



Town council discusses town-only sales tax increase to pay for sewer repairs

By Derek Kutzer
Staff Writer

On March 4, the Pagosa Springs Town Council discussed the possibility of holding a November election to increase the town’s sales tax in order to create a revenue stream to pay for critical infrastructure repairs and upgrades to its aging wastewater system.

Town Manager David Harris explained discussions about “how do we pay for our sewer system repairs, let alone construction of facilities,” has been ongoing for quite some time.

He added, “We can go after grants,

but, ultimately, we need money to take care of this.”

The town previously hired Joey McLiney as its financial advisor to go after \$4.8 million worth of revenue bonds to pay for the costs of repairing category 4 and 5 problems with its sewer system, as well as other required costs of maintaining the system.

At the meeting, McLiney explained that, as of Feb. 12, all of the bonds had been sold, and that “all of your [category] 4 and 5 projects should be taken care of” through the financings from the bonds, adding

■ See Tax A8

Town, LPEA reach easement agreement for electrical substation

By Derek Kutzer
Staff Writer

On March 4, the Pagosa Springs Town Council approved the first reading of an ordinance dedicating an easement on town-owned property to La Plata Electric Association (LPEA), allowing LPEA to use five acres on the property for a new electrical substation.

The town-owned property is located at 2140 County Road 500 (Trujillo Rd) and contains the former landfill and current Archuleta County recycle and transfer station.

The agreement will have LPEA pay

the town \$135,000 for the easement and 5 percent annual interest, paid in annual payments of \$8,700 for a term of 30 years. LPEA will call it the Trujillo substation.

The town will maintain ownership of the land, and once the term has expired, it will “resort back to its natural state,” states an agenda document.

At the same meeting, the council also considered a companion item, passing the first reading of an ordinance to create a community infrastructure and economic development (CIED) account with the annual funds the town will receive

■ See Agreement A8

On to state



SUN photo/Randi Pierce

The No. 7 Lady Pirate basketball team poses after earning the right to compete in the Great 8 round of the 4A girls’ basketball state championships. The team beat No. 10 Lamar to advance.

School board hears about potential state funding changes

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

The Archuleta School District Board of Education (BOE) heard an update from Finance Director Eric Burt during its regular meeting on Tuesday, March 11, in regard to the state’s anticipated \$1 billion shortfall and the new School Finance Act (SFA) that was passed last spring and scheduled to take effect in July.

Burt noted that the district is closely following the matter at the state level, noting there’s been a lot of speculation on how the state intends to cover the \$1 billion shortfall, with a revenue forecast to be released sometime next week by the state.

According to Burt’s update at-

■ See School A7



SUN photo/Clayton Chaney

Spotty clouds sit on the backside of Wolf Creek Ski Area seen from the Knife Ridge. As of Wednesday, March 12, the ski area had received 18 inches of fresh snowfall over the past seven days, bringing the season total to 167 inches. Another winter storm is in the forecast, with the National Weather Service issuing a winter storm watch beginning at noon today, March 13, and lasting through noon on March 14, with total new snow accumulation of 6 to 14 inches possible.

Sheriff briefs commissioners on agreement to house Durango inmates

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

The Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) are set to vote on an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) with the City of Durango at its next regular meeting scheduled for Tuesday, March 18, for Archuleta County to house municipal court offenders.

Durango’s city council unanimously

approved the IGA during its regular meeting held on March 4.

Archuleta County Sheriff Mike Le Roux briefed the BoCC on the IGA during a work session held on Thursday, March 6, clarifying that Archuleta County has yet to approve and sign the IGA.

Le Roux explained that during his tenure with the Archuleta County Sheriff’s Office (ACSO), “we’ve always had a fantastic relationship” with both

La Plata County Sheriff’s Office and the Durango Police Department.

He noted that from 2017 to 2020, Archuleta County housed all of its inmates in the La Plata County jail.

“So, they looked out for us there,” he said, explaining that he wants to keep those relationships with both departments.

Le Roux described the IGA as a “standard jail housing contract,” noting that Archuleta County will only house

sentenced municipal offenders and does not include warrant or failure to appear arrests.

He also noted in 2024 Durango had a total of 10 sentenced municipal offenders who served a total of 81 days.

Le Roux went on to clarify that the only way an inmate can arrive to Archuleta County’s detention center is in a Durango transportation vehicle, also noting that Durango inmates will

■ See Inmates A8

Water districts discuss cooperation on Running Iron Ranch lease

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD) and San Juan Water Conservancy (SJWCD) boards of directors discussed the possibility of cooperating on completing a final lease for the Weber family at the Running Iron Ranch at recent meetings.

The potential cooperation on finalizing a lease that would conclude the Webers’ occupancy and use of the property comes at a time where the boards are currently in litigation over PAWSD’s efforts to sell the ranch over the objections of the SJWCD.

Following an executive session at the Jan. 30 PAWSD board meeting, District Engineer/Manager Justin Ramsey recommended that the district would need to present the draft lease the board was considering to the SJWCD, which jointly owns the Running Iron Ranch with PAWSD, prior to presenting it to the Webers.

This draft lease provides terms for the Webers’ exit from the property, where they have been grazing cattle and mining for gravel and other rock, and would end on July 31.

It specifies that all agricultural activities on the property must be terminated by the end of the lease period and that reclamation of the mining site should be completed if possible, although it leaves open the possibility that the Webers could be granted access to the site after the end of the lease to complete reclamation.

PAWSD board member Glenn Walsh moved to direct staff to provide the draft of the lease extension to the SJWCD and to the Webers for their review and feedback.

At a Feb. 13 PAWSD board meeting, the board returned to discussing the lease as part of conversation about the future of the board’s Running Iron Ranch subcommittee.

During a dispute about communication between the two boards,

■ See Lease A8

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Opinion



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OUR VIEW

Refreshing positives

Politics continue to be a rollercoaster at several different levels, at times explosive and ugly and difficult to stomach, and often difficult to predict.

We never know what will hit our inbox next, what the next soundbyte will be, what headlines we'll see next, what the stock market will do, etc. This is a very unpredictable time with a lot of possible consequences for areas like Archuleta County.

To say it's wearing us out is an understatement.

On Tuesday evening, we listened in on Rep. Jeff Hurd's telephone town hall with constituents.

We went into the event skeptical of what we'd hear from the freshman congressman and how civil the event would be.

Perhaps we went in with our expectations lower than they should have been — and we acknowledge the event was moderated and included mute features not available at in-person events — but we ended up being pleasantly surprised.

We were pleased with the politeness, as well as the reasonable takes and firm stances Hurd expressed on several issues.

We can imagine it would probably be easier as a freshman congressman at such

an uncertain time to hold the party line and blend in, but Hurd answered questions and spoke on many topics during the hour-long event, including immigration, threats to the electric grid, green energy, La Plata Electric Association, firearms, federal lands, national security, China, Ukraine, the Department of Government Efficiency, fire danger and forest management, veterans services, bipartisan legislation he's a part of, and more.

We appreciate Hurd's firm stances against Russia and Vladimir Putin, calling Russia the aggressor in the war against Ukraine and Putin a dictator.

Hurd expressed concern, like us, with how federal cuts have taken place and the effects the cuts could have on things such as fire mitigation. He has proposed, among other things, ways to ensure anyone who may be reinstated or rehired to not lose any seniority if they rejoin their previous agency.

We appreciate that Hurd is part of several pieces of bipartisan legislation aiming to help the area.

We also appreciate that Hurd urged participation in local politics to help drive change after someone expressed dissatisfaction with LPEA.

Regardless of whether we agreed with

Hurd or not (we've never found a politician we've agreed about everything), we found the event a breath of fresh air (we're also not sure we've ever used the words "breath of fresh air" in the same sentence as "politician" before, but these continue to be unprecedented times).

The event was one of a few we've found to be refreshing positives lately.

We also appreciate Archuleta County and the Archuleta County Sheriff's Office stepping up to help a neighbor when Durango was looking for a more economical way to house its sentenced municipal offenders, just as it has done for the Southern Ute Indian Tribe and Costilla County.

One letter writer expresses this week how positive they found a recent Pagosa Springs Town Council discussion to be.

We also appreciate the local boards that have taken time to publicly acknowledge the unknowns, the possible funding cuts and how they're preparing and working together as we all face the unknown.

It's important for the community to know what's going on and what could be at stake as we move forward, though we hope the worst-case scenarios don't come to be.

Here's to hoping for more refreshing positives.

Randi Pierce

LEGACIES

By Shari Pierce

100 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
March 13, 1925

Following is a list of useful minerals found in Archuleta county, based upon reports made by the United States Geological Survey and other reliable authorities. Not nearly all the substances here mentioned are produced commercially, but most of them exist in quantities that might justify their production, says the state board of immigration: "Copper, clay deposits of uncertain value, gold, lead, silver, stone, chiefly granite and sandstone, zinc. A considerable part of the county lies in what is known as the gold belt, but lack of transportation facilities has hindered development. Extensive coal deposits are found in the county."

Mr. and Mrs. Phillip R. Johnson are this week moving from the Schonefeld cottage on east Pagosa street to their own new home on Lewis street, the former Mrs. Hattie Patterson property, which has been undergoing repairs and interior decoration. Mr. and Mrs. Schonefeld are now enroute home from Los Angeles, where they have been spending the winter.

75 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
March 10, 1950

The new Masonic hall has been completed to the point where it is now in use by the Masonic lodge for their regular meetings. The lodge received approval of the building from the Masonic Grand Lodge on February 22. The lodge hall is being used by various organizations for a meeting place and the Pagosa Rod and Gun Club has installed an indoor rifle range in the basement.

The construction of the building was started last spring and is now complete except for the finishing of the basement. The structure is of rock and pumice block construction, being 80 by 30 feet in size. Native rocks were used to lay up the foundation to street level and for the pillars and arches of the building. The pumice blocks were then used to bring the building up to its required height. The main floor is at street level and contains the large lodge room, and ante rooms. In the basement a modern kitchen will be installed as will regalia rooms.

The building is a most imposing structure and one that certainly adds much to the appearance of the town. It was built entirely by donations and voluntary labor. The committee in charge of the construction were: George Alley, Chairman; Rod Blacker; A.W. Olson and Al Thomson.

50 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
March 13, 1975

More than eight feet of snow fell on Wolf Creek Pass in seven days this past week. Total fall Thursday through Wednesday a.m. was 87 inches with 3.90 inches of moisture. That is a bunch of runoff water. It is a bunch of snow, too. Total fall for the winter to date is 539 inches.

A new record for attendance at the Wolf Creek Ski Area is broken daily these days. Total attendance at Wolf Creek has now exceeded the 30,000 mark.

Closing date has been set for April 7 and that is three weeks away. If the present rate of attendance continues there could be as many as 35,000 skiers at Wolf Creek this winter. Last year's total attendance was approximately 24,000.

The Aspen Springs Property Owners monthly meeting was held last Friday evening, March 7 at the Chalet. Several topics were discussed at the meeting for future progress in the Association. Steps are being taken to acquire road maintenance equipment for the property owners future use. Other topics were the budget and finance schedule for the coming year.

25 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
March 9, 2000

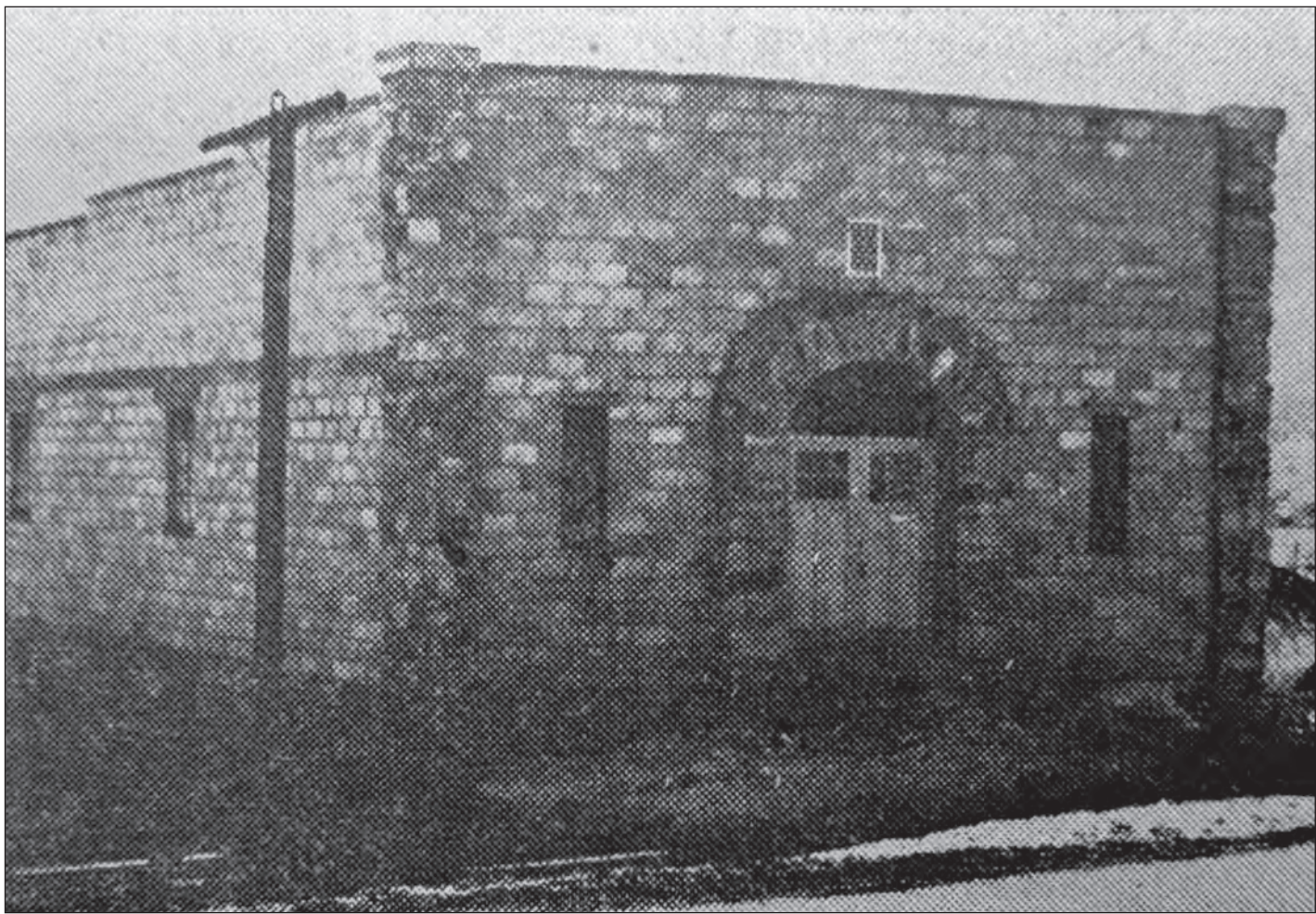
The long-running spectacle of Eightmile Mesa Road apparently closed Tuesday at the weekly county commissioner meeting.

An agreement was reached between the county and Fred Schmidt, representing Loma Linda Ltd., for distribution of the remains of a \$93,250 escrow account Schmidt established to finance reconstruction of Eightmile Mesa Road between U.S. 84 and the entrance to Loma Linda subdivision.

Schmidt escrowed \$93,250 for the road work last fall, hired U-Can-Afford to do the work, and assigned the contract with U-Can-Afford to the county. The county pulled U-Can-Afford off the job and hired Weeminuche Construction to complete the work.

By the end, the final cost of the Eightmile Mesa Road project reached \$159,000, an overrun of about 72 percent. The county paid all of the cost above \$93,250.

The Eightmile Mesa Road issue began approximately 15 years ago.



From the March 10, 1950, Pagosa SUN — The New Masonic Hall which is located on Lewis Street presents a very imposing appearance. The building is 30x80 feet in size and is of pumice block and native rock construction. Formal dedication ceremonies will be held later in the year.

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Weather data

Date	High	Low	Precipitation		
			Depth	Type	Moisture
3/4	47	21	NA	NA	NA
3/5	49	16	NA	NA	NA
3/6	40	24	NA	NA	NA
3/7	42	15	NA	NA	NA
3/8	38	24	NA	NA	NA
3/9	53	15	NA	NA	NA
3/10	56	20	NA	NA	NA



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.

LPEA

Dear Editor:
Are you running out of money before you run out of month? Is financial stress keeping you awake at night?

Consider this...
Our local electric co-op, La Plata Electric Association, has been in an ongoing effort to get out of its contract with wholesale power supplier, Tri State. LPEA has already spent millions of dollars in legal fees. If the Buyout proceeds, We the Ratepayers could suffer serious financial consequences.

If LPEA leaves its relationship with Tri State, it still needs to get its electric generation from somewhere. The current likeliest "somewhere" is from a multinational, multibillion dollar for-profit energy trader known as Mercuria. Mercuria is partially foreign-owned and exists to generate profits. How does that sound? Leave a non-profit coop and go to a muti-national for-profit enterprise. Commitment to local control, re-investing in our region, community-based governance and profit sharing...all GONE.

LPEA members could lose access to affordable, renewable power from the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA), a critical source of low-cost electricity from the Colorado River. Instead, we could be forced to buy power at volatile market rates.

On top of that, LPEA members stand to forfeit millions in earned but unpaid capital credits. These funds belong to us, the ratepayers, not to the LPEA Board.

An LPEA election for Board members is coming up soon. This entire process has been marked by unanswered questions and a lack of transparency. We need leaders who prioritize benefits to We the Ratepayers over Corporate Profits and agendas. What path is likeliest to make your money last as long as the month? It's not a Buy Out, it's a Sell Out.

Beverly Cuyler

Trump and Musk

Dear Editor:
It seems as if Donald Trump and Elon Musk have put a target on the back of Pagosa Springs and Archuleta County. I say this because nearly all their meat-axe budget cuts do disproportionate harm to our area and others like it. The news today is that FEMA is cancelling all in-person National Fire Academy (NFA) courses, effective immediately, because of the cuts. According to FEMA, only virtual courses "that do not have an instructor and no funds are involved will be held." Prior to this abrupt shutdown, the NFA trained around 100,000 firefighters, fire chiefs, and emergency responders per year. The main beneficiaries of this program have been smaller fire departments and volunteers - like we have in Pagosa Springs. This comes after large-scale firings of Forest Service employees, including at our local Forest Service office. The employees who have been fired were not specifically firefighters, but they were heavily involved in mitigation efforts that help prevent wildfires. And when wildfires do occur, many Forest Service employees who are not firefighters are pressed into service to help fight the fires. As everyone knows, we had a poor monsoon last year and have well below-normal snow pack in our mountains now. This spells real wildfire danger this spring and summer, just as our ability to prevent and fight those fires is impaired by the federal cuts.

