Journey” is a Nature documentary. “Sound Track to a Coup d’Etat” explores the 1961 assassination of Congo’s leader. “Nosferatu” is a gothic vampire story. “American Sign Language for Everyone” by Julia Silvestri is a four-disc set. “VOCES American Historia: The Untold History of Latinos” is a three-part series hosted by John Leguizamo.

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

“It’s not so much what we have in this life that matters. It’s what we do with what we have.” — Fred Rogers (1928-2003), Presbyterian minister and pioneer in children’s television as creator, host and writer of the PBS program “Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood.”

Website

For more information on library books, services and programs — and to reserve books, e-books, books on CD and DVDs from the comfort of your home — please visit our website at <https://pagosalibrary.org>.



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Photo courtesy CSU Extension
Aquafaba is the liquid from cooked or canned chickpeas. It can replace egg whites in recipes. Use 3 tablespoons of aquafaba per egg.

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Dietitian dishes on seven affordable egg substitutes for baking

By Cindi Galabota and Jessica Clifford
 PREVIEW Columnists

Extension Viewpoints

With the current high price of eggs, you might be looking for reliable egg substitutes for baking.

Not much can replace an egg “eggs-actly,” but some replacements can be suitable alternatives in a pinch. Here are several egg substitutes that can work in a variety of recipes.

Why are eggs hard to replace?

Eggs provide structure and moisture in recipes. Eggs hold together other ingredients, and yolks contain compounds that can help evenly blend liquids that usually don’t mix, like oil and water. When whipped, egg whites raise batters by adding air into the mixture through a process called leavening.

Since few single ingredients can replicate all these properties at once, finding the right substitute often depends on the specific role eggs play in a recipe. For instance, flaxseed meal works well for binding, while baking powder and vinegar help with lift. Testing different substitutes will help you find the best option for your needs.

Seven top egg substitutes for baking

Flaxseed meal

Mix 1 tablespoon of flaxseed meal with 3 tablespoons of water and let it sit for 15 minutes to form a gel-like consistency.

Best uses for baking with flaxseed meal:

- Baked goods that need binding and moisture (e.g., pancakes, muffins, quick breads, cookies).

- Vegan recipes where eggs are used as a structural component.
- Dishes with a slightly nutty flavor (e.g., whole-grain or hearty baked goods).

Flaxseed meal is high in fiber, which can help improve heart health, as well as omega-3 fatty acids and antioxidants. It costs roughly 5 cents for the amount of flaxseed meal required to replace an egg.

Mashed bananas

Use 1/4 cup of mashed banana to replace one egg in baking.

Best uses for baking with mashed bananas:

- In moist baked goods like banana bread, muffins and brownies.
- As a healthier alternative where natural sweetness is beneficial.
- In vegan baking.

Avoid using mashed bananas in recipes where you don’t want banana flavor or excess moisture could be problematic (e.g., crispy cookies). Mashed bananas are naturally sweet, rich in potassium and a good source of fiber. It costs roughly 10 cents for the 1/4 cup of mashed banana required to replace an egg.

Aquafaba

Aquafaba is the liquid from cooked or canned chickpeas. It can replace egg whites in recipes. Use 3 tablespoons of aquafaba per egg.

Best uses for baking with aquafaba:

■ See Viewpoints on next page

HEALTHY SELF

PROPER HYDRATION CAN LOWER BLOOD SUGAR ESPECIALLY IN DIABETICS

Water is indispensable to life and health, and scientists are finding more aspects of life and health that are water dependent.

Today’s excerpt provides yet another reason to remain hydrated.

When the body is dehydrated, vasopressin levels rise, prompting the kidneys to hold onto water.

At the same time, the hormone pushes the liver to produce blood sugar, which over time may strain the ability to produce or respond to insulin.



One of the largest studies to look at the consequences was published last year in Diabetes Care, a publication of the American Diabetes Association. French scientists tracked more than 3,000 healthy men and women ages 30 to 65 for nearly a decade. All had normal blood sugar levels at the start of the research.

After nine years, about 800 had developed Type 2 diabetes or high blood sugar. But those who consumed the most water, 17 to 34 ounces a day, had a risk roughly 30 percent lower than that of those who drank the least.

The researchers controlled for the subjects’ intake of other liquids that could have affected the results, mainly sugary and alcoholic drinks, as well as exercise, weight and other factors affecting health. The researchers did not look at eating habits, something future studies may take into account.

Source: “Really? The Claim: Drinking Water Can Help Lower the Risk of Diabetes.” By Anahad O’Connor. <http://well.blogs.nytimes.com>

Bonus Tip: Visit <http://www.AmazingFacts.org> for spiritual refreshment every week!

“...His waters will be sure.” Isaiah 33:16, last part

A public service from your Adventist friends & neighbors at Pagosa Springs Seventh Day Adventist Church.

Disclaimer: This and all our Nature’s Remedies are for health information purposes only. The Seventh Day Adventist Church is not responsible for results.



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Viewpoints

■ continued from previous page

• Meringues, macarons and marshmallows (ideal for whipping into stiff peaks).

• Vegan or egg-free mousses and soufflés.

• Vegan mayonnaise and dressings.

Avoid using aquafaba in recipes that require a strong binder. Aquafaba is low in calories and fat-free. It costs roughly 40 cents to replace an egg with aquafaba from a can of chickpeas. That doesn't factor in the value of the chickpeas, which you can still use.

Baking powder and vinegar

Combine 1/2 teaspoon of baking powder, 1 tablespoon vinegar and 1 tablespoon water to replace one egg.

Best uses for baking with baking powder and vinegar:

• Cakes, muffins, cupcakes and quick breads where eggs mainly provide leavening.

• Recipes that need a light, airy texture.

• Vegan baking recipes.

Avoid using baking powder and vinegar in recipes that require a strong binder. It costs roughly 8 cents to replace an egg with baking powder and vinegar.

Cornstarch

To maintain structure and moisture, replace only one egg in every three with 1 tablespoon of cornstarch. Because you're just replacing 1/3 of the eggs, this works best for recipes that call for more than three eggs and still require eggs for structure and moisture.

Best uses for baking with cornstarch:

• Thickening custards, puddings and sauces.

• Baked goods where structure is important (e.g., cookies, shortbread).

• Eggless batters (e.g., tempura or coatings for fried foods).

It costs roughly 4 cents to replace a single egg with cornstarch.