But that is not all. The House of Representatives recently passed what Trump calls his "big beautiful budget framework." It is not an appropriation (yet), but to meet its goals, more than \$800 billion would have to be cut from federal health care. This would probably mainly come from Medicaid, though some could come from Medicare, too. Sizable cuts to either program would spell disaster for Pagosa Springs and Archuleta County. Like rural areas across the United States, a large and disproportionate share of our population receives its health coverage through Medicaid - more than a quarter of our total population under 65 and a higher percentage than that of our children. Around three thousand local residents, all-told. Cuts on the

scale required by the budget framework would take health care coverage from a large percentage of these local residents. Most certainly, many of them will be unable to get the care they need if such cuts are enacted.

But that is still not all. Like all hospitals, but especially ones in smaller communities and rural areas, our local hospital, Pagosa Springs Medical Center, depends on federally funded health care to remain in business. Large cuts to any of Medicaid, Medicare, or the Affordable Care Act would impair its ability to continue to provide the services it does. A closure of our hospital, or even a substantial reduction in the services it provides, would be disastrous for the health and well-being of our community.

To keep our community safe and healthy, every Pagosan must speak up against the draconian Musk-Trump cuts to our wildfire protection and our health care. Please do so any way you can.

John E. Farley

LPEA leadership

Dear Editor:
LPEA members deserve transparency, yet the current Board operates behind closed doors, spending millions on legal fees for a Tri-State buyout that most members do not support. How much has really been spent? Why won't they disclose the full cost of this effort?

Meanwhile, LPEA executives are raking in huge salaries. The CEO, who commutes from Denver, earns over \$750,000 per year—a shocking amount for a rural electric co-op. With rising electric rates and financial uncertainty, why are we paying big-city salaries while ignoring the concerns of local members?

The Board's refusal to send a director to Tri-State Board meetings—even when Tri-State was offering to pay expenses—further demonstrates a lack of accountability. Instead of working within the system to negotiate better terms for LPEA, they have chosen to isolate us, missing key opportunities to shape our energy future.

They even canceled our subscription to the Colorado Rural Electric Association (CREA) magazine—a small but telling move that limits the information available to members. What else are they keeping from us?

It's time for leadership that values transparency, responsible spending, and community representation. We cannot allow this Board to gamble away our future without answering to the people they serve. LPEA belongs to its members, and we must demand accountability before it's too late.

Sincerely,
Sheryle Hunter
Ignacio, Colo.

Typical response

Dear Editor:
The "Opinion: Writer's on the Range" Mass firings piece by Riva Duncan (2-27-25) seems to be the typical Democrat response to the morbidly obese government we developed, and the drastic measures necessary to stave off bankruptcy and stop the massive money laundering corruption that developed.

Letters

The SUN welcomes letters from readers.

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

All letters must:

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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.

Using exceptions to castigate the rule doesn't help the process. People who are merely listening to the constant TDS drone mantra against President Trump and haven't investigated all the trillions of waste and fraud are misled by pieces like that.

Thousands of nonexistent people held "jobs" and thieves were being paid for doing nothing. \$2.7 trillion+ went to fraudulent payments in Medicare and Medicaid and other government fraud. Who's job is it to police THAT and didn't do it? It took DOGE a few weeks to discover all this, so it wasn't hiding.

Over half of government services and agencies are unconstitutional, but those losing their jobs don't want to take any blame for taking a job that is unconstitutional. Ignorance is no excuse.

Even expert surgeons end up removing some healthy tissue when removing a tumor from the body. Some mistakes can be made, which DOGE admits, but they rectify what is proven to BE a mistake.

Many of those complaining about these cuts are on the take, which is being proven every day. Fraudulent NGO jobs, USAID agency "jobs" laundering money back to politicians and others...I could fill pages of such discoveries. The examples of "U.S. Forest Service jobs" is one of unconstitutional jobs. The U.S. government cannot "own" public lands as they claim to do now.

That is a violation of Article 1, Section 8 of our constitution. 640 million acres (about 28% of America) is managed by Federal government agencies such as the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Forest Service, or National Park Service. That land belongs to the states/people.

DEI hiring, a total disaster, is included in these firings. THAT is not muscle, that is possible death to allow it to remain in many cases. Over 16 million people between the ages of 110 and 369 years old were receiving social security payments. Who's job missed THAT?

There will be pain for some few, but the vast majority of job losses likely KNEW they were parasites feeding off the American people. The "greater good" the Democrats so often throw out at us seems to ONLY be the greater "Democrat" good instead of our Republic's good.

There is no excuse for being a parasite in America. True services

of government are one thing, but to merely be playing at a job that only sucks the life blood out of our country is inexcusable. Many will be in prison from the fraud over the last 8+ years, even down to county levels when all is said and done.

We have compassion for those wrongfully losing their jobs (few), but ALL employers have the right, and duty, to make sure their "company" is healthy and functioning for the betterment of all.

Jeff Maehr

Good government

Dear Editor:
I feel compelled to interrupt my meditations on immigration policy to comment on the contents of Derek Kutzer's article on page A6 of the SUN published 27 February 2025, entitled "Town council denies short-term rental transfer variance request."

I know that the text of a SUN article captures only a small fraction of what's going on in the room. But even the basic debate that Kutzer reports in this article reveals a group of people using the deliberative process as it is meant to be used. I read there arguments for and against a motion, stated clearly but without rancor. I read there positions taken firmly but with clear empathy for those impacted by the downstream effects of that position. I read there a willingness to listen to opposing arguments and weigh them on their merits. I read there a group of conscientious elected officials wrestling honestly with the tension between what seems to be in the best interest of one family or property owner and the rule of law established for a larger community.

These parliamentary achievements are hard won. Speaking clearly, reasonably, and lovingly in an anxious moment requires patience, self-control, and wisdom. I would like here publicly to thank the town council members for that good work.

Let me be clear: I am not voicing agreement or disagreement with the council's decision. At this moment, as a member of the community and observer of this process, what position I might take is beside the point. The point is highlighting what I would call "good government" at work. Kudos to councilors (and Mayor) Pierce, Bergon, Williams, Lindner, deGraaf, DeGuise, and Martinez. You have given us an example of civic virtue.

Emrys Tyler

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Angie Martinez

Angie was baptized as one of Jehovah's Witness on July 6, 1973, and lived her life lovingly telling others about Jehovah.



She loved her family and was truly hospitable to all who came into her kitchen and were warmed by her delicious home cooking. You always knew you were loved with her warm hugs and beautiful smile. In recent years, Angie dealt with dementia and was lovingly cared for in the family home by her sons and their families. Toward the end, she also had loving, helpful and encouraging visits from her nurses, Sarah, Stacy and Lilli.

Angie is survived by her husband, John Albert Martinez; sons Paul (Marty), Greg (Nina), George (Adrianna), Dennis (Amanda); six grandchildren, Mercedes, Dominick, Caleb, Ireland, Hannah and Logan; and brother, Andres (Della) Talamante. She is preceded in passing by her

parents, Alfredo and Maria Talamante; five sisters, Beatriz, Librada, Rita, Adelia and Fedelina; and five brothers, Feliciano, Silviano, Alfredo Jr., Guadalupe "Chon" and Pedro. Angie was deeply loved by all and will be truly missed. A memorial service will be held on March 15, 2025, at 1 p.m. at the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses in Chama, N.M.

Phillip Alex Montoya

It is with deep sadness our son Phillip Alex Montoya passed away at the age of 46 on Feb. 18, 2025. Phillip was born Dec. 28, 1978, to Alex and Debbie Montoya.



He is survived by his parents, Alex and Debbie Montoya; brother Richard; son Gavin; daughter Mariah (Devon); and his first grandson, Dion Rosenbalm. He is preceded in death by his

grandpa, Isaac Gallegos; grandmother Beatrice Rivas; Ramona Montano; Uncle Shannon Gallegos; Aunt Elousie Andrews; and Wanda Rivas. You know he is having a joyful reunion. Phillip worked as a plumber's helper and in construction. He loved fishing, enjoyed cooking, art and holidays, especially Christmas. We will miss him and his infectious laugh that could be heard from a distance. Phillip, we will carry you in our hearts forever. Love you, son - Dad, Mom, Richard, Gavin, Mariah and family.

Robert Dale Sprague

Robert Dale Sprague, 89, of Monte Vista, Colo., passed away on March 7, 2025. He was born on Aug. 16, 1935, in Denver, Colo., to Charles Robert Sprague and Mary Madeline Muehlbauer.

He is survived by his loving wife, Shirley Ann Sprague, of Arvada, Colo.; his daughter, Diana Lynn (Nick) Hartney, of Thornton, Colo.; sons Dale Dean Sprague, of Lakewood,

Colo., and Daryl Scott (Tammy) Sprague, of Pagosa Springs, Colo.; six grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; and sister Beverly Ann Judd, of Brighton, Colo. Robert (Bob) served in the U.S. Navy, was a barber and owned a barber shop in Lakewood, Colo., for 30 years, then moved to Pagosa Springs, Colo., bought an RV Park and ran it for 17 years. He was a member of the Vets for Vets in Pagosa Springs, a volunteer at the soup kitchen with the Methodist church, was a member of Amazing Grace Community Church, was part of the Masons and was a coin collector from the age of 7. He never met a stranger, and he called everyone a friend.



A graveside service with military honors will be held on Sunday, March 16, 2025, at 10:30 a.m. at the Colorado State Veterans Cemetery - Homelake located at 3749 Sherman Ave., Monte Vista, Colo. Arrangements in care were made by Strohmayer's Funeral Home in Monte Vista.

Commissioners talk expectations, uncertainties for 2025

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

The Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) discussed its expectations for the year during a work session held on Feb. 25, with a general consensus that there is a great deal of uncertainty in regard to the what the county's budget may look like at the end of the year with changes taking place at the federal and state levels.

Commissioner John Ranson encouraged the commissioners and county staff to prioritize communication, while also asking for everyone to honor their time commitment to their role with the county.

"We have that same responsibility as commissioners," he said, adding that the commissioners "put as much time in as we can."

He explained that there is "a lot of

uncertainty" coming from the state and federal levels that may heavily affect the county's budget in the coming years.

"I'm a glass three-quarters full type of guy, but I have concerns this year ... about a lot of areas," he said, mentioning that he is less concerned about the county and more concerned about some nonprofit groups in the community, "but it's real."

Ranson also spoke highly of the current BoCC, county manager and county attorney, stating, "I think this is a great team."

He added the group consists of "diverse talents" in multiple fields.

Commissioner Warren Brown also commented that communication is important, specifically from the commissioners with County Manager Jack Harper, to allow for communication between the commissioners.

Brown added that the county usually does well communicating with

one another, "but there are times that we have collectively dropped the ball on that."

Brown encouraged his fellow commissioners to continue being flexible and innovative as the county navigates the uncertainties ahead.

"I think we're going to have to be very innovative," he said, calling on Finance Director Chad Eaton for assistance.

Brown added that it is important to remain positive, noting the uncertainties may only be short term, and continue to hope for the best but "prepare for the worst."

Commissioner Veronica Medina echoed similar sentiments expressed by her fellow commissioners, stating that communication is "very important" to her as the BoCC chair.

She explained that she wants each commissioner to have the opportunity to provide input on matters that come

across her desk before moving forward with anything.

Medina expressed that "this year more than ever" it is crucial for the commissioners to be on the same page.

She also stated that she feels the county is moving forward collectively and that it doesn't feel like a struggle, "like it used to be."

In regard to the county's budget, Medina stated, "We don't know what's gonna happen."

She encouraged the county's department heads to be conservative with spending.

"If they don't need to make that big expense yet, then maybe hold off on it," she said, noting that the county still needs to do necessary business in order to adequately serve the community, but that department heads need to "be conscious" of uncertain times.

"I think that that's really important," she said.



The following meetings are subject to change.

Thursday, March 13

Archuleta School District Board of Education special meeting. 8:30 a.m., administration office, 309 Lewis St. Visit www.mypagosa-schools.com for more information.

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.

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

Public Meetings

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

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

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

Wednesday, March 19
Pagosa Peak Open School Board of Directors meeting. 5 p.m., 3133 Cornerstone Drive. For more information, visit: <https://pagosapeakopenschol.org>.

Thursday, March 20

Archuleta County Board of Health meeting. 3 p.m., Archuleta County administration building, commissioners' meeting room, 398 Lewis St. View Zoom meeting at:

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

Friday, March 21

San Juan Headwaters Forest Health Partnership meeting. 9 a.m., Archuleta County administration building, commissioners' meeting room, 398 Lewis St. View on Zoom using meeting ID 836 9543 6522 and password 146408.

Monday, March 24

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

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/>.

Tuesday, March 25

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-



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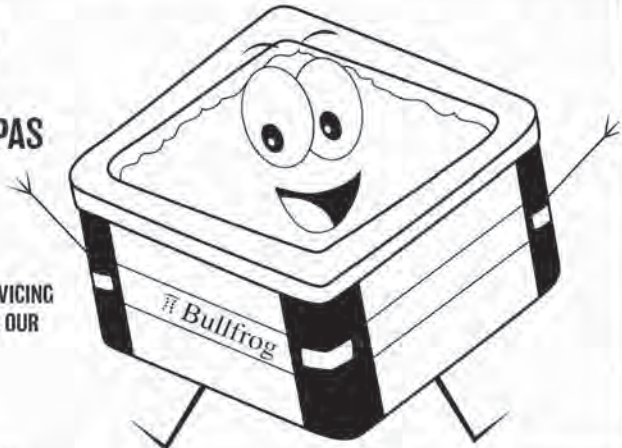
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Alex and Debbie Montoya
Richard and Gavin
Mariah and family

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Business

Region 9 releases annual Enterprise Zone report

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

The Region 9 Economic Development District of Southwest Colorado recently released its Enterprise Zone Annual Report for 2024.

The report provides a snapshot of the region's enterprise zone tax credit activity with highlights of each county and how this meets or doesn't meet Region 9's Enterprise Zone goals.

As the report explains, the Southwest Enterprise Zone (SWEZ) is administered by Region 9 and covers five counties (Archuleta, Dolores, La Plata, Montezuma and San Juan), as well as the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe and Southern Ute Indian Tribe.

The Colorado Legislature created the Enterprise Zone Program to "encourage development in economically distressed areas of the state," the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT) website explains. "The 16 designated enterprise zones have high unemployment rates, low per capita income, or slow population growth."

The OEDIT website explains that, in designated enterprise zones:

- Businesses are eligible for state income tax credits, and sales and use tax exemptions, for specific business investments.
- "Local governments and non-profits can set up contribution projects to achieve economic development goals."
- "Taxpayers who contribute to enterprise zone projects may earn income tax credits."
- "Enterprise zone areas within rural counties that meet additional economic distress criteria receive enhanced rural enterprise zone status. Businesses within enhanced rural enterprise zones earn additional tax credits when adding net new employees."

2024 activity

According to the Region 9 report, in 2024 Region 9 received 753 inquiries about the Enterprise Zone program, with the report adding that is "a number that has seen growth since 2018," but that dropped from 792 in 2023.

It further states, "Even with increased inquiries, business participation in the SWEZ continues to be inconsistent year-to-year based on the uniqueness of the individual businesses claiming credits. ... In

2024, the SWEZ saw increased jobs, more investment and more tax credits from the participating businesses."

Overall in 2024, according to the report, "The SWEZ had 27 designated Enterprise Zone Contribution Projects in 2024. Two new projects were added, one renewed, four projects termed out, and two projects were ended. Projects generated a total of \$1.36 million in economic activity through direct and in-kind contributions. This an increase from last year's \$1.16 million, \$1.343 million in 2022, 2021's \$1.46M; and 2020's 30 projects at \$2.35M. A decline in contributions was expected because our region lost active projects to the new Homeless Contribution Tax Credit and many of the newer projects are smaller organizations."

For 2024, Archuleta County had 25 businesses filing, \$63,547 in tax credits, \$1,139,941 invested and seven jobs created, according to the report.

The report further indicates that Archuleta County census tracts did not meet distress criteria at the county level, but that eight of 10 tracts in Archuleta County were eligible.

"Archuleta, Dolores, Montezuma and San Juan Counties are also designated as Enhanced Rural Enterprise Zones (EREZ) through 2026," the report explains.

According to the OEDIT website, rural enterprise zone areas may receive enhanced rural status if they meet two of the following criteria:

- The county unemployment rate is greater than 50 percent of the state average.
- The county per capita income is less than 75 percent of the state average.
- The county population growth rate is less than 25 percent of the state average.
- The total nonresidential assessed value ranks in the lower half of all counties.
- The county population is less than 5,000.

Objectives report

The report also looks at if the program objectives were met.

The first objective listed in the report is to continue to increase the number of inquiries to the Region 9 office year over year.

It notes that the number of inquiries "decreased slightly" in 2024.

It notes that, in regard to the second objective, increasing the number of businesses that participate in the

enterprise zone in each county using 2005's total of 228 participating businesses as a base year, 2024 was lower at 224.

"Achieving this goal continues to be a challenge with numerous factors impacting this number," the report states. "This year was lower at 224. ... The region's biggest impact was the 'Great Recession' in 2018 which impacted business participation even more than the COVID pandemic."

The third objective is to "Target businesses involved in other Region 9 programs and inform them about EZ tax credits. Track how many utilize the credit.

The report further explains that Region 9's goal for 2024 was 20 businesses, but that 17 were counted, including one in Archuleta County.

"We believe these numbers should be higher because we consistently inform our loan clients about tax credits and see a growing number of EZ inquiries to our office. We also know that there is at least a year lag of when we notify a business about tax credits to when they utilize the credits," it notes, adding, "Though Region 9 is fielding an increasing number of enterprise zone related inquiries, it appears that businesses may pre-certify, but that many do not then claim tax credits."

2025 objectives

The report lists five objectives for the coming year:

- "Build the capacities of southwest Colorado organizations directly cultivating entrepreneurship through job creation, supporting businesses and economic development activities."
- It notes the SWEZ goal is to continue to increase the number of businesses annually by 20, but that, with redistricting coming up, this goal may be readdressed after 2025.
- "Region 9 staff expects that with 2025 being the last year on the current EZ boundaries, this goal will not be met," it states.
- "Ensure that southwest Colorado has the physical infrastructure and job training needed to plan for, compete, and meet economic development and workforce needs."

The report notes that all but two current SWEZ projects focus on job creation and physical infrastructure.