Gelatin

Soften 1 tablespoon of unflavored gelatin in 3 tablespoons of cold water, add 3 teaspoons boiling water, cool and beat until frothy before using. Reduce other liquid in the recipe by 2 tablespoons.

Best uses for baking with gelatin:

• Dense or structured desserts (e.g., cheesecakes, mousse, panna cotta).

• Gluten-free baking to improve texture.

• Savory dishes like meatballs where eggs act as a binder.

Avoid using gelatin in recipes that are vegan or vegetarian and require whipping. It costs roughly 50 cents to \$1 to replace a single egg with gelatin.

Commercial egg substitutes

Substitute 1/4 cup commercial egg replacer for each egg.

Many commercial egg substitutes contain some sort of starch as a bind-

ing or stabilizing agent, a leavening agent like baking soda, an emulsifier and possibly other things like oils, colors or flavors. Some may include a plant-based protein isolate to increase the protein.

It costs roughly 15 cents to \$1 to replace a single egg with a commercial egg substitute.

Other egg substitutes

Chia seeds are a fiber powerhouse and work similarly to flaxseed meal, but usually cost more.

Applesauce, Greek yogurt and silken tofu can be used the same way banana is used; they help with moisture. They are best used in moist, dense baked goods, like quick breads. You may want to avoid using them in baked goods that are meant to be light and fluffy. Tofu and Greek yogurt supply protein, but the amount in each cookie from a batch or piece of bread from a loaf would be minimal.

Some commercial replacements provide plant protein, but still may not be equivalent to the protein in real eggs. Commercial egg replacers also may contain additives and preservatives. DIY substitutes like flaxseed or aquafaba are more natural, but don't offer the same protein content.

Pro tip: Search for a vegan version of the recipe you want to make, such as "vegan brownie recipe" or "vegan salad dressing." Adding "vegan" to recipe searches will yield results that don't use eggs or other animal products.

To learn more, visit <https://extension.colostate.edu/>.

Jessica Clifford is a CSU Extension nutrition specialist and registered dietitian with the Food Science and Human Nutrition Department.

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.

**HUD
Publisher's Notice**



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

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

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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!

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

ANSWER:



The mystery of regathering a nation

By **Betty Slade**
PREVIEW Columnist

On Oct. 7, 2023, pictures of devastation flashed across the television screen. Hamas militants launched a massive surprise attack against Israel, killing 1,200 people and taking civilian hostages. We watched God's people once again face pain that was humanly impossible to understand.

Why are all these horrific acts being done to Israel? We have had to turn our eyes away. We can't stomach to see the things that are happening to Israel. Our hearts cry out for them.

It looks like God is against Israel and has allowed her to go through all sorts of hell, but she is the apple of His eye. The mystery is in the spiritual goal of bringing God's people back to the Lord. None of it make sense except understanding it in the spirit realm.

Life at its best is a mystery. Mysteries move behind all human events and can't be explained in the natural. Only with spiritual eyes can we understand hard things, see a loving God and trust him for what we do not know. God is trustworthy and he requires our faith.

Throughout history, this land and its people have been ravished with heartbreak, loss and wars — the only place on earth that has been given a title deed from God. These are God's people.

Only by the eyes of faith can we see God's faithfulness. God says that He will be like the dew to Israel. Israel shall grow like the lily and its root will be entwined and lengthen like cedars of Lebanon. Its branches shall spread, and those who dwell under his shadow shall return. (See Hosea 14:5-7).

I picture the root of a fragile flower wrapped around the strong root of the cedar tree. God and his people entwined together. He refuses anyone to pluck Israel from His hand. It looks like they have already been plucked and destroyed. Looking closely by faith, the mystery continues as He regathers and restores the land.

God calls Israel his wife. He loved her in the days of her youth when God made a covenant with Moses and they were joined together as one. Hosea was instructed to take an unfaithful woman as his wife in order to show Hosea's unconditional love for her, thus displaying God's love for Israel.

Accounts were written of Israel in bondage as a young child when the people of Israel left their land during the days of Hosea. God in his faithfulness drew them with gentle cords, with bands of love back to their land. As a caring father, he brought his people like a child to his cheek.

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Artist's Lane

Life at its best is a mystery. Mysteries move behind all human events and can't be explained in the natural.

God promised, "I will ransom them from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death ... Pity is hidden from My eyes" (Hosea 13:14,15). As the hostages are brought out one at a time, and the bodies of loved ones carried out, God said He hid pity from his eyes and will ransom his children once again.

In 1948 we saw the regathering of a people to their homeland. The First Arab-Israeli War and the Palestine War of Independence where they experienced victory, until the Six-Day

Miracle and the resounding Israeli victory in the 1967 war.

Through the direction of God, Isaiah wrote about the Kingdom's blessings for a regathered Israel, "The wilderness and the wasteland shall be glad for them, and the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose; It shall blossom abundantly and rejoice, even with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the excellence of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the excellence of our God" (Isaiah 35:1, 2). Isaiah saw the land of Israel by faith as the glory of the Lord, the excellence of God.

Christians are joined to Israel's history. Every word in the Bible represents a part of our history. Believers have experienced some of Israel's story in their own stories. God has been faithful to regather and restore the believer also.

"For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery ... blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in ... And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written" (Romans 11:25,26a).

What has happened to Israel can either be viewed with natural senses or by the Spirit of the Divine. We can act with our emotions or by faith in what God has said. He said He has ransomed Israel and the believers.

Final brushstroke: A spiritual Israel exists within the national Israel. This is the mystery revealed. Through all the adversity, a spiritual Israel is being regathered and restored again.

Send your comment to bettyslade.author@gmail.com.

Views expressed do not necessarily represent those of The SUN.



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Bird of the Week



Photo courtesy Charles Martinez

This week’s Bird of the Week, compliments of the Weminuche Audubon Society and Audubon Rockies, is the ring-billed gull.

Referring to this bird as a seagull is misleading. Of the more than 50 gull species worldwide, this is the one most likely to be seen far from coastal areas. In fact, many individuals can go their whole lives without visiting salt water. They are comfortable around humans and can be found in parking lots, dumps, beaches, fields, reservoirs, lakes and ponds.

Ring-billed gulls are short- to medium-distance migrants. In winter they are found in southern states, along the coasts, and south through Mexico and Central America. In our area, they are often seen feeding along the shorelines of Navajo Lake and may also show up at lakes and ponds like Pinon, Pagosa, Echo, Hatcher and others.

Ring-billed gulls often breed in large, noisy colonies which can number up to thousands of pairs. Their calls are described as a raucous scream. Most return to breed at the colony where they hatched in areas across Canada and the northern states. Nests are built on the ground, often on low-lying islands in freshwater areas.

These birds are generalists, adept at flying, running and swimming. They can thrive on almost any available type of food, including fish, insects, earthworms, rodents, grain, garbage and french fries. They forage by walking on the ground through fields, skimming the surface of water for fish, grabbing insects in the air, scavenging at dumps and stealing from other birds.

The National Audubon website calls gulls “the most difficult group of birds to identify. All the different species are just variations on the same basic theme: a gray back on a white body.” To complicate matters, gulls may take up to four years to display full adult plumage and go through many different variations from juvenile to adult. Even eye color changes as these birds age.

Adult ring-billed gulls display the black band for which they are named around a yellow bill. Other white-headed gull species which have been recorded in our county are the herring and California gulls. When you see gulls at a local water body, spend some time and see if you can spot the differences which separate these species.

For information on events, visit www.weminucheaudubon.org and www.facebook.com/weminucheaudubon/.



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Methodist Church to offer program on longevity and healthy aging

Community United Methodist Church

On March 13 from 12:30 to 2 p.m., the Community United Methodist Church (CUMC) will offer its next monthly program on abundant health: "The Six Keys to Longevity."

Speaker Sarah Riehm will give an overview of the basics of healthy aging: posture, breathing, agility, flexibility, balance and strength.

This program is free and open to the public. The class will be held in the fellowship hall of CUMC at 434 Lewis St.

"This program is for anyone who is fitness curious or needs an overview of fitness basics," Riehm said. "It's great for people of any age who want to incorporate more fitness activities into their life. I'll be teaching simple techniques that anyone can do at home. I'm a firm believer that men and women of all ages need to incorporate strength training into their weekly routine. Weight training keeps bones strong and helps prevent hip fractures, the No. 1 cause of disability in older women. You'll learn the principles of safe weightlifting you can do at home, and learn what basic equipment you need for a total, healthy workout. We will be doing movement and hands-on activities during the class, so please wear comfortable clothing and be prepared to have some fun."

Riehm has received nationally recognized certifications from the prestigious Cooper Institute in Dallas

in personal fitness training (CPT), senior fitness, weightlifting and flexibility.

She also holds a teaching certification in mindfulness from the Dallas Yoga Institute.

"During my training, Dr. Ken Cooper told us that every minute of exercise you do now adds three healthy minutes to your life. What else pays a three-for-one dividend? Dr. Cooper showed us some shocking statistics about what happens when people become sedentary as they age. They are much more likely to spend the last eight to 10 years of their lives fighting chronic health problems. It's expensive and unpleasant. So, take steps now to ensure you have abundant health in your golden years."

The Cooper Institute in Dallas has the largest research team in the world looking into the effect that preventive medicine and exercise have on overall wellness. Its mission is to inform the public of the latest research findings to encourage people to adopt and maintain healthy lifestyles.

This workshop is funded by a grant from the Abundant Health Ministry of the United Methodist Church.

"As United Methodists, we are committed to promoting abundant health for all," said Pastor Ken Daniell. "Our denomination has always been a catalyst for good health and well-being, in our own communities and around the world. Our programs help to enrich all aspects of wellness:

emotional, spiritual, mental and physical. We are proud to continue this legacy here in Pagosa Springs."

"I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly." — John 10:10b (NRSV).

Preview Calendar

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

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. 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.

San Juan Stargazers. 6 p.m., Com-
■ See Calendar on page 17

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- CAT
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- DOG
- FAMILY
- FEEDING
- HELP
- HOME
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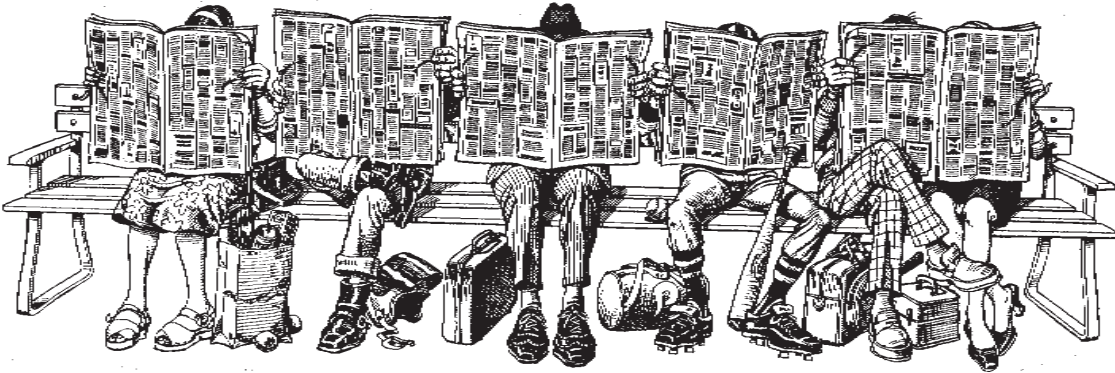
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Preview Calendar

■ continued from page 15

munity United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St. Social time will begin at 6 p.m., with the meeting following at 6:30 p.m. The group will discuss ideas to restructure the club, and hear presentations about Easter Island and Sky and Telescope Magazine.

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.

Pagosa Springs Knights of Columbus Lenten Fish Fry. 4-6 p.m., John Paul II Catholic Church, 353 S. Pagosa Blvd. Both dine-in and drive-through dining will be available. The cost of the meal is \$15 and is a fundraiser for the Pagosa Springs Knights of Columbus.

Pagosa Springs Varsity Girls' Basketball. 5:30 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School. Playoff game between No. 7 Pagosa Springs vs. No. 26 Fort Morgan.

'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).

Monday, March 10

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

Women's Fellowship. 9 a.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church classrooms.

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.

Archuleta County Democratic Club. 11:30 p.m., Coyote Moon. Ethan Proud, Archuleta County Weed and Pest supervisor, will speak.

Habitat for Humanity Application Orientation. 1 p.m., Sisson Library.

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.

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.

Tuesday, March 11

Pagosa Springs Stitchers. 10 a.m.-noon, Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St. Bring your current stitching project and a

snack/drink if you wish, and enjoy the fellowship of other stitchers. All are welcome.