"Region 9 outreaches nonprofits that are considering capital campaigns regarding EZ eligibility," it

states. "Job training initiatives that meet eligibility criteria have been harder to identify over the past year."

- "Meet the diverse Housing needs (affordable and workforce) in the five counties of Southwest Colorado."

The report explains the new Homeless Contribution Tax Credit that resulted from House Bill 13-22 resulted in several utilizing the new credit, and the goal will be updated after 2025.

"This objective continues to be met as the Southwest Enterprise Zone has six Projects that are working to address affordable housing stock in the region. The Projects are in Archuleta, Montezuma, La Plata and San Juan Counties," it notes.

- Support and assist key industry sectors in southwest Colorado that diversify the local economy (agriculture, tourism, health care and manufacturing).

The report explains the measurable objectives are to increase the total number of participating businesses in each county, particularly in the enhanced counties of Archuleta, Dolores, Montezuma and San Juan over the previous year and make sure eligible top 20 employers in each county know about EZ credits.

"The the number of businesses that participated in three of our four Enhanced Counties (Archuleta, Montezuma, and San Juan) declined over 2023 numbers," it states.

- "Facilitate the creation, enhancement or expansion of community amenities and attractions which make southwest Colorado a desirable place to live and relocate."

The report explains the SWEZ goal "was to increase the overall marketing of EZ Projects via social media and articles in area media."

It notes the objective was met and will continue in 2025.

More information

Region 9 is a nonprofit corporation led by a 26-member board of directors that, in addition to loan funds, administers the Enterprise Zone Tax Credit program; provides socioeconomic data; works on broadband, transportation and housing; and provides a variety of technical assistance to support economic development goals and priorities.

Region 9 can be reached at (970) 247-9621.

The report is available at <https://region9edd.org/enterprise-zone>. randi@pagosasun.com

This is also a reminder that this month's Business Happy Hour will be held one week earlier than usual.

It will be held on Friday, March 21, due to Pagosa's spring break schedule. We look forward to seeing you from 5 to 7 p.m.

Last week to complete Chamber business survey

By Mary Jo Coulehan
Pagosa Springs Area Chamber of Commerce

The Pagosa Springs Area Chamber of Commerce is conducting a business survey concluding March 14.

We are asking our Chamber business community to give us feedback on some very simple questions. It is important for us to know what is working, what we can improve on, how we can best communicate with you, what benefits you are using and what programs you would like to see added.

As we transition into a new executive director at the end of the year, it is important for this person to know what areas of programming, communication and benefits they should be focusing on. Are there systems that we are currently using that don't mean anything to you? What are we glaringly missing? What benefits are most important to you? What methods of communication are easiest for you?

We would like to take stock of our programs and adjust as necessary.

We can't do that without your assistance and feedback.

The survey takes just a few minutes to complete. Check out the reminder emails that you should have received, check out the Friday Updates and Reminders where the link is listed, and check out the Chamber's website, where the link is located.

We appreciate your time and feedback. It helps make us a stronger and more effective organization for our business community.

Building Business Excellence Forum

A reminder that tickets for the Building Business Excellence Forum to be held on April 29 are now on sale.

This half-day forum is designed to get you motivated, answer some of your business and financial questions, and get you out there networking with other business owners.

This fast-paced, high-energy afternoon will jam a lot of information into a small space of time.

Dale Wilsher, author of "Your Authentic Personality," will be the keynote speaker and will also conduct a

breakout session geared toward our women leaders.

There will also be breakouts on financial aspects of a business from loans and grants to valuing your business and services.

We will have a panel breakout on time-savings programs and software to help you in your business from scheduling to AI use to payroll services and much more. The day will culminate with a networking reception.

Tickets are only \$35 for Chamber members and \$45 for nonmembers. This includes all of the educational components, the breaks and the networking reception at the end of the day with a complimentary beverage ticket.

To find out more about the conference, visit www.pagosachamber.com and click on the Building Business Excellence graphic with Wilsher. If you are interested in being a partner for the event, please contact Ava, events coordinator at events@pagosachamber.com. We look forward to a fun, informative and meaningful conference for all.

January sales tax revenue up over previous year

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

Sales tax collections for January increased 5.05 percent compared to figures from one year prior, according to data released March 10 by Archuleta County Finance Director Chad Eaton.

Eaton notes the Town of Pagosa Springs and Archuleta County received a total of \$1,405,815.40 from the January tax revenues, with \$705,957.11 going to the town and \$699,858.29 going to the county.

The increase from January 2024 accounts for an additional \$67,565.22, according to the data, which highlight the categories that are up in comparison to January 2024, including:

- Construction at 19.34 percent, or \$5,739.86.
- Manufacturing at 1.28 percent, or \$1,030.73.
- Finance and insurance at 21.24 percent, or \$377.46.
- Accommodation and food services at 11.80 percent, or \$34,815.70.
- Miscellaneous at 18.07 percent, or \$42,922.69.
- Eaton's reports also identify categories that were down in comparison to January 2024, including:
 - Retail trade at 0.93 percent, or \$8,906.04.
 - Information at 6.51 percent, or \$1,985.33.
 - Real estate and rental and leasing at 4.94 percent, or \$1,424.86.

- Professional, scientific and technical services at 26.35 percent, or \$3,706.25.
 - Other services (except public administration) at 4.32 percent, or \$1,298.74.
- randi@pagosasun.com

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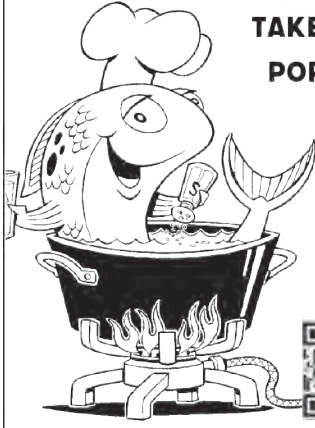
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SUN photo/Clayton Chaney

More than a foot of fresh snow blankets Wolf Creek Ski Area and Wolf Creek Pass on Saturday, March 8.

PAWSD hires firm to run board election

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

At a March 3 special meeting, the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD) Board of Directors approved a contract estimated at \$70,600 with Public Alliance LLC for the company to assist the district in running its upcoming election and serve as the election official.

PAWSD Programs Manager Renee Lewis introduced the issue, explaining that, at the Jan. 30 PAWSD board meeting, board members suggested that staff look into hiring a third party to run the district's election.

Lewis has previously served as the district's election official.

She stated that she thought this was a "great idea" and reached out to the district's attorney, Marcus Lock, to get recommendations on firms that could provide this service.

It was explained that Lock offered five suggestions for potential contractors, and Lewis found that two of these firms would be available, including Public Alliance.

She noted that Public Alliance was recommended by Lock and had worked with him in the past.

Lewis added that she was pleased with her conversations with Public Alliance and the services it offers.

PAWSD board chairman Jim Smith asked Public Alliance Administrative Coordinator Alysia Padilla, who was representing the company at the meeting, why the costs in the proposal are estimates instead of firm costs.

Padilla explained that the firm charges based on time and materials and thus cannot give an exact number for the cost, although she noted that the firm tries to "go on the higher end" for this estimate.

Lewis noted that this is a common practice in contracts for election services due to uncertainties about the amount of voter participation.

PAWSD board member Glenn Walsh commented that the district previously moved to having a mail-ballot election instead of offering a polling place due to a desire to increase participation in its elections.

PAWSD board member Gene Tautges asked if Public Alliance would serve as the designated election official.

Lewis stated that this would be true, adding that she felt that this arrangement would be beneficial since

it would make managing the election simpler.

Padilla commented that the company not being directly affiliated with the district would decrease difficulties and concerns about bias if the election is contested.

In response to a question from Smith, Lewis noted that she would have minimal involvement with the election except for doing certain tasks that would have to be done on-site.

PAWSD board member Bill Hudson asked if Lewis felt that the \$25,600 cost for ballot packets and postage quoted by Public Alliance is a good price.

Lewis commented that she felt this was a good price from her experience with previous elections.

Hudson asked Lewis how many hours it took to run previous mail-ballot elections for PAWSD.

Lewis commented that running the election takes 40 hours a week for one person and can take 60 or 80 hours a week on certain weeks.

She added that the election started overlapping her other duties the week before the meeting, causing her to work at least 60 hours that week and that the workload would continue or increase in upcoming weeks.

Pagosa Area Recreation Coalition offers update

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

Members of the Pagosa Area Recreation Coalition (PARC) gave a brief update recently at the joint work session of the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) and Pagosa Springs Town Council held on Feb. 25.

Bob Milford, a representative of PARC, explained that the group formed in 2024 with the purpose of "thinking about all the issues that were happening with outdoor recreation" in the area.

He indicated that PARC applied for a grant through Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) and was awarded approximately \$150,000, "which is going fast," explaining the state is undertaking a program to create recreation plans across the entire state.

Milford mentioned that PARC has hired a group to assist and provide guidance on developing plans stretching across all of Archuleta County and parts of Mineral and Hinsdale counties.

He also mentioned that working to provide an outdoor recreation plan for

the area has evolved into considering indoor recreation needs, as well as protecting wildlife and natural resources.

That is "because we saw such a need for having good, excellent outdoor recreation here, but also protecting our natural resources and wildlife," he said.

He went on to mention that developing a plan is "complicated" because of the multiple different organizations and entities involved in managing these lands, and therefore a leadership committee was created with representation from the town; Archuleta, Hinsdale and Mineral counties; the Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Association; Southern Ute Indian Tribe; CPW; and the Pagosa Ranger District of the U.S. Forest Service.

"So, we got everybody that's making decisions kind of guiding this process," Milford added.

He explained the goal is to develop a plan by the end of this year, with the intent to implement "some kind of structural organization about how to manage it."

Milford explained the boundary of the area that PARC is looking at is "kind of where we play," which in-

cludes all of Archuleta County and parts of Mineral and Hinsdale counties stretching up to the Continental Divide Trail.

"It's a big area," he said.

Pagosa Springs Recreation Supervisor Amanda Gadowski noted that the U.S. Forest Service is also involved in the leadership committee, along with "pretty much as many community members" as possible.

Gadowski described the PARC leadership committee as "trying to be catchall," explaining that PARC is also trying to get feedback from nonprofit groups "who are already dealing with recreation" and trying to get funding.

She went on to mention that a community survey is currently being drafted that will be sent out through multiple public avenues for community members to provide feedback.

In an email to The SUN, Gadowski explains that the survey will likely be ready sometime this month.

During the work session, she also explained that the PARC leadership committee has identified key issues and concerns which have been divided into categories of recreation as-

sets, infrastructure and management.

She noted that the leadership committee is not only identifying and talking about these issues, but also looking for solutions.

Council member Matt DeGuise asked if PARC's goal is to create a recreation district, with Milford explaining that the goal is to find the best way for the area's recreation amenities to be managed, and to take recommendations on how to move forward, whether that be creating a recreation district or some other special district that can manage the area with community support.

Commissioner Veronica Medina commented that this is a "great opportunity" for the community to create a recreation district that can develop and manage recreation opportunities in the community.

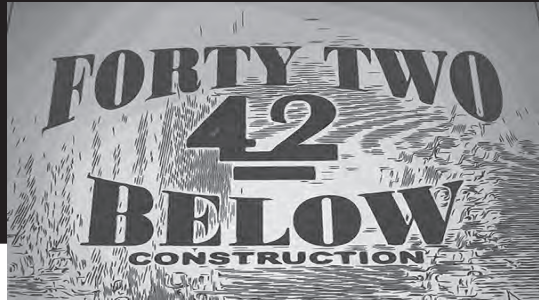
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Eligible seniors encouraged to take advantage of property tax reduction

By Ally Sullivan
Colorado Department of Local Affairs

The Qualified Senior Primary Residential Classification program is available for tax years 2025 and 2026.

This allows property owners who moved between Jan. 1, 2020, and Dec. 31, 2025, and lost their Senior Property Tax Exemption, or those who plan to move in 2025 and would lose the exemption, to retain the property tax reduction for their new primary residence for 2025 and 2026.

For those who qualify, 50 percent of the first \$200,000 in actual value of their primary residence real property will not be taxed unless it causes the assessed value to drop below \$1,000.

The classification applies to owner-occupied primary residential property, including single-family or multifamily residences, condos, townhomes or duplexes.

Eligibility

A property owner must have previously qualified for, and received, the Senior Property Tax Exemption as of Jan. 1, 2020, or later. If that exemption was removed, or will be, due to a change in the owner-occupier's primary residence, then the new primary residence may qualify for this classification for tax years 2025 and/or 2026. There is also eligibility for a surviving spouse under certain conditions, and there are no income limits for this exemption.

Applicants must complete the Qualified Senior Primary Residence Classification application and submit it by mail, or in person, to the county assessor of the county in which the property is located by March 15. Late applications will be accepted until July 15, however late-filing applicants forfeit their right to appeal if the clas-

sification is denied.

Applications and instructions are available on the Division of Property Taxation website or at the county assessor of the county in which the property is located.

The property tax reduction will be reflected on the tax bill received from the county treasurer in the year following the application.

The Qualified Senior Primary Residential Classification should not be confused with programs creating tax credits tied to income tax returns or rebates managed by the Colorado Department of Revenue.

Colorado seniors can contact their local county assessor for questions regarding eligibility or the application. For questions about the program, contact Colorado Department of Local Affairs' Division of Property Taxation at dola_dpt_frontdesk@state.co.us.

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Education



Photo courtesy Renea Smith

The Pagosa Springs Middle School wrestling team celebrates after winning the San Juan Basin League Championship Saturday, March 7, in Bayfield. The Pirates competed against Bayfield, Cortez, Ignacio, Miller and Escalante, winning by 76 points with a score of 369.5. The coaches for the team are Keith Candelaria, Kraig Candelaria, Nathan Stretton and Daniel Barnes.

Charter school receives clean audit

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

At its Feb. 19 meeting, the Pagosa Peak Open School (PPOS) Board of Directors accepted the school's audit report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, with the school receiving a clean opinion.

Jessica Bogner of audit firm Wall, Smith and Bateman presented the audit.

Bogner began her report to the board by stating PPOS received an unmodified opinion before walking through portions of the audit with the board.

Bogner also explained auditors are required to be skeptical and noted that audits are not 100 percent guarantees because not everything is tested.

She noted that PPOS had a negative unrestricted fund balance, but that, without costs related to Other

Post-Employment Benefits, commonly referred to as OPEB, and pensions, it would be pretty even.

"The year ended June 30, 2024 is the seventh year of operations for PPOS. As of June 30, 2024, net position decreased by \$222,645 to \$1,048,164," the financial highlights portion of the audit report states. "This balance includes the result of the implementation of regulations under the Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement (GASB) Numbers 68 and 75."

Bogner also noted the school can't operate without it's per-pupil revenue.

The audit report notes that 59 percent of the school's revenues came from per-pupil funding in 2024.

It adds, "The operations of the School are funded primarily by tax revenue received under the Colorado School Finance Act in Per Pupil Revenue. Such revenue for the year was

\$1,151,238. At the close of the fiscal year, Pagosa Peak Open School's governmental funds reported an ending fund balance of \$463,274, an increase of \$42,702 from the prior year."

Later in the presentation, Bogner noted the school had no "overbudgets" for the audit year.

"So, that's great," she said. She added PPOS is following the budget closely, which means the school is budgeting realistically.

Bogner also noted the \$222,000 decrease in net position, with board treasurer Pamela Meade later clarifying that the negative was approved by the board.

Bogner capped off her presentation by noting the audit went well.

The audit report was accepted unanimously by the board.

Other business

In other business at the meeting, the board:

- Voted to extend a three-year contract offer to School Director Emily Murphy.

During discussion on the matter, after board president Lawrence Rugar suggested a three-year contract with raises, board secretary Bill Hudson expressed concern about the state budget deficit and previous cuts to education funding in 2009.

He suggested the board may want to make salary decisions year by year.

- Interviewed and subsequently voted to add Chris Fredericks to the board for a three-year term until May 2028.

• Heard that PPOS students are pacing with Archuleta School District students on measures of academic growth, according to assessment results.

- Heard a self-evaluation report from Murphy related to the school's strategic plan goals.

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Foundation for Colorado Community Colleges scholarship application open

Colorado Community Colleges Systems

The Foundation for Colorado Community Colleges has opened its scholarship application for the 2025-2026 academic year, offering funding opportunities for students attending or planning to attend one of the 13 Colorado Community College System (CCCS) colleges next academic year.

Applications are due by 11:59 p.m. on April 27.

The scholarship process is easy to complete and qualifies students for a variety of awards of up to \$5,000.

Last summer, the foundation awarded about \$563,474 in scholarships to nearly 300 community college students.

"Many community college students face obstacles in their pursuit of higher education, which makes these scholarships truly impactful in providing opportunities for economic mobility to our students," said J. Adam Cermak, chief development officer and executive director of the foundation. "Thanks to the generosity of our donors, we are proud to provide a variety of scholarships that support so many learners at our Colorado community colleges."

Applicants undergo a holistic selection process that considers their goals, circumstances and financial need. As part of the application, students submit short written responses about their education, career aspirations and community involvement.

To ensure accessibility, the CCCS Foundation requires only one application to match students with all eligible scholarships, simplifying the process and expanding access to crucial financial support.

Foundation scholarships bring students one step closer to achieving their goals.

"This scholarship is bringing me closer to realizing my dream of becoming a registered nurse in Colorado," said Charlotte Atiuru, a student at Community College of Aurora and a current recipient of the Foundation's COL John and Mildred Garcia Scholarship. "Thanks to this support, a girl whose dreams were once challenged by poverty is now on the path to success. Receiving this scholarship

has given me relief as I pursue my educational goals despite difficult circumstances."

For more information on the foundation scholarship process, visit <https://cccs.edu/about/foundation/student-scholarships/>.

School

■ Continued from front

tached in the meeting's agenda, the new SFA "is already facing possible changes before it is even enacted, and triggers in the law may stop it from being implemented altogether."

ASD Superintendent Rick Holt mentioned that last year many teachers across the state and from ASD "lobbied really hard to get rid of the [budget stabilization] factor."

He explained that with the elimination of the budget stabilization factor, that means the district did not have to write a check to the state for funds received.

"That tool is no longer in place," he said, explaining that the governor and others are "manipulating the formula to effectively get money back," rather than enacting a formula they said they would last year.

"They're now manipulating factors within the formula so they don't have to give schools the money that they should be giving them," Holt added, explaining that, effectively, a new budget stabilization factor would be put in place without a name, "but

in practice."