Veterans for Veterans of Archuleta County. 10 a.m., Pagosa Bible Church, 209 Harman Park Drive. Veterans and family members are invited to share experiences with vets of all ages. Find out about the latest in vets benefits, vets news and community-focused events. Contact (970) 880-8387 for more details.

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

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.

Ruby's Book Club. 2-3 p.m., Sisson Library. The group will discuss "Plainsong" by Kent Haruf.

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

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

Men's Fellowship. 6 p.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church classrooms.

Wednesday, March 12

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.

Emotional Freedom Technique Session. 10-11 a.m., Senior Center.

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

■ See Calendar on next page



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Monday, March 10th at 1:00PM

@public library 811 San Juan St

Monday, March 24th at 5:30PM

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Preview Calendar

■ continued from previous page

the skills they need to become independent readers. For all ages. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information.

Therapy Dog Visit. 11-11:45 a.m., Sisson Library. Stop by and visit with a certified therapy dog.

Archuleta County Republican Women. 11:30 a.m., Victor's Sushi, 118 N. Pagosa Blvd. Social time and ordering lunch will start at 11:30 a.m., with the meeting going from noon to 1 p.m. Kat McFadden will provide an update on the Cone Zone Care Committee.

Online Author Talk: Dan Heath. Noon, virtual. "Power of Reset and How to Change What's Not Working" with Dan Heath. For details and to register, go to <https://libraryc.org/pagosalibrary/upcoming>.

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.

Pagosa Springs Photography Club. 6 p.m., Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St. Social time will begin at 6 p.m., followed by the meeting at 6:30 p.m. The March program will be "Top Ten: Show and Tell." This will be a hybrid meeting, also available on Zoom. The Zoom link will be emailed to members; others who wish to attend may request the link by email to abutler@mac.com.

Order of the Eastern Star Peace and Harmony Chapter #158. 7 p.m., Masonic Lodge, 277 Lewis St. Call Donna at (970) 946-8201 for more information.

Thursday, March 13

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.

Seminar: Physical Health with Sarah Riehm. 12:30-2 p.m., Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St. The topic will be "The Six Keys to Longevity: Breathing, Posture, Agility, Flexibility, Balance and Strength."

March Birthday/St. Patrick's Day Celebration. 1:15-2:15 p.m., Senior Center. There will be cake, games, goodies, music and opportunities for connection.

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

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

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

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

Friday, March 14

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.

Paws to Read. 2-3 p.m., Sisson Library. Read with Maple, a therapy dog who loves stories.

Steam Engines. 2-3:30 p.m., Sisson Library. Science fun for ages 6-10.

Pagosa Springs Knights of Columbus Lenten Fish Fry. 4-6 p.m., John Paul II Catholic Church, 353 S. Pagosa Blvd. Both dine-in and drive-through dining will be available. The cost of the meal is \$15 and is a fundraiser for the Pagosa Springs Knights of Columbus.

Aspen Services Pizza and Photo Night. 5-8 p.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church parish hall, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd. Families with special needs can look forward to a relaxed and family-friendly pizza meal followed by group photos. Aspen Services invites all families who have not yet been involved in such gatherings to join this event. The cost for the event is \$10 per person and includes dinner and photos to take home. To ensure that there is plenty of food, please RSVP. For any questions or further information, call Aspen Services at (970) 507-0122 or email aspenservices@aspenservicespagosa.org.

'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).

Submit your calendar items to editor@pagosasun.com; mail them to The Pagosa Springs SUN, P.O. Box 9, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147; or deliver them to The SUN office by noon Monday.

The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

- 1 Tacks on
5 Actor Idris
9 Durable wood
14 Arrestee's request
15 Kaput
16 Integra maker
17 End of a threat
18 ___ Clinic
19 Katmandu's land
20 Like many traditions
23 Night school subj.
24 Tied up
25 How some shall remain
27 Kindle
29 Musical work
30 Hepburn film, "Adam's ___"
31 Ring-tailed animal
33 Get rid of
37 Calcium or carbon
39 Ref's call
42 Supermodel Banks
43 Pavarotti, for one
45 "Armageddon" actress Tyler
46 Steel girder
49 Popular theater name
51 Vegas hotel
54 Big Apple team
55 Map abbr.
56 Like some colors
60 Textile pattern
62 Dove competitor
63 Creative spark
64 Draw forth
65 Worse than bad
66 Keister
67 Social outcast
68 Lean (on)
69 Catch sight of

DOWN

- 1 Look out for, maybe

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
14					15					16				
17					18					19				
20				21					22			23		
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42						43	44					45		
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51	52	53							54					
55				56				57					58	59
60			61			62					63			
64						65					66			
67						68					69			

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- 2 Spanish surrealist
3 Take apart
4 Record holder
5 Oilers' home
6 Like some meat
7 Civil War weapon
8 Worshipful love
9 Touched the tarmac
10 Part of a royal flush
11 Delhi money
12 Crude
13 They may be decked
21 It follows that
22 Flightless bird
26 Smaller amount
27 Guitar ridge
28 Too smooth
32 Bill of ____; removal of rights
34 Sledding sites
35 Make fit to print
36 "Whip It" band
38 Word after junk or black

- 40 Officially
41 Common side order
44 Like tearjerkers
47 Financial supporter
48 It may be easily bruised
50 Closet array
51 Biblical tower

- 52 Dance around, as an issue
53 Abate, as rain-fall
57 Barroom foot rest
58 Lowest tide
59 Cooper or Coleman
61 Hotel amenity

Answers to Previous Crossword:

R	A	C	E		A	B	A	S	H		C	R	I	B
I	R	O	N		L	A	T	H	E		R	O	S	A
D	O	N	S		G	R	E	E	N	B	E	A	N	S
E	S	T	I	M	A	B	L	E		E	A	R	T	H
S	E	R	G	E		I	N	S	E	T				
	I	N	N	A	T	E		C	R	U	M	B	S	
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E	D	U	C	A	T	E		L	U	N	E	T	T	E
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U	S	E	R		R	E	L	I	C		O	B	O	E
G	A	M	Y		C	R	E	S	T		T	E	N	T

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The gutting of our national park system

By Ben Long

PREVIEW Columnist

Imagine a million-acre wilderness: Mountain peaks. Rushing rivers. Bears and wolves. Now imagine a city the size of, say, Chicago.

In my corner of Montana every summer, those two things merge. Montana is home to Glacier National Park, and, 30 years ago, the park had

Opinion: Writers on the Range

about a million visitors a year. Nowadays, the park attracts more than 3 million people a year.

It's like a major city teleported to the spine of the Rockies. Those visitors have needs — food, restrooms, parking lots and trails. They deserve to be safe. They expect to have fun. That's why we have park rangers, along with road crews, fire crews, wildlife managers and a myriad of other folks who keep the park functioning.

But today, when they should be planning for the next busy season, our public land managers and stewards find themselves knee-capped by a zealous, unelected budget slasher who wields not a red pen, but a chain saw.

For no reason except the desire to cut the federal budget by eliminating as many staff members as possible, a team recruited by Elon Musk (under orders from President Donald Trump) has slashed the workforces of our public land agencies.

Musk and crew suggest they are just getting started. Their excuses are specious. The idea that they are going to balance the budget on the backs of park rangers and trail crews is like saying they're going to dam the Colorado River with a few shovelfuls of gravel. Perhaps their long game is to so incapacitate management of national parks that privatization is the answer — selling off parks and other public lands.

Chicago serves its 3.5 million people on an annual operations budget of \$17 billion. Glacier Park's annual operations budget is 1,000 times less, about \$15 million. And Glacier Park is an enormous cash cow. Visitors from around the world are in the mood to eat, drink and spend in the local economy, to the tune of \$350 million annually. From that perspective alone, Glacier Park is one of the greatest bargains in government.

Glacier Park is not alone. It is surrounded by the Kootenai and Flathead national forests and the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex — public land that belongs to you and me. Here and across the West, our public lands provide the setting for a way of life that attracts investment

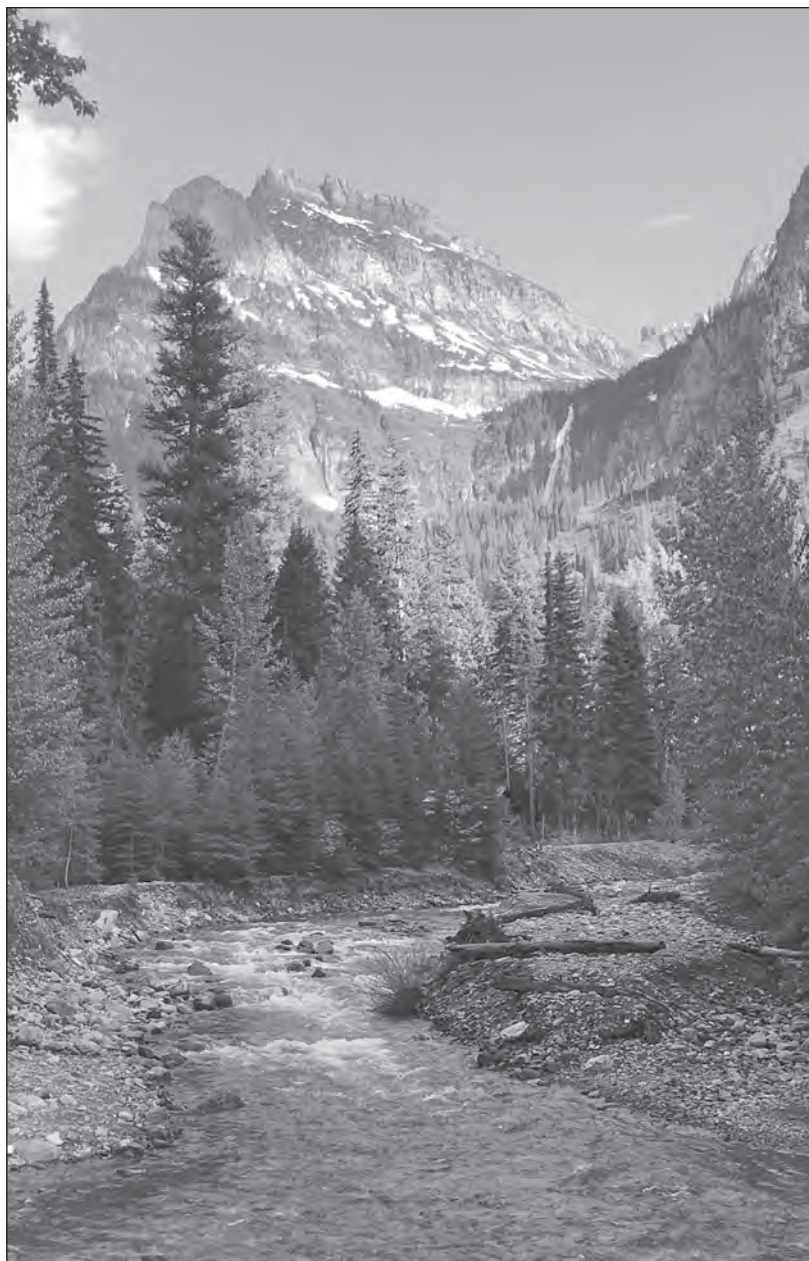


Photo courtesy Ben Long

Logan Creek in Glacier National Park.

and newcomers.

Just as you can't run a ranch without ranch hands, you can't run public lands without land managers and staffers. They tend to be dedicated to the public good, almost always working for a modest salary, the love of the mission and the chance to work outdoors.

This problem goes beyond my community in Montana. The same deep cuts are happening across the Western public land states. It impacts every American who appreciates our public estate for its clean water, wildlife and world-class recreation.

Either Musk doesn't get this or doesn't care. A man wealthy enough for his own space program doesn't have to share public lands with the riffraff.

But Rep. Ryan Zinke, R-Montana, should understand. He is paid to care. In the last Trump Administration, he was the Secretary of the Interior. Now, he represents the western district of Montana in Congress, a district that contains both Glacier National Park and at least 10 million acres of national forest.

I once ran across Zinke at a Montana saloon. Our conversation drifted to national forest management.

While we disagreed on some things, I appreciated this parting comment.

"Remember," he said, "this can all be fixed."

Maybe, but it can't be fixed without good people.

Westerners who depend on public lands for our way of life and our livelihoods know that these lands need and deserve good stewardship. For that, you need stewards. Not a gutted, demoralized workforce that is forced to look over its shoulder for the next ax to fall.

The Republicans are in charge in Washington, D.C. There is no other party to blame for bad decisions. It's past time for Zinke and others to bring some sense to the anti-government fever that is gripping the nation.