He indicated that the state is forecasting to recover approximately \$191 million from education funds.

"We're very attuned to that," he said, noting that he and Burt are crafting letters to send to legislators objecting to that practice, "and demand that they look somewhere else ... other than K-12 education to balance their budget."

Burt's report also notes, "Regardless of whether they use the new or old formula, constitutionally the state is required to match inflation, currently in the 2.3% range, per Amendment 23. This would increase the base per pupil funding to \$8,692 for the 2025-26 school year. Given the current state budget shortfall, it is very unlikely that they will add anything more than the required minimum."

The report also explains that the SFA reduces the number of averaging years from five down to four, but that Gov. Jared Polis has proposed all averaging be removed from the formula.

"In its place, only the current year student count would be used. This would save the state approximately

\$191 million, but many districts across the state would see reduced funding," Burt's report states.

Burt notes in his report that with ASD's current enrollment trend, the district could see a reduction in total funding of approximately \$440,000 for the 2025-2026 school year, "if averaging is removed from the formula."

Superintendent contract

During the same meeting, the BOE entered into an executive session for the purpose of evaluating and discussing Holt's contract renewal.

The executive session lasted approximately an hour before the BOE returned, with board president Bob Lynch indicating that "only due to technical issues" a special meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 13, at the district's administration building to finish Holt's evaluation.

"There's nothing but technical glitches going on," he said, noting the executive session was recorded.

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Tax

■ Continued from front

that they could be used as matching funds to pursue grants.

However, the town’s sanitation system faces repair costs beyond the category 4 and 5 problems with the sewer pipes, with Harris saying, “This can be a tough pill to swallow, with one of the challenges” being “that our ratepayers are already heavily burdened with the cost of operating.”

At a previous meeting, McLiney suggested that “continually raising rates to pay for the next \$15 million [in repairs and maintenance] is not affordable for anyone.”

With the current system, the town uses a series of lift stations to transport its wastewater about 7 miles to the Vista wastewater treatment plant, owned and operated by the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD).

Per the agreement with PAWSD, the town is responsible for 25 percent of any required upgrade costs to the

Vista plant.

The plant currently faces a required upgrade to meet state Regulation 85, having to do with phosphorus and nitrogen output, with the town’s cost estimated to be \$2.5 million.

Harris explained that PAWSD is planning to start the upgrade project in about a month, with it scheduled to go through August of next year.

“From a cash-flow perspective,” he said, the town is looking at the \$2.5 million cost for its portion of the upgrade to be “spread out over two years.”

Harris added that the required Vista plant upgrade is just one example of the mounting costs that the town’s sanitation district, the Pagosa Springs Sanitation General Improvement District (PSSGID), faces in the years ahead.

While the PSSGID has the authority to raise its rates on customers to pay for its infrastructure needs, Harris noted that he wanted the council to consider

“some alternatives,” with the town-only sales tax election being one of them.

“We could fund many of these projects” through raising of the town’s sales tax, he told the council, adding that what makes the sales tax funding “so attractive” is that “it will not just be paid by town residents, but also by people who live outside of our town limits,” including tourists.

He added that there’s currently a study underway to determine what the exact mix would be between town residents, county residents and visitors paying the tax.

McLiney added that the current per-month, per-connection rate would have to be raised beyond the current rate if the town does any more repairs beyond the \$4.8 million dedicated to fix the category 4 and 5 problems with the sewer pipes.

He added that if the town did “everything that was listed in the engineering report,” it would require a more than a doubling of current user

rates, taking them from around \$71 per month to around \$220 per month.

“It’s not a doubling of the \$71. It’s an additional \$149,” he said. “And that, to me, is unaffordable.”

He added, “I’m not interested in a rate increase,” instead pointing to a half-cent increase in the town’s sales tax as the solution.

He explained that if the town used a “reasonable 3 percent sales tax growth rate,” it could fund a “\$42 million project over a 30-year period,” adding that whatever the rate of increase that the town chooses is less important than the “approach” to getting it passed in an election.

Right now the town has more projects than it can pay for, he stated.

“You have \$40 million in proposed sewer projects, and if all of a sudden someone says, ‘Let’s do a treatment facility,’ then you could double that number,” he said, adding that sales tax revenues could be used for projects beyond the sewer system, “including economic development, including streets.”

He said that he thinks there is “plenty of time” for a November election, and that he liked the idea of “just doing a sales tax and paying for things with cash.”

The town could put that “half-cent sales tax into a capital improvement fund and, as things come up, you pay

for them,” he said.

Council member Mat deGraaf expressed that he thought it was a 50-50 chance that such a measure would gain the approval of the majority of voters.

Town Clerk April Hessman explained that this would only be voted on by the town’s 1,400 residents, and it would be “a town-only question on the November ballot.”

She added that if the measure were to fail, the town could bring it up again during the 2026 elections.

McLiney noted that it isn’t the message that is hard, it’s getting the message out to voters that is the hard part, with the message being that “we think a half-cent sales tax [raise] would keep us from having to raise our [sewer] rates again.”

He added, “And anybody that spends time in your town will help pay for your sewer system. It’s an attractive message.”

Mayor Shari Pierce added that she thinks this is a “better solution for our town residents,” because “many of them are on fixed incomes and a sewer rate that would be \$220 a month just can’t be handled, so I like that we can think about those people.”

Agreeing with Pierce, council member Leonard Martinez stated that he has heard from people who

say they can’t afford the current rate of \$71 per month.

He added that it could be framed as “a very positive message” to say that the town is trying its best to keep rates down through the sales tax solution, while also adding that he liked that visitors would help pay for it “without it always being on our backs.”

He wondered if a half-cent increase would be enough, with Public Works Director Karl Johnson explaining that it would “put us in a good position.”

Pierce asked if the town could lower its sewer rates if it did the sales tax increase.

McLiney suggested keeping the rates where they are until “you know” that the town can lower them, with Pierce adding that this could be an incentive to go for a larger increase in the sales tax to three-quarters of a cent to get it to pass.

Johnson suggested that if the town chose a higher increase it could potentially allow it to “cap” its sewer rates at a fixed number.

When the discussion turned to how it would all work — if there would be a sunset clause and how much of an increase — the council decided to hash out the finer details at a later time.

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Lease

■ Continued from front

SJWCD president Candace Jones stated that she would take the lease to her board for consideration, although she commented that she felt the lease was “a little disingenuous” given the uncertainties about the outcome of the litigation between the districts.

Following more disputes and the reiteration of grievances about the SJWCD’s reservoir project and PAWSD’s actions, Ramsey proposed that the subcommittee be tasked with working with the SJWCD to determine how maintenance on the property, including repairing fences and maintaining irrigation infrastructure, will occur.

Walsh, who serves on the subcommittee along with PAWSD board member Bill Hudson, stated that he would be “happy” to work on this issue and that it might be a first step to improving the relationship between the districts.

PAWSD board member Gene Tautges commented that he understood that the costs of maintenance on the property would be split based on the districts’ respective percentage ownership of the property.

Walsh stated that he felt that the districts could come to a “common-

sense” agreement on this issue.

Tautges emphasized his desire to obey the terms of the three-way agreement between PAWSD, SJWCD and the Colorado Water Conservation Board governing the management of the ranch and the reservoir project, and added that splitting the costs by ownership percentage “sure is common sense.”

Walsh commented that the agreement is short and that “a lot of the open areas in that agreement just do have to be filled in with some common sense and maybe just four people walking around on the property, noting the problems and then sitting down and discussing what’s the fair-minded way to deal with the problem, and I’m pretty confident we could do that and that’s actually a nice task to actually focus on rather than years of court battles and stuff like that.”

Tautges asked Jones if this arrangement would be acceptable to the SJWCD board.

Jones stated that the issue would be on the agenda at the SJWCD’s next meeting and noted that the Webers have been doing this work, but that PAWSD decided to try to terminate their lease as part of its efforts to sell

the property.

At the Feb. 17 SJWCD board meeting, Jones explained Ramsey’s proposal and the events of the Feb. 13 PAWSD meeting to the board.

Jones added that she is aware that Kathy Weber would be interested in running cattle on the property for the summer of 2025, although whether this would be feasible or not would need to be discussed with PAWSD.

She noted that “trying to do this round-robin where paper gets tossed over the fence is not very efficient.”

Jones stated that Walsh and Hudson appeared to be willing to work on the issue, and added that she would like to inform PAWSD that the SJWCD would like to discuss the issues with the lease through the Running Iron Ranch subcommittee and its SJWCD counterpart.

She added that she would “encourage” involving Weber in this discussion to see what opportunities there might be for running her cattle on the ranch in the summer.

The board then unanimously voted to have the issue discussed further through the districts’ subcommittees for the Running Iron Ranch. *josh@pagosasun.com*

Inmates

■ Continued from front

not be released outside of the confines of the Archuleta County detention center other than to a Durango transportation vehicle.

Le Roux explained that Archuleta County will only provide routine medical care to the Durango inmates and only go back and forth to the Pagosa Springs Medical Center, with any additional health care services being billed to Durango.

According to the IGA, Archuleta County will charge a rate of \$110 per day to house Durango inmates.

Le Roux mentioned that cost will cover basic routine medical care.

“So, almost everything falls back to the city of Durango,” he said.

Le Roux clarified again that Archuleta County will only house sentenced inmates.

“We’re not housing the homeless population of Durango,” he said.

He also mentioned that the agreement caps at six inmates “at any one time” and that Archuleta County has the right to return any inmate at any time for any reason.

County Manager Jack Harper mentioned that the county’s insurance coverage has been extended by six years to cover Archuleta County in the event that someone attempts to come back and sue.

Le Roux noted that the county has similar IGA’s with the Southern Ute Indian Tribe and Costilla County.

“It’s pretty standard operating procedure,” he said.

Commissioner Warren Brown expressed comments of understanding the desire to reciprocate “good will” with both La Plata County and Durango, acknowledging that anytime Archuleta County has asked for assistance in any matter, both La Plata County and Durango “have freely and

without strings attached” provided manpower, tactical assistance and equipment, “for anything that we have asked.”

However, Brown also expressed concern over the potential medical costs that Archuleta County might take on, specifically inquiring about if Durango inmates would have access to the county’s telehealth program.

Le Roux explained that anything Archuleta County can do in-house will be covered under the daily rate of \$110, and that if an inmate needs to be transported out of the county, those costs would be billed to Durango.

Brown also expressed concern about the daily rate, stating he was unsure what La Plata County was offering.

Commissioner Veronica Medina later noted that La Plata County offered a daily rate of \$198.

Brown explained the reason for his concern is that by Archuleta County offering a lower rate for the same services, it may take away a “motivational factor” for La Plata County and Durango to come to an agreement.

Le Roux noted that the daily rate is “open to negotiation all day long,” explaining that this would be the highest contract the county has for housing other entities’ inmates.

He also mentioned that he is looking into hiring a consultant to come up with the “most accurate” cost for inmates per day.

Commissioner John Ranson noted that his concern is that the agreement may cost burden Archuleta County, but noted that “relationships are more important than the actual numbers here.”

Medina stated that she appreciates maintaining these relationships as well, but mentioned there may be additional costs for Durango associ-

ated with transportation time that was taken into account.

“There is a lot of other costs,” she said.

Medina also expressed concern over the possibility of an inmate having a “mental breakdown or something” and Archuleta County not having the resources needed, noting that it may take an hour or more for someone from Durango to show up.

“I worry about the liability,” she said, inquiring about who is paying for the additional cost to extend the insurance and how much that cost is.

“I don’t have a definitive answer for that,” Harper said.

Medina stated that she is “all about helping out our neighbors” while suggesting there has been a breakdown in communication between Durango and La Plata County.

Le Roux commented that at some point those two entities will likely come to an agreement, removing Archuleta County from the situation.

“Again, this is no different than what we just signed with Southern Ute,” he said.

Medina interjected, stating, “It is kind of different,” noting Durango has an option for housing inmates, unlike Southern Ute or Costilla County.

“They’re just choosing not to use it,” she added.

Le Roux explained that Archuleta County has enough resources to cover basic needs, noting that “no one has enough mental health resources.”

Le Roux also mentioned Durango is in “much better” position to respond to a unique event compared to other entities that are even farther away from Archuleta County.

County Attorney Todd Weaver mentioned that the cost of extending insurance is “typically” not a significant cost. *clayton@pagosasun.com*

Agreement

■ Continued from front

from LPEA’s easement going to support that fund.

Town Manager David Harris explained the town will place the new CIED account “inside the town’s trust fund.”

“The use of these funds,” he said, “would be used to benefit the community, improving the quality of life for residents and businesses through the support of the electric system.”

He mentioned that the funds could be used for “infrastructure improvements, public safety and other public benefits,” and could help “to expand the economy of the town and thereby increase net revenues for the economic benefit of the town.”

He described the annual revenue from LPEA — \$8,700 — as only “a drop in the bucket financially, but ... in the long term, I think it will set forth a framework by which we can have an economic development fund” to “focus on our infrastructure.”

He added that the town should identify a future revenue stream to help fund the account “in a more robust manner.”

Council member Leonard Martinez suggested the “whole idea of economic development” is important considering the “per capita income” in Pagosa Springs versus the cost of living.

He expressed that this would help the community to “diversify its economy,” saying that he is excited to move forward with the LPEA easement and the economic development fund.

Council member Gary Williams expressed his “appreciation for LPEA

for being really cooperative” through the agreement process, saying, “We’re all in this together, and we appreciate what you guys do for us.”

He did, however, urge LPEA to minimize the “visual impact” of its substation and to maintain the natural aesthetics of the area for people driving by the site.

When a motion was made to pass the first reading of the ordinance, authorizing the town to grant the easement to LPEA for the Trujillo substation, it was seconded and passed unanimously by the council. For the LPEA easement to formally take effect, it will need to also pass a second reading of the ordinance, which will be considered at the council’s March 18 meeting.

LPEA first approached the town in 2024 to utilize the land for a new electrical substation, with the council discussing the topic at four meetings in June, July and December.

The council decided to table the discussion for future consideration at its June 4, 2024, meeting, ultimately deciding to negotiate a lease agreement at its July 25, 2024, meeting.

However, LPEA responded with its preference on using an easement agreement, rather than a lease, but with the same terms that the town offered in its original lease agreement.

“This route also allows for the Town to retain ownership and receive payment for its use,” states an agenda document on the matter.

After the council approved the easement agreement, it then considered the creation of the CIED account to be placed within the town’s trust fund.

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Medical center staff to present about proposed cuts to federal programs

By Lynn Frederick

Archuleta County Democratic Club

Rhonda Webb, CEO and chief medical officer of Pagosa Medical Center, and Chelle Keplinger, chief financial officer, will speak on how proposed cuts to Medicaid and other programs at the federal level will affect Pagosa Springs Medical Center on March 31 at 5:30 p.m. at the Pagosa Peak Open School, located at

3133 Cornerstone Drive.

This is important information for all of us who live in and near Archuleta County, even if we get our medical care elsewhere. No one knows when they will have an emergency or will need to be transported to a larger facility. Additionally, our economic stability depends on having a hospital here.

This meeting is sponsored by the Archuleta County Democratic Club, but all interested persons may attend. We welcome your participation.



Sports

BASKETBALL

Lady Pirates punch ticket to Great 8

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

The No. 7 Pagosa Springs High School Lady Pirate basketball team fell to the No. 2 Timnath Cubs in the Great 8 round of the 4A girls' basketball playoffs on Wednesday, March 12.

The girls advanced to the action at the Denver Coliseum after defeating No. 26 Fort Morgan on March 7 and No. 10 Lamar on March 8 at Pagosa Springs High School.

The Timnath Cubs entered the game with a 22-3 record, with the Lady Pirates owning an 18-7 mark going into the matchup.

The two teams had three common opponents on the season: Kent Denver, Holy Family and Montezuma-Cortez. The Cubs went 2-1 on the season against the common opponents, with Pagosa going 3-1.

"I think Timnath is a great match up for us and we are excited to go play on Wednesday morning," coach Sarah Osborn wrote in an email to The SUN ahead of the game. "We focused on continuing to fine tune our offensive game, and keeping the same intensity in our defense going into Wednesday."

Unfortunately for the Lady Pirates, they fell out of contention with a 60-38 loss to Timnath.

Stats and more about the game and season were not available by press time Wednesday and will be included in the March 20 SUN.

With the win, Timnath advanced to play the winner of No. 6 Delta and No. 19 Colorado Academy.

The other half of the bracket featured No. 1 University taking on No. 9 D'Evelyn and No. 5 Alamosa taking on No. 4 Holy Family.

The results of the other matchups were not available by press time Wednesday.

The Lady Pirates opened the post-season with a 55-23 win against the Fort Morgan Mustangs on March 7.

The Lady Pirates scored 19 in the game's first quarter while holding the Mustangs scoreless, and led 32-8 at half.

The Mustangs outscored the Lady Pirates 10-7 in the third quarter, with the Lady Pirates solidifying the 55-23 win with a 16-5 fourth quarter.

Nine Lady Pirates scored in the matchup, led by 18 from Elizabeth Currier, who hit two 3-pointers. She also had three rebounds, four assists and a block.

Karsyn Shahan followed with 12 points, which included a pair of 3-pointers. She also had seven rebounds, six assists and two steals.

Kylie Ketchum put up nine in the



matchup, and had four rebounds, three rebounds and four steals.

Lexi Campbell added six points, four rebounds and two steals.

Kaila Limebrook and Amber Snarr each scored three points. Limebrook also had three rebounds and a steal. Snarr had three rebounds, an assist and two steals.

Charity Domingo added two points, six rebounds, an assist and two steals.

Adelyn Hittle contributed a point, five rebounds and two steals, and Maddie DeClark scored one.

Victoria Currier contributed four rebounds, and Dawson Iverson pulled down one.

The team was 5-for-11 from the free-throw line and turned the ball over 13 times.

That win let the team advance to the Sweet 16 round of action the following day, where they took on Lamar, who defeated DSST: Montview on March 7.

Similarly to the day before, the Lady Pirates built an early lead, outscoring the Thunder 12-1 in the first quarter, with that lead increasing to 19-3 by the half.

The teams were even in the third with five points added each, but the Thunder outscored the Lady Pirates 15-7 in the fourth, leaving Pagosa

■ See Basketball A10

Pirates end season with playoff loss in Aspen

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Pirate basketball team drew its season to a close in the first round of the state playoffs on March 7 with a loss to the No. 3 Aspen Skiers.

The Pirates entered the game as the No. 30 team in the 4A boys' basketball bracket.

"Aspen was a pretty decent size, pretty athletic, pretty physical type team," coach Wes Lewis said.

The Skiers outscored the Pirates 13-7 in the first quarter and led 24-12 by halftime.

"I felt like we did a pretty good job defensively against them. ... It was kind of a seesaw game for the first half. They kinda made a little run at the end of the first half and they actually hit a buzzer 3 to go up 12," he said. "I felt like it could have been a lot closer than that."

The Skiers outscored Pagosa 14-9 in the third.

Lewis recalled the Pirates came out in the third and "made a little run, got a couple stops, got a couple scores" and forced Aspen to call a timeout.

Aspen responded and the Pirates missed some easy opportunities, he added.

The Skiers outscored Pagosa 14-9 in the fourth to walk away with the 52-30 win and advance to the Sweet 16 round.

"I just felt like we were good defensively, but we struggled a little bit offensively," he said, adding the team wasn't able to finish shots or make

jumpers. "We kind of talked about going into the game that we were gonna have to do three things to give ourselves a chance to be successful, and that was ... we're going to have to finish our inside bunnies, limit our turnovers and then ... hit some outside shots."

He noted that while the team's turnover count wasn't bad, most of the team was unable to hit outside shots and the team "left some points in the paint."

He added, "It was just one of them games. It didn't happen for us."

Colt Lewis picked up 18 points in his final game as a Pirate, which included a pair of 3-pointers. He added two assists and three steals.

Ty Richey put up six points, pulled down one rebound and picked up a steal.

Jaxten Scheil added four points in his final game, and had one rebound and two blocks.

Seth Zeiglar added two to the team's total in his final matchup as a Pirate. He led the team in rebounding with eight, as well as logging a steal.

Creede Dozier and Jayton Ross each added two assists, and Ross stole the ball twice.

The team made eight of 10 attempts from the free-throw line and turned the ball over 12 times.

The Skiers went on to lose to No. 19 Timnath in the Sweet 16 round the following day.

Only four of the top eight seeds advanced to the Great 8 round that began Wednesday.

The Great 8 comprises No. 1 Kent

SUN photo/
Randi Pierce

Lady Pirate Karsyn Shahan puts up a shot against the No. 26 Fort Morgan Mustangs in the opening rounds of the 4A state basketball tournament. As the seventh seed, the Lady Pirates hosted the action, beating the Mustangs 55-23.

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SUN photo/Randi Pierce

Pagosa's Elizabeth Currier focuses on the basket in the team's first-round win over the Fort Morgan Mustangs on Friday, March 7.

Basketball

■ Continued from A10

with a 31-23 win to advance to the Great 8.

"Lamar got a spark in the second half and tried to bring it back, but because of our great start the gap

"I couldn't be more proud of how hard the team played in both games and fought all the way to the end," she wrote, adding, "Our team rallied after a series of tough losses close to the end of season, but I think it helped refocus us going into postseason play."

Coach Sarah Osborn

was just too big in the end," Osborn wrote. "Kylie Ketchum also had a great shooting night for us and really helped us seal the win against Lamar."

Ketchum led the Lady Pirates in scoring in the game with 11, which included a trio of 3-pointers. She also had three rebounds, two assists and a steal.

Shahan and Limebrook each scored five. Limebrook also pulled down six rebounds and logged a steal, and Shahan added nine rebounds, three assists and two steals.

Elizabeth Currier and Hittle each tallied four points. Elizabeth Currier

also had three rebounds, two assists and two steals. Hittle pulled down three rebounds, and had two assists and two steals.

Snarr picked up two points in the game, as well as three rebounds and a steal.

Campbell added four rebounds and a steal.

The team made three of eight attempts from the free-throw line and turned the ball over 14 times.

"I believe against both Fort Morgan and Lamar we came out with an incredible first half especially on the defensive end of the floor," Osborn wrote. "The team was energetic and ready to go. They made it incredibly tough for both teams to find their rhythm offensively which I think was one of our keys to success against them. They started off by handing Fort Morgan a 19 to 0 first quarter, leaving no doubt in anyone's minds who came ready to play. In the locker room we talked about how we had to repeat that exact same start and take Lamar out of their game early. The girls came out day two of the tournament and did just that, with a 12 to 1 first quarter start."

Osborn also notes she's proud of how the Lady Pirates played in the games, especially after a series of losses.

"I couldn't be more proud of how hard the team played in both games and fought all the way to the end," she wrote, adding, "Our team rallied after a series of tough losses close to the end of season, but I think it helped refocus us going into postseason play. We figured out where we needed to improve and the girls put in the work in the last weeks of practice in order to meet their goal of making it back to the state tournament."

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TRACK

Pirates still looking to open season

By Randi Pierce

Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Pirate track and field teams were unable to dust off at the Dust Off Durango on Saturday, March 8, with the event canceled due to inclement weather.

Instead, the teams are now looking ahead to the Bayfield Invite 1 on Friday, March 14 — weather permitting.

But, despite the inclement weather and canceled Durango meet, coach Connie O'Donnell notes in an email to The SUN the teams were able to put in some good early-season work outside last week.

"Having access to the track and event areas has allowed us to do some really good early season work, especially in field events," she wrote.

The team is also growing this week with the addition of a number of boys'

basketball players, who O'Donnell notes will be able to compete Friday.

O'Donnell adds that the team is looking to begin putting together relays with this week's meet.

"I didn't have a single relay entered for the dust off, but we will put together a few relays and see how it goes," she wrote. "We graduated several key members of relays last year on both the girls and boys teams. We will probably be switching relay teams up for a while until we find the right combination."

Action is scheduled to begin at 9 a.m. Friday in Bayfield.

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SUN photo/Randi Pierce

Lady Pirate Adelyn Hittle swipes the ball away from a Lamar player during the Sweet 16 match between the two teams.



SUN photo/Randi Pierce

Lady Pirate Kylie Ketchum puts up a 3-pointer during playoff action at Pagosa Springs High School. The Lady Pirates defeated the No. 26 Fort Morgan Mustangs and Lamar Thunder on March 7 and 8.



SUN photo/Randi Pierce

The Lady Pirates celebrate with coach Sarah Osborn after punching their ticket to the Great 8 and cutting down the net on March 8. The ceremony followed the team's 31-23 win over Lamar in the Sweet 16 round.

SOCCER

Inclement weather delays start of Lady Pirates' season

By Clayton Chaney

Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Lady Pirate soccer team had its first two matches of the season canceled last week due to a winter storm rolling through the area and causing travel complications.

The Lady Pirates were originally scheduled to face off against the Del Norte Tigers in Del Norte on March 6 and the host Telluride on March 8, with both matches being canceled.

Coach Trevor Gian explained that the match against Del Norte has been rescheduled for April 8 at 4 p.m. in Del Norte, while the match against Telluride has yet to be rescheduled.

The Lady Pirates have shifted their focus to their next two opponents,

as they are set to take on the Ignacio Bobcats in Ignacio today, Thursday, March 13, at 4 p.m.

On Saturday, March 15, the Lady Pirates will take on the Buena Vista Demons in Buena Vista at 11 a.m.

Gian mentioned that the Lady Pirates have been "trying to dial in basic strategies and fundamentals" with their extra week of preparation.

He explained the team is working through formations and understanding their roles during set pieces.

For their matchup against Ignacio, Gian is hoping the Lady Pirates come away with a positive result, noting he wants to utilize the game to work on staying compact defensively and shutting off lanes in their opponent's attack.

Gian also mentioned that Buena

Vista looks to be a quality team and that the Lady Pirates will need to slow the pace of the game down while avoiding giving up big gaps in their midfield.

Gian also mentioned the Lady Pirates have "a ton" of returning players, noting there is an understanding that the team is building off of the work put in during last season, "and it's showing."

Gian noted that he and his assistant coach, Dyan Rice, "are very impressed with where we're at starting out the season this year compared to last year."

He added, "I feel pretty comfortable with the growth. They've done a great job incorporating what we learned last year already in the practice."

Gian also mentioned that with last week's games being canceled the Lady Pirates are even more eager to compete in their first game of the season.

"I think we're ready to roll," he said. "It's definitely time to get out there and play."

The Lady Pirates will have a break in action after this weekend, as their season won't resume until April 5 with a home match against the Montezuma-Cortez Panthers at 11 a.m.

Gian explained that the Lady Pirates will use that break to "iron some things out" before facing a "gauntlet" of games in April.

The Lady Pirates are scheduled to play a total of 11 games from April 5 through May 2.

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Good luck, Pirates!



Photos courtesy Pagosa Youth Soccer

Five players from the Pagosa Youth Soccer Rangers achieved recognition in the prestigious Colorado Mountain Region Select Olympic Development Program program for 2024-2025. The program is designed to identify and develop top-tier soccer talent across the state.

Pagosa Youth Soccer Rangers shine in Colorado Olympic Development Program

By Natalie Tom
Pagosa Youth Soccer

The Pagosa Youth Soccer Club is celebrating another year of remarkable milestones in its youth sports community as five players from the Pagosa Youth Soccer Rangers achieved recognition in the prestigious Colorado Mountain Region Select Olympic Development Program (ODP).

Ryder King, Hudson Davis, Zachery Tom, Bodhi King and Haydn Tom (Young Olympians) were selected for the 2024-2025 season to train with

the elite Colorado Mountain Region Select ODP Pool, a program designed to identify and develop top-tier soccer talent across the state.

Among these young athletes, Ryder King and Zachery Tom earned the opportunity to represent Colorado at the Regional Championship Tournament held in Phoenix, Ariz., Jan. 2-6. Competing against teams of their age groups from across the United States, both players displayed extraordinary skill, commitment and teamwork as they contributed to their respective teams' successes.

The tournament proved to be an

unforgettable experience for the Pagosa Springs players. Both teams they represented advanced through rigorous competition to claim silver medals in the finals. The silver-medal finishes highlighted not only individual talent, but also the strength of the training and support provided by the local soccer community.

Colorado Select serves as a stepping stone for players aiming to reach the highest levels of the sport, including collegiate and professional play. By participating in this elite program, these five Pagosa Youth Soccer Rangers players are setting a shining

example that with dedication and support, even players from our small mountain community, can achieve big results.

As Ryder King and Zachery Tom returned to Pagosa Springs with silver medals in hand, their success serves as a reminder of the potential within Pagosa's youth and the importance of fostering local talent. The future of youth soccer in Pagosa Springs looks promising.

For more information about competitive youth soccer in Pagosa Springs, visit www.pagosayouthsoccer.org.

BASEBALL

Pirates outscore Bears 41-10 in opening doubleheader

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Pirate baseball team opened the season with a bang, outscoring the Dolores Bears 41-10 during a doubleheader Saturday, March 8.

The games were postponed from Thursday, March 6, due to inclement weather.

It was cool, but the conditions were decent in Dolores and the field was dry on Saturday, coach Ben Garcia reported.

"It was a good day no matter what just to be able to get out and play," he said.

The Pirates won the first game 17-1.

Despite the Pirate win, the Bears struck first in the matchup, scoring the game's first run in the bottom of the second.

"We got a slow start," Garcia said, explaining the first three Pirate hitters hit hard shots right to Dolores players.

He added it took a little bit for the Pirates to get going, but then they were able to take advantage of early-season mistakes by Dolores.

The Pirates countered with two in the top of the third, 10 in the fourth, four in the fifth and one in the sixth.

Garcia noted the Pirates did a good job of finding ways to score runs late in the game.

"We really put ... a good package together and put it out of reach," he said.

The Pirates had 11 hits in the game, led by three from Charles Washburn. Washburn also had an RBI and scored three runs.

Sebastian Gonzalez picked up two hits, including a double, and two RBIs. He scored three times.

Garcia noted Sebastian also played well at second base and made plays that were above and beyond routine.

"He made them look fairly easy," he said, adding Gonzalez helped the team be where it needed to be defensively and added offensively, including picking up RBIs in key situations with two outs. "He was a bright spot in that first game."

Six Pirates had one hit each: Kaeden Iguchi, Taylor Wells, Kyler Henderson, Chris Young-Martinez, Cooper Ralston and Dylan Dempster.

Iguchi, who also walked twice, also had two RBIs and a run scored. Wells, who hit a double, also scored a run. Henderson, who also hit a double, tallied three RBIs. Young-Martinez also walked twice, scored a run and had three RBIs. Ralston, who also walked twice, notched one RBI and a run scored. Dempster, who hit a double, had two RBIs and two runs scored.

Garcia also highlighted Henderson's defensive play as catcher in the matchup.

Noah Bellina scored one run, and Chance Ramirez scored two.

Zach Pouyer, who walked and was hit by a pitch, logged one RBI and scored two runs.

The Pirates reached by walk eight times in the game, with two reaching

after being hit by pitches and three reaching on errors. The team struck out once in the game and left 14 on base.

The Pirates were 6-for-7 in stolen base attempts in the game, with Gonzalez stealing twice and one steal each from Iguchi, Pouyer, Washburn and Ralston.

"That's one of our biggest assets. We have some really good speed,"

"That's one of our biggest assets. We have some really good speed," Garcia said, noting the steals helped put the Pirates in scoring position.

Garcia said, noting the steals helped put the Pirates in scoring position.

Ralston took the mound for the Pirates, throwing an 86-pitch complete game. He gave up four hits and one run in five innings while walking three and striking out eight.

"Cooper Ralston just really threw a very good game," Garcia said, adding the four hits he allowed were scattered over the five innings and the run scored on a throwing error. "He had really good command. He didn't walk a lot of people. ... He was pumping the zone with strikes and doing the things he needed to, so it was really good."

The Pirates won the second half of the doubleheader 24-9, scoring in every inning of the five-inning game.

"Offensively we came out and, you know, did a great job, hit the ball really well, and did what we needed to," Garcia said.

Pagosa brought around two runs in the top of the first before giving up three in the bottom of the inning.

Garcia noted Young-Martinez struggled on the mound early, which is unlike him, but indicated the Bears' early runs gave him a chance to see what the team would do in adversity. The Pirates retook the lead with a three-run second, but Dolores fought back to tie the game 5-5 in the bottom of the inning.

The Pirates took the lead back for the final time in the third after scoring five, though the Bears brought two around in the bottom of the inning to make it a 10-7 game.

The Pirates widened the gap with an eight-run fourth, and the Bears added two in the bottom of the inning.

Pagosa picked up another six runs in the top of the fifth to take the 24-9 lead they would finish with.

"That was the positive, is we con-

tinued to score runs and just hit the ball really hard," Garcia said of how the team responded to its battery struggling.

Garcia highlighted the play of Young-Martinez and Ralston offensively in the game, noting Ralston had a clutch hit to give the Pirates two runs with two outs early in the game.

"We could have easily panicked, and we didn't, so I'm really, really happy with the results of how we responded when we were down and how we responded when we had people on base," Garcia said, adding while there is room for improvement, the team was able to create separation.

Pagosa notched 14 hits in the game.

Wells and Young-Martinez had three-hit games, with Wells walking once and scoring three runs, and Young-Martinez (who had two doubles) walking twice, having one RBI and scoring five times.

Pouyer had two hits, two RBIs and two runs scored as well as drawing a walk. Ralston also had two hits, picked up four RBIs and scored twice.

Iguchi's hit in the game came in the form of a home run, and he had two RBIs and two runs scored.

Gonzales had a hit, logged three RBIs and scored a run. He also reached on an error twice and was hit by a pitch.

Bellina walked twice and notched a double, an RBI and scored three times. Ramirez had a hit, and RBI and a run scored.

Henderson picked up an RBI and scored two runs after walking once and being hit by a pitch twice.

Aaron Sowle notched an RBI and scored a run. Dempster and Isaac Hanto each scored a run.

The Pirates walked nine times, struck out five times and had 25 left



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TO: ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN WATER APPLICATIONS IN SAID WATER DIVISION NO. 7
Pursuant to C.R.S. 37-92-302, you are notified that the following is a portion of all water right applications filed in the Office of the Water Clerk during the month of February 2025, for Archuleta County.

2025CW0002 Archuleta County. Application for a Conditional Surface Water Right and a Conditional Groundwater Right. Applicant: Olympus Real Estate Group, 223 Summer Glen Lane, New Braunfels, TX 78132. Please send all correspondence to Applicant's attorney, Amy N. Huff, Colorado Water & Land Law, LLC, 679 E. 2nd Ave., Unit 11B, Durango, CO 81301. 970-403-1770. Email: amy@waterland-law.com. Structures: (1) Olympus Diversion (surface diversion of discharged water). Location: SW 1/4 SW 1/4 §13, T35N, R2W, NMPM, approximately 1263' from the S section line and 1736' from the West section line of §13. UTM: E: 321493; N 4126199 Zone 13. *Applicant reserves the right to modify or adjust the location described above to ensure that it can capture all water herein described as the sources for the Olympus Diversion. If the location of the source water changes, the point of diversion for Applicant's water right shall be changed accordingly. Sources: Groundwater tributary to the San Juan River; water diverted by the Town of Pagosa Springs (the "Town") under its PS-3 and PS- 5 water rights, and discharged after the Town has made beneficial use of said water for the purposes decreed in Case No. 81CW160; water diverted by the Town from the PS-3 and PS-5 water rights for beneficial use under the Town's decrees that is discharged without initial use by the Town; and all wastewater, return flows, and groundwater that is not consumed in accordance with the Town's decreed water rights for the PS-3 and PS-5 Wells. App. Date: 2/4/2025. Amt: 500 gpm (Conditional), with the right to reuse and successively use said water to extinction. Uses: Geothermal heating of buildings, sidewalks, and other water sources; commercial; recreation; filling and refilling of pools and water features; snow melting; aesthetics; wetlands; and wildlife habitat. All uses will occur within the SW 1/4 of §13 and the NW 1/4 of §24, T35N, R2W, NMPM, on properties in which Applicant has a legal interest. Affected Landowner: The Town owns the land upon which the point of diversion is located. Thirty years ago, the Town authorized a predecessor of Applicant's affiliated entity to install infrastructure that directly connects to the Town's heat exchanger for the purpose of transporting the water claimed herein to the Springs Resort. Applicant intends to use the easement for the existing infrastructure to deliver water from the Town's heat exchanger to property owned by Applicant's affiliated entity. The Town's address is P.O. Box 1859, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147. (2) Olympus Well (underground water right) Location: NE 1/4 SW 1/4 of §13, T35N, R2W UTM: E 321647; N 4126257 Zone 13. The Olympus Well diverts from the point of diversion decreed to the PS-5 Well in Case No. 81CW160. Source: Groundwater tributary to the San Juan River. The Olympus Well will divert geothermal water from the point of diversion decreed to the PS-5 Well. App. Date: 2/4/2025. Amt: 500 gpm (Conditional), with the right to reuse and successively use said water to extinction. Uses: Geothermal heating of buildings, sidewalks, and other water sources; commercial; recreation; filling and refilling of pools and water features; snow melting; aesthetics; wetlands; and wildlife habitat. All uses will occur within the SW 1/4 of §13 and the NW 1/4 of §24, T35N, R2W, NMPM, on properties in which Applicant has a legal interest. Affected Landowner: The Town. Remarks: Applicant will obtain all required well permits prior to diverting water under the Olympus Well water right. See Application. (5 pages including exhibit).