Our public lands are both economic assets and a patriotic point of pride. It's time our elected officials (and their unelected minions) act like it.

Ben Long is a contributor to Writers on the Range, writersontherange.org, a nonprofit dedicated to spurring lively conservation about the West. He is senior program director at Resource Media in Montana. Views expressed do not necessarily represent those of The SUN.

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The Pagosa Springs SUN

Senior Center announces March celebration

By Rose Chavez
PREVIEW Columnist

The Pagosa Senior Center is excited to continue to host monthly seasonal holiday and birthday celebrations for community members of all ages.

Fostering social bonds between older adults and community members of all ages is vital. Celebrating the holiday with small gestures of connection and compassion can significantly improve emotional well-being, reduce loneliness and promote a sense of belonging among our community.

If you have a March birthday and/or want to join in a low-key, informal St. Patrick's Day celebration, come join us Thursday afternoon, March 13, from 1:15 to 2:15 p.m. in the dining hall at the Ross Aragon Community Center, 451 Hot Springs Blvd.

We'll have cake, along with games, goodies, music and opportunities for meaningful connections. Come experience Pagosa love and help us build and strengthen systems of community care.

Our community celebrations at the Senior Center are intergenerational, so everyone is welcome.

Supplies are limited and will be provided on a first-come, first-served basis, so arrive early.

For more details and updates about these monthly events, please visit www.psseniors.org or call (970) 264-2167.

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 acupressure 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,

Senior News

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 Archuleta Seniors Inc. (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, 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 all 21 physical skills needed for life-long optimal health functioning.

Scrapbooking and crafters club

The Pagosa Springs Scrapbooking Crafters club continues to hold monthly meetings the second Saturday of each month from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Ross Aragon Community Center, 451 Hot Springs Blvd., within the dining hall in the Senior Center.

This creative tradition has been happening since 2005, and we invite

all creative individuals to come and share ideas, connect with new and old friends, learn/share creative techniques, share supplies and indulge in a potluck lunch together. Bring your scrapbooking projects — or any crafting project that you may want to work on with the group.

Help us create an intergenerational community. Those ages 18 and older are welcome. For those youth age 17 and younger, we kindly request an adult chaperone accompany them.

If you would like to be added to the mailing list, please send your request to copenhavercreative@gmail.com and you will receive notification each month of the upcoming meeting, along with handy tips and tricks for scrapbooking and more.

Meals on Wheels volunteers needed

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

■ See Senior on next page



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Senior

■ continued from previous page

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

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

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

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

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

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

Stretching and mobility class

Community members are invited to attend free weekly classes every Tuesday this fall and winter from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. at the Senior Center.

The stretching and mobility classes for older adults (age 55 and up) are designed to help build balance in the body through functional exercises that aim to improve mobility and flexibility.

Participants will have the opportunity to enjoy a variety of techniques that can help enhance overall movement efficiency.

Though not necessary, a mat is recommended for this class.

The program is instructed by local ballet dance instructor Dee Pitchon, who will provide modifications to ensure the safety and effectiveness of the exercises.

Bingo

The Senior Center continues to host free community bingo games twice a month on Friday afternoons from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

The upcoming dates are March 7 and 21.

Bring yourself and a friend for an hour of joyful fellowship. We will provide prizes from local businesses for all winners, and snacks will also be provided.

No RSVP is required. Help us create an intergenerational community.

All ages are welcome, but we ask those 18 and younger to come with an adult chaperone. Seats are first come, first served.

For more information, contact us at (970) 264-2167.

Senior Conversations

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

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

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

Snacks will be provided.

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

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

Share lunch Monday through Friday

Open to all. Join us at the Silver Fox’s Den, aka the Community Cafe, in person for daily hot/cold meals Mondays through Thursdays at the Community Center between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. It is open to all. Pickup is available all week.

Our dining hall is open to all ages and welcomes you all with kindness and warmth. We provide hot/cold meals for anyone in the community interested in a nutritious and delicious meal. For those 60 or older we request a suggested donation of \$6, but no one will be turned away. There is a \$10.50 charge for guests under the age of 60.

Meals include a main course, side dish, fruit/dessert, garden salad plus beverage.

To reserve your meal for the day, please make your reservation via text or phone call to (970) 264-2167 by 9 a.m. weekdays.

Community Cafe menu

Thursday, March 6 — BBQ country ribs, creamed corn, garden salad, fruit, blueberry cobbler and milk.

Friday, March 7 — Portuguese kale and white bean soup, focaccia bread, roasted cauliflower, garden salad, fruit, and milk.

Monday, March 10 — Baked salmon with herb cream sauce, broccoli, rice pilaf, garden salad, chocolate pudding, fruit and milk.

Tuesday, March 11 — Pork posole, cabbage, lime, radish, tortilla, garden salad, fruit, flan and milk.

Wednesday, March 12 — Spring chicken salad wrap, macaroni salad, garden salad, fruit, Key lime pie and milk.

Thursday, March 13 — Beef spaghetti, garlic bread, garden salad, fruit, cottage cheese and milk.

Friday, March 14 — Mushroom and spinach crepes, peas and pearl onions, garden salad, fruit, carrot cake and milk.

Grab-N-Go meals

Dine-in and Grab-N-Go meal

reservations and cancellations are required. Please call or text by 9 a.m. the morning of the day you want to pick up a meal. A suggested donation of \$6 helps to sustain our program. For ages 59 and younger, the cost is \$10.50. No one will be turned away for their inability to donate. Please

■ See Senior on page 23

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Animal **FACT:**

This activity is a popular hobby that enables people to interact with and observe wildlife.

Answer: Bird feeding

“How they say that in...”

- English: Seed
- Spanish: Semilla
- Italian: Seme
- French: Graine
- German: Samen

Math Blocks

Fill in the missing blocks with numbers between 0-20.
The numbers in each row add up to the totals on the right.
The numbers in each column add up to the totals on the bottom.