THE WATER RIGHTS CLAIMED BY THE FOREGOING APPLICATION(S) MAY AFFECT IN PRIORITY ANY WATER RIGHTS CLAIMED OR HERETOFORE ADJUDICATED WITHIN THIS DIVISION AND OWNERS OF AFFECTED RIGHTS MUST APPEAR TO OBJECT AND PROTEST WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY STATUTE, OR BE FOREVER BARRED.
YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT YOU HAVE until the last day of April 2025, to file with the Water Clerk, a verified Statement of Opposition, setting forth facts as to why a certain application should not be granted or why it should be granted only in part or on certain conditions. A copy of such Statement of Opposition must also be served upon the applicant or the applicant's attorney and an affidavit or certificate of such service shall be filed with the Water Clerk, as prescribed by Rule 5, CRCP (Filing fee, \$192.00; Forms are available through the Office of the Water Clerk or on the Judicial web site at www.coloradojudicial.gov; Jason Poyer, Water Court Specialist, 1060 E. 2nd Ave., Room 106, Durango, CO 81301; 970-247-2304)

/s/ Jason Poyer
Water Court Specialist

Published: before March 31, 2025
Published March 13, 2025 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (259821)

Invitation to Bid: The Town of Pagosa Springs is accepting proposals for a minor renovation of the Pagosa Springs Town Hall located at 551 Hot Springs Blvd, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147. A required pre-bid walk-through will be held on Thursday, March 13, 2025, at 1 p.m. Responses due Friday, March 28, 2025, at 3 p.m. Please visit the Town's website at www.pagosasprings.co.gov under the Bids & RFPs button for details and instructions.
Published March 13, 2025 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (259512)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Estate of JACQUELYN M DODD KRIEGEL, also known as JACQUE DODD KRIEGEL, also known as JACQUELYN M. KRIEGEL, Deceased
Case Number 2025.PB.30009

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 Kriegel
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 Talisman Drive, Suite D-6
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
Abilene, Texas 79603
Published February 27, March 6 and 13, 2025 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (258416)

Order Resetting Replevin Hearing

The replevin hearing in this case is continued to 3/31/25 at 11:00 AM. The plaintiff shall file a request for service by publication. The plaintiff and counsel may appear at the replevin hearing via Webex.

Issue Date: 2/13/2025
JEFFREY RAYMOND WILSON
District Court Judge
Published March 13, 20, and 27, 2025 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (259817)

PERSONAL PROPERTY DECLARATION FILING REMINDER (Media Release)

NAME AND ADDRESS OF CONTACT:
Sharon Boyce – Hinsdale County Assessor
PO Box 28
Lake City, CO 81235
TELEPHONE NUMBER: 970-944-2225 ext. 140
The Hinsdale County Assessor reminds all persons owning, possessing, or controlling taxable personal property (furnishings, equipment and other movable personal property) that the deadline for filing a Personal Property Declaration Schedule is April 15. All persons who own, possess, or control taxable personal property with a total actual value greater than \$56,000 per owner, per county, are required to report the personal property to the county assessor. Failure to declare your personal property each year by the deadline will result in the assessor valuing your property using the "best information available" and attaching a penalty to your tax bill. If you did not receive a declaration schedule, please contact the county assessor at [970-944-2225 ext. 140](tel:970-944-2225) (telephone number).
All personal property with a total actual value in excess

of \$56,000 (per owner, per county) is taxable unless specifically exempt by law.

Taxable personal property includes:

- All residential household furnishings used to produce income
- Equipment, furniture, and machinery used by commercial, industrial, and natural resource operations
- Property used in an agribusiness that does not qualify as agricultural pursuant to § 39-1-102(1.6)(a), C.R.S.
- Expensed assets with a life greater than one year
- Fully depreciated assets still in use
- Personal property in storage that is subject to IRS depreciation
- Leasehold improvements

Equipment that is licensed as a motor vehicle (SMM plate or Z-Tab) is not reported on the Personal Property Declaration Schedule.
If you have questions about the Personal Property Declaration Schedule, please contact the assessor's office at 970-944-2225 ext. 140.

Published March 13, 2025 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (259510)

PUBLIC NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME

Public Notice is given on 2/25/25 that a Petition for a Change of Name of an Adult has been filed with the Archuleta Combined Court.
The Petition requests that the name of Chelsea Monet Hamilton be changed to Chelsea Monet Caler.
By Suelien Lohr, Deputy Clerk
Published March 13, 20, and 27, 2025 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (259807)

SHAWN TUNNELL AND ANY OTHER INTERESTED PARTY ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to appear and defend against the claims of the complaint filed with the court in this action, by filing with the clerk of the court an answer or other response to Civil Action No. 2024CV030074, District Court, Archuleta County, State of Colorado, Plaintiff Michael Maestas V. Defendant Shawn Tunnell, an individual. You are required to file your answer or other response within 35 days after the service of this summons upon you. Service of this summons shall be complete on the day of the last pub-

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#](tel: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:

lication. A copy of the complaint may be obtained from the clerk of the court.

If you fail to file your answer or other response to the complaint in writing within 35 days after the date of the last publication, judgment by default may be rendered against you by the court for the relief demanded in the complaint without further notice.
This is an action in which Plaintiff is seeking to establish an easement in their favor and against the named Defendant. The real property at issue is known as 380 Catchpole Dr., Pagosa Springs, CO 81147. Plaintiff's attorney of record is Lucas P. Schaffer, Atty. Reg. No. 56597, 900 S. Main Street Suite 100, Longmont, CO 80501.
Published March 13, 20, 27, April 3, 10, 2025 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (259515)

The Town of Pagosa Springs has received an application for "Sketch Major Subdivision" for the Pagosa West Major Subdivision. This proposed subdivision is currently situated on 100 acres of vacant land located at the SE corner of S. Pagosa Blvd and Hwy 160, which includes three properties: 80 S. Pagosa Blvd. (Parcel #56992040163), 100 S. Pagosa Blvd (Parcel #569920400163) and 3800 W. Hwy 160 (parcel #569921229001) with proposed commercial and residential uses.

The Planning Commission will conduct a public hearing on Tuesday March 25, 2025, at 5:30 p.m., to consider the Sketch Major Subdivision application.

Public Hearings and Meetings will be conducted at 551 Hot Springs Blvd and available for remote attendance via the Zoom meeting platform. To access the meeting agendas and staff reports, click the round **Minutes** and **Agendas** tab located along the bottom of the photo on the Town's website home page at pagosasprings.co.gov. You may also view the application at mypagosa.org/proposed-development-projects.

We encourage interested parties to contact the Planning Division prior to the public hearing dates, with any questions via phone at (970)264-4151 x235 or email at klunnell@pagosasprings.co.gov. Written comments received 7 days prior to the meeting or public hearing will be forwarded to the Design Review Board for their consideration. Public comments will be accepted at the public hearing(s)/meeting(s).
Published March 13, 2025 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (259818)

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)

Outdoors



Photo courtesy Bob Endres

The Weminuche Audubon Society will highlight its local American Dipper Project at a gathering on March 19.

Weminuche Audubon Society to hold gathering about American Dipper Project

By Bob Endres

Weminuche Audubon Society

The Weminuche Audubon Society will be hosting a gathering at the Community United Methodist Church on Lewis Street at 3 p.m. on Wednesday, March 19.

We will highlight our local American Dipper Project that has been monitoring American dipper nesting successes starting in 2021 in support of the American Dipper Project that was initiated in Durango in 2016 as a mechanism to evaluate mountain stream health following the Gold King Mine spill in the Animas River of 2015.

The American dipper is a unique species of bird that can swim in and walk on the bottom of fast-flowing mountain streams to harvest aquatic insects, crustaceans and even small fish. Their nesting success is a good indicator of stream health.

Their feathers are very dense and water repellent, so when they emerge

on rocks above the water, the water beads up and falls off their backs immediately so they appear completely dry. Dippers usually nest in inaccessible cliffs above the streams or on girders under bridges — typically above the center of the stream.

Nests have been monitored on the Piedra River, the East Fork and West Fork of the San Juan River, and even along the San Juan Riverwalk.

New nest discoveries in other locations are always welcome. Monitoring here begins in May (or when the appropriate national forest roads open) and continues through the middle of July as some nests produce two broods each season.

Volunteers should be able to drive or walk to the nesting sites and be able to spend 20-30 minutes there watching the nests and observing adult bird activities in the vicinity.

The most important observations to obtain are the number of nestlings and when they leave the nest (fledge). No real birding expertise is required,

just good observational skills. Binoculars and a camera aren't necessary, but are very helpful. Multiple volunteers might be observing each nest at different times, but we'd like for each person to visit a nest at least once or twice a week. It is rewarding and relaxing to spy on these birds.

Observations will be combined and submitted to the Cornell Lab Nestwatch program.

Photos of dippers will be shown at this meeting to foster discussion between the volunteers that have helped collect observations so far, and we'd like to recruit new volunteers from the community if you are interested in helping.

All are welcome to come and learn about this fascinating bird. You can even enjoy observing it live on the San Juan Riverwalk.

Learn more under the Projects tab at weminucheaudubon.org and send questions to roendres2015@gmail.com or weminuche.audubon@gmail.com.

March Weminuche Audubon Society meeting to feature presentation on bees

By Jean Zirnelt

Weminuche Audubon Society

With the official return of spring next week, it's a good time to remind us of the importance of pollinators.

To do so, we are excited to welcome Amy Dolan, an endangered species conservation biologist with the Xerces Society to our evening meeting on March 19.

Dolan is the coordinator for the Mountain States Bumble Bee Atlas in Colorado, Nevada, Utah and Wyoming. Bumble bees just may be her favorite pollinator, and she will share with us how awesome they are, conservation concerns and what we can do to help them.

Bumble bees are charismatic, easily recognizable pollinators thanks to their large size, loud buzz and distinctive color patterns. They play an incredibly important role in sustaining the health of our environment by pollinating flowers in natural and urban areas, and by contributing to

successful harvests on farms.

The mountain regions of North America boast some of the highest diversity of bumble bees, making Colorado a fantastic place to learn about these fuzzy pollinators.

Unfortunately, like many other insects and pollinators, many bumble bee species have been experiencing population declines in past decades. The good news is that there are actions we can take right now to help them.

Come learn about the unique life cycle and adaptations of these amazing creatures. Hear more about conservation issues and what can be done to help, including how the Mountain States Bumble Bee Atlas is using citizen scientists to help conserve bumble bees, one photograph at a time.

The Mountain States Bumble Bee Atlas is an ongoing community science project and everyone is invited to participate. Learn more at BumbleBeeAtlas.org.

The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation is a donor-sup-

ported nonprofit organization that protects our world through the conservation of invertebrates and their habitats. For more than 50 years, it has been a champion of Earth's most biodiverse and overlooked animals, protecting the life that sustains us. Learn more at xerces.org.

The public is invited to join us at the Community United Methodist Church on Lewis Street on March 19. We will meet at 6 p.m. to socialize with snacks before the meeting starts at 6:30 p.m.

Dolan's presentation will take place over Zoom and we will view it together at the church.

Please enter through the side door off the parking lot or let us know to open the main door for handicap entrance. In appreciation for our meeting space, we welcome donations of nonperishable food for the church food bank.

A link to participate from home will be posted on the event description on our website, www.weminucheaudubon.org.

Funds available for nongovernmental organizations providing grant application assistance to rural Colorado communities

By Kristy Burnett

Colorado State Forest Service

The Colorado State Forest Service is now accepting applications for the new Rural Grant Navigator grant program.

Nongovernmental organizations that provide assistance to rural Colorado communities applying for federal or state grants related wildfire mitigation and preparedness are eligible to apply.

Applications will be accepted through May 2, and \$237,000 is available in the funding pool for this round of grants.

Qualifying projects provide outreach and/or technical assistance to rural Colorado communities that meet one of the following criteria:

- Population-based:
 - Fewer than 25,000 residents (latest U.S. Census).
 - Located outside an urbanized area (U.S. Census Bureau).
- Geographic and economic factors:
 - Classified as rural by the Colorado Department of Local Affairs.
 - Population density under 100 people per square mile.
 - Limited access to infrastructure, public services or economic resources.

Project examples include assessing funding opportunities, training personnel in grant management practices and grant-writing assistance.

Applications must be submitted by email no later than 5 p.m. on May 2 to CSFS_Grants@mail.colostate.edu.

Awards will be announced July 25. Projects must be completed by June 30, 2028.

This new grant program was created when the Colorado General Assembly passed House Bill 24-1006, Assist Rural Community Wildfire-Related Grant Application.



Weminuche Audubon Society accepting applications for teen camp scholarship

By Jean Zirnelt

Weminuche Audubon Society

Weminuche Audubon is currently accepting applications from area youth between the ages of 15 and 17 for a scholarship to attend Bird Conservancy of the Rockies On The Wing camp from June 19 to 27.

This weeklong camp centered

near Rocky Mountain National Park is an incredible experience open to youth with an interest in birds and exploring the outdoors. Detailed information on the camp may be found at birdconservancy.org.

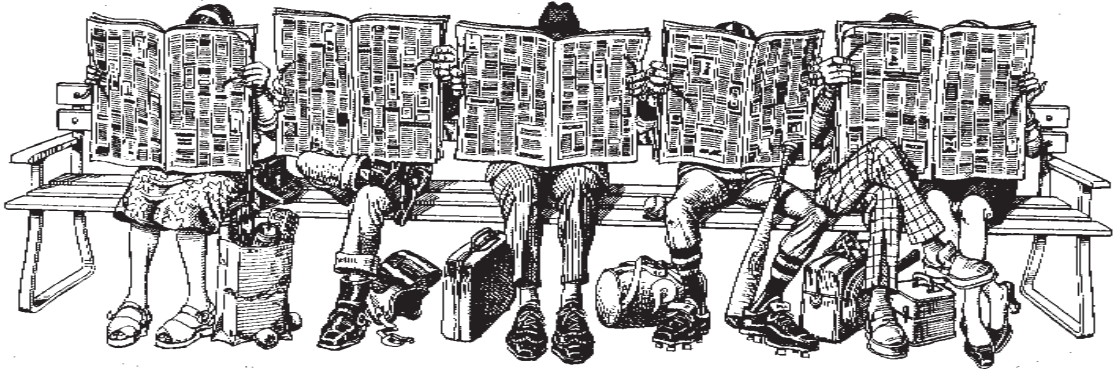
Exciting guest speakers, hiking, birding, fishing and all-camp evening games are just part of the fun. Campers have the opportunity to

work in small groups to experience the science behind bird conservation by learning from professionals the techniques used, and assist in designing a research project tailored to individual camper interests.

The scholarship, which pays camp expenses, was established in memory

■ See Scholarship A14

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ARTS & LIFE

St. Patrick's Day Festival

11 a.m. to 1 p.m. • St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd.



Photo courtesy St. Patrick's Episcopal Church

March 13, 2025



Photo courtesy St. Patrick's Episcopal Church

Saturday's St. Patrick's Day Festival, to be held in the parking lot of St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, will again feature the traditional "world's shortest parade" at 11:15 a.m.

Live Performers

- Thursday**
Coyote Moon Lounge: Open mic with Eric Wade, 7 p.m.
The Pagosa Bar: Karaoke, 7:30 p.m.
- Friday**
Coyote Moon Lounge: Totally Happy Campers, 7 p.m.
The Springs Resort lodge atrium: Jason Rose, 5 p.m.
- Saturday**
Coyote Moon Lounge: Vincent Koehl, 6 p.m.
The Springs Resort lodge atrium: Maxwell Miller, 5 p.m.
- Sunday**
Coyote Moon Lounge: Jackson Mountain Ramblers, 5 p.m.
- Monday**
Coyote Moon Lounge: Tyler John Kraehling, 5 p.m.
The Springs Resort lodge atrium: Bo DePena, 5 p.m.
- Tuesday**
The Springs Resort lodge atrium: Jason Rose, 5 p.m.

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St. Patrick's Day parade to step off Saturday at 11:15 a.m.

By Anthony Aldwell
St. Patrick's Episcopal Church

Join the St. Patrick's Day Festival this Saturday, March 15, at St. Patrick's Episcopal Church from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. for not only the "world's shortest parade," but family fun, free chili dogs and a chance for children to ride on the float with St. Patrick.

While it may be billed as the world's shortest parade as it traverses St. Patrick's parking lot, it's actually not the world's smallest parade, as it comprises several Pagosa Springs' organizations.

Leading the parade will be the Boy Scout Troop 807 Color Guard, followed by our ageless Magnificent and Marvellous Majorettes.

The star of the parade will certainly be St. Patrick's, riding on an emerald float with any and all children who wish to participate. As St. Patrick is known for expelling the snakes out of Ireland, look for parade participants reenacting this feat (with fake reptiles, of course).

Next to march will be the young adults from Aspen House, followed by our Spanish Fiesta Court of Royalty.

A parade would not be a proper parade without including our dedicated first responders, represented by a bright, crimson fire truck from the Pagosa Fire Protection District and accompanied by a Pagosa Springs Medical Center EMS Team. And if those vehicles aren't big enough, we have included one of Elite Recycling and Disposal's massive trucks. The Shriners will return this year with their Tin Lizzie vehicular antics, followed by a calmer drive-by of a 1930 Model A Ford pickup, courtesy of Wings Early Childhood Center.

What about the traditional bagpipes sounding the arrival of St. Patrick? This year, Master Piper Jim Dorian will not only be leading his merry band in serenading the crowd, but will provide "practice pipes" for attendees to learn and practice the delicate fingering required to produce those unique bagpipe tones.

Want to walk in the parade? You are encouraged to bring your leashed dogs as the parade will end with owners and their canine friends bouncing and barking once they hear the squeal of the bagpipes.

As the parade concludes, attendees will be able to enjoy free chili dogs, 18 local vendor booths, children's activities and, of course, Irish coffee and beer for sale. Any profits will be returned to community-focused ministries, including the St. Patrick's Food Pantry, to which parade visitors are encouraged to donate canned vegetables and fruit, boxed macaroni and cheese, and peanut butter. Donation boxes will be clearly marked near the church entrance.

The festival will take place in St. Patrick's Episcopal Church parking lot at 225 South Pagosa Blvd. Our neighbors,

John Paul II Catholic Church and the Pagosa Springs Medical Center, have graciously opened their adjacent parking lots to attendees, as parade activities will be occupying St. Patrick's main parking lot. Handicapped parking, however, will be available in the main lot at the direction of the marshals.

With the U.S. 160 construction preempting Pagosa's Fourth of July

parade this year, this is the 2025 parade to attend. The parade steps off at 11:15 a.m. Saturday morning and the chili dogs will be ready for all immediately thereafter.

So, cloak yourself in your brightest green outfits to join the celebration. And, and don't be late — the world's shortest parade is a fun, but fleeting, Pagosa moment.

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Photo courtesy Thingamajig Theatre Company

Olive (Ivy King) tries multitasking — a tense phone call and restraining her hilariously frantic roommate Florence (Karisa Bruin) — in Thingamajig Theatre Company’s production of “The Odd Couple (Female Version).”

Last call for laughter: Neil Simon’s ‘The Odd Couple (Female Version)’ set to run through Saturday

By Tim Moore
Thingamajig Theatre Company

If you’ve ever doubted the power of laughter as a communal experience, you owe it to yourself to catch the final weekend of Neil Simon’s ingeniously reimagined comedy, “The Odd Couple (Female Version),” presented with wit and charm by Thingamajig Theatre Company.

In this refreshingly smart and sharp-tongued production, Florence Unger (Karisa Bruin) and Olive Madison (Ivy King) navigate the hilarious pitfalls of friendship, divorce and mismatched housekeeping with captivating nuance and comedic flair. Their sharply contrasting personali-

ties create a delicious tension, heightened by Simon’s timelessly clever dialogue and a brilliant ensemble cast clearly relishing every line.

This exuberant staging caps a memorable season at Thingamajig Theatre, notable for its emotional depth and artistic versatility. Audiences were captivated by the heartfelt “All is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914” and moved by the intellectual sparring of “A Walk in the Woods.” But it’s the current comedic gem that has audiences grinning from ear to ear.

“Such a hilarious show, don’t miss it,” one theatergoer enthusiastically remarked. Another viewer declared it among their favorite experiences at Thingamajig, while a third summed it

up succinctly, saying, “I laughed and laughed and laughed.”

In theater, the only guarantee is impermanence. When the lights dim after Saturday’s closing performance, this hilarious production is gone forever. Secure your seats now, and let Thingamajig Theatre send you into the spring season with laughter.

For tickets and show information, visit pagosacenter.org.

Daughters of the American Revolution will meet March 15

By CiCi Stuart
Sarah Platt Decker Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution

The Sarah Platt Decker Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution will meet Saturday morning, March 15, at the Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St., at 10:30 a.m.

The program this month is an introduction to our local Sarah Platt Decker chapter website being developed by Sherryl Egly.

For more information or to carpool, call Egly at (970) 507-0646 or come to the meeting.

The Sarah Platt Decker Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution

lution is a nonpolitical/nonprofit service organization representing the Archuleta and La Plata counties. Membership is open to all women over the age of 18, regardless of race, religion or ethnic background who can trace their lineage from an ancestor who aided in achieving American Independence.

The DAR, as we are known, has three missions: historical preservation, promotion of education and patriotic endeavor.

The members are a lot like you, coming from diverse backgrounds and having a variety of interests. Their common bond is their lineal descent from patriots of the American Revolution.

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End of Life Education group announces upcoming speakers, writing project

By Joan Mieritz
End of Life Education

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

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

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

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

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

On March 20, we will be introduced to the very latest concepts in funerary practices, called natural funerals. The presenter will be Karis Meskimen.

She is from the Denver area. The new process that Meskimen will be sharing with us is called terramation, or body composting.

I do not want to say too much here because it is new to me and seems quite interesting. It warrants an expert explanation and extra time for questions. After this session, you will be in on the newest practices for the end of life so you can "go out in style."

At about 2:30, after a break from our 1 p.m. program, those people who are interested can begin an activity that Joan Mieritz first presented to Pagosa Springs in 2011.

It is called "Writing for Generations." The basic concept is writing in a letter, or special notebook or whatever form you think of, to future generations in your family.

I just found out that my granddaughter will be living in Texas. I told her that half of Texas comes to Colorado each summer and for other holidays. So, I will probably be seeing

her a lot. She told me that she wants to pick out an area on my property, which is in a trust, for her to build a house. That means that I may have great-grandchildren who will spend more time on my land than I ever did, or my own children ever did.

That is absolutely amazing and is a possibility that I previously had not thought of. I am beyond pleased with the idea.

I have material that I started 13 years ago that I will add to. If others want to join me in this opportunity, I think we can encourage each other and help each other do a better job, by sharing our work. Please join me in a truly wonderful act of passing your love forward to future generations in your family. It is a connection that is of value to everyone involved.

You don't need to consider yourself "a writer" to take part. I think that my great-grandchildren would be thrilled with almost anything I had to say.

Think about it and how wonderful it could be, and then join us. We will be working together every month after the End of Life Education program.

Future programming

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

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

If we can get copies of her book and there is interest, we may have additional sessions in May and/or June.

I have wanted for a long time to learn more about her experiences, and I am so pleased that she has agreed to take the time to share with us.

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

I have heard the saying that when the student is ready the teacher will appear. We have many teachers lined up to improve the end-of-life experience for all members of the Pagosa Springs community.

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

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

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Pagosa Sidewalk Astronomers to host BYOBinoculars star parties

By Dena Laterza
Pagosa Sidewalk Astronomers

The Pagosa Sidewalk Astronomers will host free, educational public events at which you can use your binoculars to see large deep-sky objects.

During a constellation tour, we will point to where the objects can be seen and provide their classification and interesting facts about each.

Four nights are scheduled during

the moonless nights toward the end of March, including spring break: March 17, 19, 21 and 29. Let's hope for clear skies.

Bring a pair of binoculars (they don't have to be high magnification) and meet at the Coyote Hill trailhead at 8:15 p.m. The tour of the night sky will begin promptly at 8:30 p.m. and last 30-45 minutes.

Parking attendants wearing reflec-

■ See Astronomers on next page

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Our Community Eats welcomes new board member

By Sandra Dillon
Our Community Eats

Our Community Eats (OCE) is growing on many fronts. We are thrilled to announce that Mary Sanders joined the board of directors (BOD) in January in the newly created position of grant/external funding director. She joins current members Katherine Solbert, president; Kodi Trujillo, vice president; Tasha Kossler, secretary; Sandra Dillon, treasurer; and Lindy Waldrop, director. Since August 2024 when OCE moved into its new location at 197 Navajo Trail Drive, the BOD's focus

has been ensuring a smooth transition from its former location, solidifying its large volunteer base and securing food inventory in tight supply for its nearly 3,000 monthly patrons. Dillon said, "Now that we've achieved stable operations, we're focused on the future and how we can strengthen the food supply channels and serve our community in a greater capacity. Grant funding will be a critical element in achieving our goals." Sanders and her husband, Ron, have called Pagosa Springs home for 10 years. They have a heart for feeding people, and both volunteer at the pantry during operating hours. When not

serving on OCE's board, Mary Sanders works as a clinical assistant professor of internal medicine at the Reno School of Medicine in Nevada. She brings her grant research and writing skills to the team. If you are interested in learning more about our 100 percent volunteer-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit, the impact we make or if you would like to contribute to our mission, please reach out to Solbert at katherine@ourcommunityeats.com or visit our website at www.ourcommunityeats.com. Together, we can make a meaningful difference in the lives of families in Archuleta County and beyond.

The importance of primary care and annual visits

Healthy Archuleta

Primary care is the backbone of community health. It's all about prevention, wellness check-ups and treating common illnesses. Your regular doctor, nurse or other health care provider is your primary care buddy. They're the ones who catch health issues we might miss, notice subtle changes, and ask, "How are you really doing?" They know us well and can tell when something's off. Archuleta County has a variety of options for primary care. If you already have a provider, an annual

wellness visit is a great way to review your health and wellness, make sure you're up to date on screenings, and chat about your health goals. If you don't have a provider yet, there are several health care organizations that can help you find one. Setting up an annual wellness visit with your new provider is a great way to build a relationship and learn more about your health and wellness. Want to boost your health and well-being? Check out the annual Health Fair and Expo in October. It's a great place to get affordable wellness tests, connect with your primary

care provider, and learn more about health and wellness. Now's the perfect time to schedule your annual wellness check-up, chat with your doctor and set the stage for a healthy year ahead. For more info on primary care in Archuleta County, visit Healthy Archuleta's website at <https://www.foodcoalition4archuleta.org/primary-health-care-access.html>. To learn more about the other efforts of Healthy Archuleta, check out <https://www.foodcoalition4archuleta.org/> or send us an email at fsfearchuleta@gmail.com.

SpiritFire Inspirational Living Center to hold eclipse, equinox events

By Shayla McClure
SpiritFire Inspirational Living Center

Save the date for the following activities at the SpiritFire Inspirational Living Center:

- Friday, March 14, 6 p.m.: Full moon and lunar eclipse meditation circle and drumming with Shayla Azriel. The cost is a \$10 donation.
- Monday, March 17, 5:30 p.m.: St.

Patrick's Day Potluck Dinner. Dress in green. Please RSVP.

- Thursday, March 20, 6 p.m.: Spring equinox ceremony on "Syncing with the Spiritual Portals" and blessing ceremony with Azriel. The cost is a \$10 donation.

About us

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

all-inclusive community honoring all lifestyles, cultures and religious paths to the Divine. We are the "Good Vibe Tribe" who practices Science of Mind principles of positive thinking. SpiritFire Inspirational Living Center events are held at 3505 W. U.S. 160, on the second floor of the Pagosa Lodge. Obtain information by joining us or calling (970) 510-0309.


Astronomers

■ continued from previous page

ive vests will be on hand to assist. Overflow parking and late arrivals, please use the Turkey Springs trail-head parking lot. Please turn off your headlights ASAP so that our eyes can adjust to the darkness. We should be

able to view binary star systems, planets, star clusters and even a nebula or galaxy, if we're lucky. Come out and enjoy Pagosa's dark sky. Bring binoculars, warm clothes, warm shoes, warm hat, gloves or hand warmers, flashlight or headlamp (red

light preferred), optionally a phone app of night sky (like Stellarium). Subscribe to our email list or follow us on Facebook for astronomy-based tips, such as tips on using binoculars: <https://asia.canon/en/campaign/binoculars/how-to-use-binoculars>.



Midnight in the Mountains

PSHS After Prom 2025

April 26th, 2025 • 11:30pm-4:00am
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As we all know, options for places to hang out and have fun are limited in our town, especially for our high school students, so we are excited to be giving them a safe option to do so after they dance the night away on prom night. We have high hopes that this event will be a night to remember for these students!


We are starting to accept donations,
as this is a huge undertaking for our kids!

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Unitarian Universalists to honor spring equinox

By De Anna Hoyle

Pagosa Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

As we move toward the spring equinox on March 20, the Pagosa Unitarian Universalist (UU) Fellowship will honor this shift on Sunday, March 16.

Michael Demchak, along with De Anna Hoyle, will share through story and song as we enter this time of spring renewal.

At this time of the vernal equinox, our focus shifts from the internal reflection of winter to the external as light and darkness come into balance.

All are invited to join the fellowship to honor and celebrate this seasonal shift. Our service begins at 10:30 a.m. as we gather to "Grow in Spirit, Make Friends and Do Good," as our motto states.

You can find us at Unit B-15 of

the Greenbriar Plaza, 301 N. Pagosa Blvd., on the north side facing the Pagosa Peak. We also offer Zoom services the first and third Sundays of the month.

Find our current newsletter at PagosaUU.org for the link to join and to find our current programs. A shortened group Buddhist meditation practice is now being held each Sunday at 9 a.m. A meditation and dharma talk is held the second and fourth Sundays from 9 to 10:15 a.m.

About the service leaders

Demchak was raised with a Unitarian Universalist background for most of his childhood in Connecticut. He moved to Denver with his family in 1976 and began attending the Mile High Church of Religious Science.

He studied computer science at Metropolitan State College, but

pursued other careers including pharmacy technician, accounting and facilities management.

In 2007 he became active in a pagan meetup group and helped it grow into Living Earth Church, where he co-created many circles as a pagan priest. He enjoys camping, four-wheeling, skating, music, photography and nature.

Demchak has lived in Pagosa Springs since 2017. He is chairperson of the Sunday Service Team, president, and a lay minister for the Pagosa Unitarian Universalist Fellowship.

Hoyle currently serves the fellowship as community engagement coordinator. Her background is in UU-focused lifespan religious education and a consultant with congregations experiencing transitions.

Hoyle holds certification in spiritual companioning from Cherry Hill Seminary, the only pagan, earth-centered seminary in the U.S. As a spiritual companion, she holds space for individuals and groups who are seeking ways to awaken wonder and embody peace. As a lifelong learner, she has recently realized that her two young grandchildren are the best teachers of all.

Spiritual Experiences Group to continue spiritual IQ series Sunday

By Laurah Brock Young

Spiritual Experiences Group of Pagosa Springs

We are in month three of the Raise Your Spiritual IQ series. Drop in; we'd love to see you. You may come to any of the discussions.

This month our focus is "Soul Travel."

Soul travel is simply a shift in our consciousness or awareness — moving closer to God, the life source. Although in truth the soul does not actually "go anywhere," soul travel describes the experience of accepting greater states of consciousness.

This complimentary program offers 10 techniques included in a Raise Your Spiritual IQ experience journal. It includes three books that can help you unlock the power of your dreams, understand more about reincarnation and learn the meaning of your inner experiences — soul travel.

What to expect:

- Share your experiences with other like-hearted people.
- Learn ways to handle challenges

from a spiritual perspective.

- Discover techniques to access your divine intuition.

- Get simple spiritual exercises to directly connect with the life source.

- Receive a free book and beautifully illustrated experience journal to jump start your spiritual adventure.

We will meet Sunday, March 16, at the Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Association Clubhouse, 230 Port Ave., at 1 p.m.

Eckankar, a spiritual resource for people of all faiths and backgrounds, sponsors this free event. It is an individual, creative practice to experience our unique relationship with the Divine.

Join the Spiritual Experiences Group of Pagosa Springs at <https://www.meetup.com/pagosa-springs-spiritual-experiences-group/>.

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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.



UNDER CONTRACT

Eagle Drive
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MLS # 819518



Cloman Industrial Park
\$380,000

MLS # 819174



.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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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 13

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

Friday, March 14

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

Wednesday, March 19

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

Thursday, March 20

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

Friday, March 21

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

Wednesday, March 26

Stations of the Cross. Following 4



Photo courtesy Shanna Robb

Father Samuel Auta, Pagosa Springs Catholic Community priest, distributed blessed ashes to residents at Bee Hive Assisted Living and Pine Ridge Rehab Center on Ash Wednesday, March 5. Three Ash Wednesday Masses were also held. Ash Wednesday marks the first day of the Lenten season.

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

Maundy Thursday Service. 6 p.m., Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St. Reflections on the Last Supper. Communion will be served.
Holy Thursday Mass. 7 p.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church, 353 S. Pagosa Blvd.

Friday, April 18

Good Friday Prayer Stations in the Sanctuary. 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St. Come and go from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m.
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.

Saturday, April 19

Blessing of the Easter Baskets. Noon, Pope John Paul II Catholic Church, 353 S. Pagosa Blvd. Holy Saturday tradition of blessing a basket containing the food that will be eaten on Easter Sunday.
Easter Vigil. 8 p.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church, 353 S. Pagosa Blvd.

Sunday, April 20

Easter Sunday Service. 8:15 a.m., Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St.
Easter Mass. 9 a.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church, 353 S. Pagosa Blvd.
Easter Sunday Service. 11 a.m., Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St.
Easter Mass. 11:15 a.m., Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church, 455 Lewis St.



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Community partnerships expand reach of library programs

By Carole Howard
PREVIEW Columnist, and the library staff

In a new community outreach program, Judy, adult services librarian, is leading a free Ageless Grace exercise program at the Pagosa Senior Center every Monday 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, and we are delighted to make this healthy and fun program available in a convenient location.

Another partnership is expanding the reach of Dungeons and Dragons for middle-school students. They are invited to join friends at the Pagosa Community Initiative (PCI) on Thursdays from 4 to 5:30 p.m. for a free after-school adventure. Registration is required.

Participants must be in middle school and registered with the PCI after-school programs. This Dungeon and Dragons program will continue until the end of the school year.

Online author talks

Our highly popular free online author talks with New York Times bestselling authors continue with two more 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>.

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.”

Science fun for kids tomorrow

Youngsters aged 6-10 are invited to Steam Engines, a free science fun session, tomorrow, Friday, March 14, from 2 to 3:30 p.m.

Paws to Read tomorrow

Friday, March 14, from 2 to 3 p.m., youngsters are invited to share their favorite books with Maple, a therapy dog who loves stories, at a free Paws to Read session.

LEGO Club Saturday

Kids aged 6-11 are invited to the free LEGO Club on Saturday, March 15, from 11 a.m. to noon. Bring your own LEGOs or use ours.

Pokemon Club Saturday

If you love Pokemon, this club is for you. Bring your cards to a fun, free all-ages event on Saturday, March 15, from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m., when you can play games with others who feel the same way.

Library News

Music fun Monday

Pagosa Unplugged is free from 4 to 6 p.m. Monday, March 17, for amateur musicians of all abilities to play, sing and jam with other people.

Adult DIY

At the free in-person adult DIY next Tuesday, March 18, from 1 to 2:30 p.m., we will follow along and learn to paint with Bob Ross as he creates a painting. All supplies will be provided.

Spanish conversation

Practice your Spanish in a free group setting on Tuesday, March 18, from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. No minimum skill level is needed. This group meets twice a month, on the first and third Tuesdays.

High school math tutoring

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

Family storytimes

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

Elementary tutoring sessions

Children ages 6 to 11 are welcome at these free sessions on Wednesdays from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. where they will build essential skills in core subjects. Preregistration is required.

Writers Guild

Every Thursday from 9 to 11 a.m., Ruby’s Writers Guild welcomes writers looking for opportunities, support, resources and camaraderie with other writers at this free gathering.