14			23
1		5	15
	12	2	22
23	24	13	

2	12	8
5	9	1
6	3	14

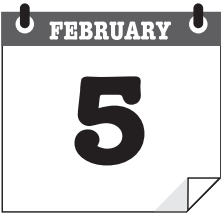
Solution

Get Scrambled

Unscramble the words to determine the phrase.
B N S E L I B N O D S E E S

Answer: Nibbles on seeds

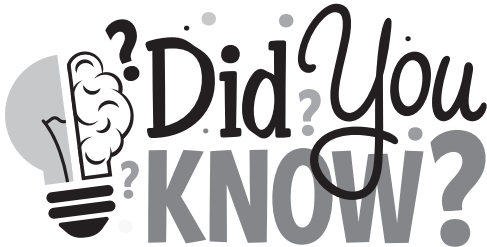
THIS DAY IN HISTORY



- 62: An earthquake strikes in Pompeii, Italy.
- 1852: The New Hermitage Museum in Saint Petersburg, Russia, opens to the public.
- 1924: The Royal Greenwich Observatory begins broadcasting the hourly time signals.

NEW WORD

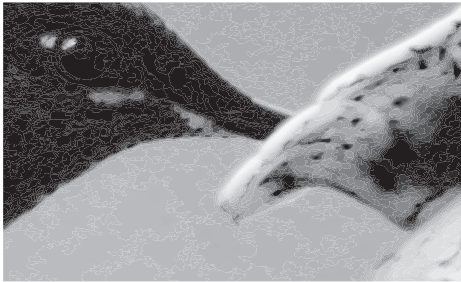
FLEDGLING
a young bird that is learning to fly



Bird feeders can be placed at different levels, including on the ground, on a table top or higher. This allows various birds to enjoy a meal.



Get the PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Hummingbird

Can a flu shot protect your brain from dementia?

By Jim Herlihy
Alzheimer's Association of Colorado

Flu season is in full swing and, as people consider getting a flu shot, it's important to realize that, in addition to protecting you from the flu, the shot may also help protect your brain.

A study released several years ago — which remains very relevant today — found that getting an annual flu vaccination was associated with a decreased risk of developing Alzheimer's disease of up to 40 percent over the next four years.

The same researchers, who are from the University of Texas' McGovern Medical School, conducted an earlier study presented at the Alzheimer's Association International Conference that found that a single flu vaccination could reduce the risk of Alzheimer's by 17 percent, and additional vaccinations in a lifetime reduced it even more.

"Our study suggests that regular use of a very accessible and relatively cheap intervention — the flu shot — may significantly reduce risk of Alzheimer's dementia," said Dr. Albert Amran, who was involved in the research at the University of Texas.

The newer study included more than 2 million people over age 65. Previous studies were smaller and often focused on people with chronic health conditions. By including a more general group of older adults, the new study's results add weight to

the idea that a flu shot could reduce Alzheimer's risk.

Memory and infections: know your risk

Prior studies have found that infections, including the flu, pneumonia, urinary tract infections, gum disease and COVID-19, are associated with the onset and worsening of memory and thinking problems.

It's not surprising then that researchers have also found an association between vaccinations and a decreased risk of dementia.

A study at Duke University's Social Science Research Institute found that getting a vaccination against pneumonia between the ages of 65 and 75 reduced Alzheimer's risk by up to 40 percent. Similar results have been found in recent studies of people who received tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis (Tdap); hepatitis; or shingles vaccinations.

"These findings are important because anything we can do to decrease the number of people with Alzheimer's has vast benefits," said Jim Hammelev, executive director of the Alzheimer's Association of Colorado. "Reducing the risk of developing Alzheimer's or slowing its progression lowers the burden on family caregivers, and on our states' health systems."

To learn more about risk factors for Alzheimer's and ways to reduce your risk, visit the Alzheimer's Asso-

ciation website (www.alz.org) or call the Association's free 24/7 Helpline at (800) 272-3900.

Alzheimer's by the numbers

- More than 7 million people in the U.S. are living with Alzheimer's or other forms of dementia in 2024 — 55 million people around the world.
- About 1 person in 9 (11.3 percent) in the U.S. age 65 and older has Alzheimer's dementia.
- Nearly 91,000 Coloradans are living with dementia.
- Approximately two-thirds of those living with Alzheimer's are women.
- People of color are more likely to develop Alzheimer's: Black Americans are twice as likely as whites, while Hispanics are 50 percent more likely than whites.

About the Alzheimer's Association

The Alzheimer's Association is the world's leading nonprofit funder of Alzheimer's disease research, with more than \$360 million currently active in more than 1,000 projects in 53 countries on six continents.

For more information about the programs and services provided at no charge by the Alzheimer's Association, go to www.alz.org or call the Association's free 24/7 Helpline at (800) 272-3900.

Classifieds

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Classified Deadline: Tuesday 10 a.m.

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Senior

■ continued from page 21

call or text us at (970) 264-2167 to make a reservation.

Meals on Wheels

We deliver fresh Meals on Wheels five days a week (and provide frozen Meals on Wheels for weekends) to homebound Archuleta County residents. Call or text us at (970) 264-2167.

Mobile food pantry service

Older adults needing a ride to a local food pantry should contact the MET to schedule a ride with its para-transit service. For more information, contact Lavonne at (970) 264-2250.

Text reservations

Don't forget that we offer a convenient texting service for you to communicate with us. Text us at (970) 264-2167. When texting, please include your name, phone number and the days you want a meal. If you are canceling a reservation, please include your name, phone number and the days you want to cancel.

Texting services are available for dine-in meal reservations, Grab-n-Go meals and Meals on Wheels recipients.

Mahjong

Mahjong is a 19th century Chinese tile-based game that is commonly played with four players. Each player receives 13 tiles with a goal to make matching sets and pairs (like poker). To win, a player must form four sets and one pair.

Come to the Senior Center to learn or play every Tuesday at 1:15 p.m.

Medicare call by appointment

For anyone who needs help enrolling and navigating Medicare plans, the San Juan Basin Area Agency on Aging helps with parts A, B and D. They can also help you with fraud concerns and troubleshooting any billing issues you may be having. By appointment only. Please call the Medicare line at (970) 264-0501, ext 2.

Mindful drawing

Mindful drawing is an easy-to-learn, relaxing and fun way to create beautiful images by drawing structured patterns. Join our friendly instructor, Roberta Strickland.

Classes are every Wednesday at 1:15 p.m. in the Senior Center. This activity is open to all ages. Help us create an intergenerational community. For those under 18 and/or with disabilities, you are welcome to join us, but we kindly ask you to please bring an adult chaperone with you.

Bridge

The longest-played bridge game in Archuleta County takes place on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 1:15 p.m.

Bridge is a four-player card game with partners sitting opposite each other around a table. It is a trick-taking card game using a standard 52-card deck. Come alone or bring a partner.

Hand and foot card game

Whether you are new to hand and foot or interested in learning, please join us most Tuesdays at 1:15 at the Senior Center.

This card game involves four rounds of playing until the final round is reached — some two to three hours later. Plan to stay and meet some new friends or catch up with those you have missed over the last couple of years.

No experience is necessary, so come willing to learn.

Board vacancies

The ASI Board of Directors has multiple vacant positions open. The terms are three years with an option to renew for an additional term.

Potential candidates should be at least 21 years of age or older and must have a passion for adult and aging services.

CAMPER 2007 Sun-Lite Eagle Short. Fits 6.5' truck bed. \$7300. See Craigslist Western slope. (303)257-1553.

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(970) 264-2100

Office Hours: Monday — Friday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

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 DRINK-ING? Pagosa Springs Al-anon Family Group meets Tuesdays 6-7p.m., Pagosa Bible Church, 209 Harman Park Drive. Questions? Call/ text (303)815-8569. www.al-anon.org.

PAGOSA AA: M-W-F 5:30p.m. Mens’ meet- ing 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 Alcohol- ics Anonymous meets Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, 5:30-6:30p.m. Pagosa Bible Church, 209 Harman Park Drive. Questions? Richard: (970)903-1456. Diamond: (970)264- 1073. More resources: www.aa.org, www.aa-westerncolorado.com, (970)245-9649, (888)333-9649 (24 hours).

SERVICES

ASPEN SPRINGS HANDYMAN SERVICES for Archuleta County. Brett at (970)570-9403. Services include but are not limited to: Home repairs, Brush mitigation, Spring cleaning, Landscape maintenance, Greenhouse Kit Assembly, Gardens/ trimming. Hourly: First hr \$100, then \$35 an hour there after. Odd jobs/ to-do list are my specialty and I’ll even clean your garage.

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HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

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3R RANCH HIRING one full or part-time position. Ranch and landscape maintenance. Must have own reliable transportation and valid driver's license. 40 hours a week available. \$20 to start. (970)264-5160.

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.

DEDICATED CLEANERS Must be detail oriented, trustworthy, reliable and committed. \$20/ hour possibly more for special projects. Text Pagosa Sparkles, (970)946-6446.



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GENERAL LABORER NEEDED Full time. Assorted Duties. Please send resume or work history to frontdesk@pagosalandcompany.com. Phone (970)264-5000.

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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.

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HELP WANTED

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MALT SHOPPE NOW HIRING. Apply in person between 9a.m. and 2p.m.

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PINE VALLEY RENTAL, busy equipment rental yard is seeking a reliable, self starting shop/yard person. Must have experience in mechanics, diesels, hydraulics, electrical work, and be knowledgeable of heavy equipment plus small engines. CDL is a plus but not required. Must have own transportation. Full time, Monday -Friday 8-5. Please call (970)731-4410 Or Email ppine000@centurytel.net. 391 Bastille Drive.

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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.

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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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LOCAL ARTIST SEEKING to rent industrial or private space for a small art workshop/ crafting studio/ garage for summer months. (623)243-0113.

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BE SURE TO CHECK for more yard sales in the Too Late To Classify section.

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UNIQUE ESTATE 920 PIKE DR. Saturday, 8a.m.- 3p.m. and Saturday, 10a.m.-3p.m., 8th and 9th. Native pottery and rugs, leather recliner couch, Mission Oak dresser and chair, Queen bed and headboard, 1940's table and chairs. **Utility trailer** 5x8, like new. Generator, lawn mower, plate compactor and lots more.

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1.1 ACRE WITH RV GENERATOR and system tank, circular drive in, tall cool pines. NO HOA! \$75k. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

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12.6 ACRES WITH VIEWS. HOA, Meadows 4 with water tap, tall pines, multiple building sites. Call or text (303)263-9366.

.27 ACRES. Views of Navajo. Electricity near, well installed. \$40,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

.28 ACRE LAND County Road 982 frontage \$55,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

3 FLAT BUILDABLE ACRES. Great mountain views, water cap and driveway in. Power to the property, fully fenced, corners marked. \$300k. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

LAND/ BUILDING SITES

3.7 ACRES. Great views of Navajo lake. Power near, water available. \$400,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

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Photo courtesy Andy Butler

Ark, taken in February 2024 during a Pagosa Springs Photography Club outing. The club will meet next on March 12.

Pagosa Springs Photography Club to meet March 12

By Andy Butler

Pagosa Springs Photography Club

The next meeting of the Pagosa Springs Photography Club will be held on March 12 at the Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St.

The meeting will start at 6:30 p.m., but feel free to join us for socializing and discussion of various photographic topics at 6 p.m.

Photography Club meetings are open to the public. Please enter the church through the side door next to the parking lot.

Our March program will be “Top Ten: Show and Tell.”

In this popular program, members may bring up to 10 of their photographs taken in the last year for brief discussion.

This is a good exercise in choosing your top images of the year. These might be what you consider your best, your most interesting or your most challenging photos. The goal is to inspire each other through a conversation about what makes great images, including aspects such as composition, impact and technical quality. Please bring your images to the meeting on a flash drive.

This will be a hybrid meeting, also available on Zoom. The Zoom link will be emailed to members; others who wish to attend may request the link by email to abutler@mac.com.

Virtual Shutter Therapy

Each month the Photography Club sponsors a Virtual Shutter Therapy session on our Facebook page.

The club’s online challenge for

March is symmetry.

Symmetry is all around us — perfect reflections in water, architectural balance or nature’s mirrored patterns. Seek out scenes where symmetry creates harmony, whether in man-made structures, organic formations or unexpected places. Consider perspective, lighting and framing to enhance the effect.

Will you find perfect symmetry or break the pattern for intrigue?

Please participate until April 6 by commenting on the Facebook post at <https://www.facebook.com/PagosaPhotoClub>. All are welcome to take part. Share up to three photos. Like and comment on the works of others.

Photography Club membership

Do you want to improve your photography? What better way to learn more about creating your own compelling images than by joining the Photography Club?

The Pagosa Springs Photography Club promotes educational, social and fun interactions between all who enjoy making and viewing great photography. We sponsor educational programs and outings to help photographers of all levels hone their skills and learn from each other.

Club dues are just \$25 per year (\$35 for a family). A membership form may be downloaded from our website (<https://pagosaspringsphotoclub.org/about/>) and mailed in with your payment (instructions are on the form), or brought to a club meeting.

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