ESL classes

Free in-person evening classes take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays, with 4 to 5 p.m. reserved for beginners, 5 to 6 p.m. for intermediate and 6 to 7 p.m. for advanced students. Please help us share the word about these classes.

Tech Time

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.

■ See Library on next page



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Library

■ continued from previous page 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.

Local authors

We have added two books to our collection by local authors, both of whom are members of the Wolf Creek Christian Writers group.

“Do Unto Others” by Lynn Moffett features Sofia, who runs a teen center where she faces one challenge after another as she tries to help others — and also handle her own family issues.

“Her Father’s Heart” by Helene Prins Smith is a contemporary coming-of-age novel about a young woman who lives with her emotionally distant, controlling father who holds tightly to family secrets.

Large print

“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. “A Grave in the Woods” by Martin Walker is a Bruno, chief of police, mystery. “A Farewell to Arfs” by Spencer Quinn is a crime story featuring Chet the dog and his human partner. “Robert B. Parker’s Buried Secrets” by Christopher Farnsworth is a Jesse Stone mystery. “Pro Bono” by Thomas Perry tells of an investigator following the trail of lost money. “More or Less Maddy” by Lisa Genova focuses on the life of a bipolar freshman at NYU.

Books on CD

“Red Clay” by Charles B. Fancher is a multigenerational saga about an enslaved Black family and their white owners. “Citizen” is Bill Clinton’s memoir about his life after the White House. “Waiting for the Long Night Moon” by Amanda Peters explores the Indigenous experience from contact with the first European settlers to present day. “Beautiful Ugly” by Alice Feeney is a thriller about marriage and revenge involving a missing woman.

“Battle Mountain” by C.J. Box features Joe Pickett and Nate Romanowski. “The Secret Flowers” by Sally Page follows a grieving woman who discovers the lost story of a flower girl on the Titanic. “Art of Revolutions” by CNN host Fareed Zakaria looks at the revolutions past and present that define our polarized and unstable age.

Nonfiction

We have four new Mayo Clinic medical books: “Guide to Holistic Health” by Dr. Brent A. Bauer, “Guide to a Healthy Pregnancy” by Dr. Myra J. Wick, “Guide to Home Remedies” by Dr. Cindy A. Kermott and Gail M. Boriel, and “First-aid Guide for Outdoor Adventures” by Dr. Nora P.

Raukar. “For the Bees” by Tara Dawn Chapman is an illustrated handbook for happy beekeeping. “Tomoko Fuse’s Origami Boxes” shows you how to create beautiful paper gift boxes.

“Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands,” “India,” “Japan” “Spain,” “New England” and “Alaska” are Lonely Planet travel guides. “10-Minute Strength Training Exercises for Seniors” by Ed Deboo offers routines to build muscle, balance and stamina. “The Healthy Bones Plant-Based Nutrition Plan and Cookbook” by Dr. Laura Kelly, Helen Bryman Kelly and Jumme Park provides more than 100 recipes to maintain bone density and prevent osteoporosis.

Mysteries, suspense and thrillers

“Been Wrong So Long It Feels Like Right” by Walter Mosley is a PI Joe King mystery. “Robert B. Parker’s Buried Secrets” by Christopher Farnsworth is a Jesse Stone mystery. “The Medici Return” by Steve Berry is a Cotton Malone search for a forgotten 16th century document.

Other novels

“We All Live Here” by Jojo Moyes follows a fractured family all living together. “Hold Strong” by Robert Dugoni is based on the true story of one of the most shocking acts of World War II.

DVDs

“The Substance” starring Demi Moore received five Academy Award nominations and won one. “Ghost in a Shell” is a sci-fi animated film. “Alien Romulus” is a sci-fi horror film. We have three contemporary classics: “The Bridges of Madison County” starring Clint Eastwood and Meryl Streep, “When Harry Met Sally” starring Billy Crystal and Meg Ryan, and “Groundhog Day” starring Bill Murray. “Ghost in the Shell” is an animated thriller.

Quotable quote

“Without our books, without knowing things, without knowing their special meaning — this isn’t movies, this is not someone drawing you images. This is a book, and you have the movie in your head.” — Keith Richards, English musician who has been the lead guitarist and primary musical force for the Rolling Stones since the band’s formation in 1962. His songwriting partnership with Mick Jagger is considered one of the most successful in history. His two memoirs are both available through your library: “Life” and “Gus and Me: The Story of My Granddad and My First Guitar.”

Website

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The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

- 1 Cut's partner
- 6 Pricing word
- 10 "___ the Roof" (Drifters hit)
- 14 Part of UHF
- 15 Greeting at sea
- 16 What a collar covers
- 17 Pre-moving event
- 19 Grove growth
- 20 Lose
- 21 Cool with the plan
- 23 "Caddyshack" menace
- 24 Kind of surgeon
- 25 Gadot of "Wonder Woman"
- 26 Praiseful poem
- 27 Kind of meet
- 29 Overdo it on stage

- 31 Trial run
- 33 Speck
- 35 Low cards in pinochle
- 36 Size, as of an earthquake
- 39 Nickels and dimes
- 42 MBA course
- 43 Near, poetically
- 47 Ketchup brand
- 48 Nave neighbor
- 50 Baltic or Bering
- 51 Part of T.G.I.F.
- 52 Veil anagram
- 55 Wrap around
- 57 Insatiable sort
- 59 Activist Yousafzai
- 60 Early whirly
- 61 Nullify
- 64 Type of keel
- 65 Gravitate (toward)
- 66 ___ motion (start)
- 67 Johnny Bench's team
- 68 Fine things?
- 69 Current fashion

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14						15					16			
17						18					19			
	20							21		22				
23							24					25		
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31				32		33			34		35			
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39	40	41					42				43	44	45	46
47								48			49		50	
51					52	53	54			55		56		
57				58					59					
60						61		62						63
64						65					66			
67						68					69			

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DOWN

- 1 Flat-faced dog
- 2 Pie preference
- 3 Bill Murray army flick
- 4 Kind of talk
- 5 Philly team
- 6 "Piece of cake!"
- 7 Triumphant cry
- 8 Palette selection
- 9 Laughing beast
- 10 Biblical preposition
- 11 Shining example
- 12 Be at the controls
- 13 Sewing kit items
- 18 Insect with pincers
- 22 Button on a mixer
- 23 Sonny and Cher's "I ___ You Babe"
- 24 Type of illusion
- 28 Top-of-the-line
- 30 Demeanor
- 32 Turtle foursome, briefly

- 34 Riding
- 37 Good point
- 38 Open, as records
- 39 Tiny biter
- 40 Last longer than
- 41 Policy signer
- 44 Cut off
- 45 Food that jiggles
- 46 Scammed
- 49 Join the Navy, e.g.

- 53 Word at an unveiling
- 54 Kind of tube
- 56 Mixing board slider
- 58 Heaps
- 59 Supplies workers
- 62 Wine holder
- 63 Tackle's teammate

Answers to Previous Crossword:

A	D	D	S		E	L	B	A		L	A	R	C	H
B	A	I	L		D	E	A	D		A	C	U	R	A
E	L	S	E		M	A	Y	O		N	E	P	A	L
T	I	M	E	H	O	N	O	R	E	D		E	S	L
		E	V	E	N		N	A	M	E	L	E	S	S
F	O	M	E	N	T		E	T	U	D	E			
R	I	B		C	O	A	T	I			S	H	E	D
E	L	E	M	E	N	T		O	F	F	S	I	D	E
T	Y	R	A			T	E	N	O	R		L	I	V
			I	B	E	A	M		R	I	A	L	T	O
B	E	L	L	A	G	I	O		M	E	T	S		
A	V	E		C	O	N	T	R	A	S	T	I	N	G
B	A	T	I	K		D	I	A	L		I	D	E	A
E	D	U	C	E		E	V	I	L		R	E	A	R
L	E	P	E	R		R	E	L	Y		E	S	P	Y

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Improving your sleep quality and quantity

By Cindi Galabota
PREVIEW Columnist

I love my sleep, but I often do not get enough of it. Work, kids, worries and stresses all contribute to my poor sleep habits. And, I often eat late after taking care of everything else in my day. Can you relate?

Did you know we spend about a third of our lives sleeping? That's about 26 years of sleeping in an average lifetime. Sleep is an important aspect of creating a good daily routine. And, quality and quantity are both important when it comes to sleep. Without enough sleep our bodies aren't able to function properly.

Research shows you are at increased risk for high blood pressure, cardiovascular disease, obesity and several other disorders that can be improved or even avoided with quality sleep.

So, how much sleep do you need? Even though the amount of sleep required for each of us to have a productive day may vary, researchers have found that most adults need between seven and nine hours of sleep a night. (The National Sleep Foundation has recommendations for the amount of sleep infants through adolescents need.) How many hours of sleep are you getting each night?

Try following some or all of these tips to help improve your sleep quality and quantity:

- Stick to a sleep schedule, even on weekends.
- Avoid naps if you are having trouble sleeping at night.
- Exercise daily.
- Practice a relaxing bedtime routine, such as reading a book or listening to soft music.
- Wind down and relax a few hours before bedtime.
- Avoid cigarettes, alcohol and big meals before bed.
- Eat a healthy breakfast every morning.

Breakfast is often overlooked when it comes to a healthy lifestyle. Breakfast literally means "to break the fast" of not eating overnight.

According to Lynell Ross, a psychology-trained certified health and wellness coach and nutritionist, "When you eat a healthy breakfast, you feel energized and go through your day making healthier choices, giving you the energy to exercise and take care of yourself, so you sleep better at night."

Breakfast is important as it kick starts your metabolism, helping jump-start your calorie burning, and gives you energy to accomplish your goals for the day. Research recommends 30 grams of protein at breakfast. Some good options for a high-protein breakfast are cottage cheese, eggs, peanut butter, oats and bacon. Below is a recipe for easy five-ingredient overnight oats.

Peanut Butter Overnight Oats

This easy peanut butter overnight

Extension Viewpoints

oats recipe is made with only five ingredients. It is naturally sweetened, vegan, gluten-free and so delicious. It is not freezer-friendly, and it will keep in the refrigerator for two to three days.

Ingredients:

- 1/2 cup unsweetened plain almond milk (or other dairy-free milk, such as coconut, soy or hemp)
- 3/4 tablespoon chia seeds
- 2 tablespoon natural salted peanut butter or almond butter (creamy or crunchy, or use other nut or seed butter)
- 1 tablespoon maple syrup (or use coconut sugar, organic brown sugar or stevia to taste)
- 1/2 cup gluten-free rolled oats (steel cut or quick-cooking oats do not work well)
- Toppings (optional) such as banana slices, strawberries, raspberries, flaxseed or additional chia seeds

Instructions:

1. To a mason jar or small bowl with a lid, add almond milk, chia seeds, peanut butter and maple syrup, and stir with a spoon to combine. The peanut butter doesn't need to be completely mixed with the almond milk (doing so leaves swirls of peanut butter to enjoy the next day).
2. Add oats and stir a few more times. Then press down with a spoon to ensure all oats have been moistened and are immersed in the almond milk.
3. Cover securely with a lid or seal and set in the refrigerator overnight (or for at least 6 hours) to set/soak.
4. The next day, open and enjoy as is or garnish with desired toppings.

Optional: You can also heat your oats in the microwave for 45-60 seconds (ensure there is enough room at the top of your jar/bowl to allow for expansion and prevent overflow), or transfer your oats to a saucepan and heat over medium heat until warmed through. Add more liquid as needed if oats get too thick/dry.

Extension office

The Colorado State University (CSU) Extension office in Archuleta County is located at the County Fairgrounds at 344 U.S. 84.

We are open to the public Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (we close for lunch from noon to 1 p.m.). Stop in and say hi, call the Extension office at (970) 264-5931 or email cindi.galabota@colostate.edu.

To learn more about the many programs, resources and services offered by CSU extension, visit <https://extension.colostate.edu>.

CPR and first aid classes

CPR and first aid certification classes are offered every other month

at the CSU Extension office, generally on the third Monday and Wednesday from 6 to 10 p.m. The cost for the classes is \$80 for combined CPR/first aid and \$55 for CPR, first aid or recertification. Call the Extension office at (970) 264-5931 to register.

Check out the online option on

■ See Viewpoints on next page

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WATER INTAKE MAY HELP WITH ALLERGIES

Allergies have caused many people to dread the spring, or pets, or... With allergies having many causes, one possible solution may await our trial- water. A good inner-rinse can do wonders to rid the body of the irritating allergens. See today's excerpt for more details.

Spring has sprung and so has the official start of the allergy season. It is quite common for patients to come to my office during allergy season thinking they have a tooth infection emanating from a toothache in the upper back teeth. In fact, these seasonal allergies can create sinus pain in the upper teeth and gums because they touch the maxillary sinuses.

Increased pollen in the air inevitably brings a variety of symptoms such as sinus congestion and pressure, sneezing, sniffing, coughing, as well as itchy and watery eyes. Sinus congestion can also produce swollen gums, headache, fatigue, and cause swelling of the face and gums. Here are my top tips for dealing with pesky pollen:

It all starts with nutrition. Seasonal allergies put your immune system on alert, stressing your body and increasing the need for nutritional support. Remember the A-list: Alkalizing, Anti-inflammatory, and Antioxidant-rich.

Eat green leafy veggies and juices, lots of berries (especially blueberries), fresh fruits and vegetables. At the same time, avoid foods that produce mucus such as sugar, dairy, and wheat. Supplements such as grapeseed extract, quercetin, and vitamin C are also effective in reducing allergy symptoms.

Hydrate, hydrate, hydrate. Seasonal allergies are brutal on the body's ability to stay hydrated. Drink lots of water to flush your system and support the elimination of the foreign irritants in your system. Hydrating also thins out mucus and supports sinus drainage. Sinus congestion also leads to dry mouth and the decrease in the presence of protective saliva. This can lead to an increased risk of tooth decay and gum disease. Avoid beverages that contain alcohol or caffeine as they are dehydrating. The goal is to drink 8 (6-8 oz) glasses of water per day.

Source: "Top Tips to Smile Through Spring Allergy Season!" By Gerald P. Curatola. <http://www.doctoroz.com>

Bonus Tip: Visit <http://www.AmazingFacts.org> for spiritual refreshment every week!

"...and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not." Isaiah 58:11 last part

A public service from your Adventist friends & neighbors at Pagosa Springs Seventh Day Adventist Church.

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We’re not that easy to love

By Betty Slade
PREVIEW Columnist

Love brings struggle. Life is hard at best. But, God is love and He draws us to Himself in love. So, two loves struggle to become one.

Poets speak of love. “It’s better to have loved and lost than never loved at all,” states a poem by Alfred Lord Tennyson.

Reaching forward to April 1, my Sweet Al and I will celebrate our 65th wedding anniversary. We stand in awe that we have made it this far. Was the struggle worth it? Heavens yes. Did we want to throw in the towel? Heavens yes, many times.

We didn’t know when we spoke our vows — “for better or worse, for richer or poorer, in sickness and in health, to love, cherish, and to obey, till death us do part” — that we would actually experience all that. We have, and we will.

We’ve lived through some worse patches, but some better ones, too. We’ve known poorer more than richer, but we’ve always had plenty. We are living in sickness at the moment and trying to be healthy as we grow older. One day we’ll experience till death us do part.

People ask us how we made it. I always tell them love, laughter and a greater commitment to the Lord than to each other. What? That doesn’t sound right, but it’s the truth.

Still moving slowly from an accident in August, Al is losing his patience with me. “See that piece of paper you dropped on the floor? I have to go behind you and pick it up.”

“Thank you. Al, I didn’t have my picker with me.”

“You need to get well.” Al wants it to be like it was before the accident. It’s not happening. There are some challenges along the way.

Life is changing, and it is necessary that I leave the toilet seat up so my Sweet Al can hit the hole.

I told him for years to put down the toilet seat. He’s confused; he doesn’t know what I want now.

After a month of this horrible stomach flu, I’m still fighting to get well, still

Viewpoints

■ continued from previous page
our website, <https://archuleta.extension.colostate.edu/>.

Archuleta County Realtor Education Day

Join Archuleta County Weed and Pest Supervisor Ethan Proud and other local experts for an Archuleta County Realtor Education Day on April 17 from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the CSU Extension building located at 344 U.S. 84.

This program is approved for four continuing education credits. Registration information to come.



struggling to advance from the walker to the cane, striving to get my strength back one step at a time.

A writer friend of 30 years introduced me to the greatest contemplative writer of his time.

John Ruusbroec, “the Admirable,” (1293-1381) an important Medieval mystic. He lived a God-seeing life.

Ruusbroec wrote, “In this storm of love two spirits struggle—the Spirit of God and our spirit.

“God, by means of the Holy Spirit, inclines [Godself] toward us, and we are thereby touched in love; our spirit, by means of God’s activity and the amorous power, impels and inclines itself toward God, and thereby God is touched.

“From these two movements there arises the struggle of love... Each spirit is wounded by love.

“These two spirits, that is, our spirit and God’s Spirit, cast a radiant light upon one another and each reveals to the other its countenance. This makes the two spirits incessantly strive after one another in love... and lose themselves in one another.

“God’s touch and his giving of himself, together with our striving in love and our giving of ourselves in return—this is what sets love on a firm foundation.”

I’ve had moments I thought I was going to strangle Al, but I needed him. He was saved by being a sweet guy, not by me being noble.

To keep him busy this winter, he has worked on his and my closet. I remember the day when I had two closets and I gave Al 3 feet of space for hanging his clothes. Now, he’s sized me down to one half of a hanging rod for my clothes. He’s moved my shoes up two rows from the top and asked me what I wanted to do with the rest of my shoes.

The shoe racks are brimming over with his. He still has that shoe fetish

after all these years and he still loves beautiful clothes.

Final brushstroke: Love, laughter and a greater commitment to the Lord has held us together. If you struggle to love, remember it’s better to have loved than not loved at all. If you’re struggling to love, your partner is, too. It’s a God thing to be touched by love.

Send your comment to bettyslade.author@gmail.com.

Views expressed do not necessarily represent those of The SUN.

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SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

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!

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

ANSWER:

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you’ll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

This free event is hosted by CSU Extension.

Field to Freezer Course

Colorado Parks and Wildlife will be holding a Field to Freezer Course on May 16 and 17 at the CSU Extension building located at 344 U.S. 84.

Trained professionals will teach you how to responsibly care for and process the meat from any big game ungulate in Colorado. Participants must be at least 16 years old. Visit <https://forms.gle/owfhB5R8PTpYY-HGGA> to register.

There are limited spots available. Applications are due by May 9.

We see the climate change in New Mexico

By Laura Paskus
PREVIEW Columnist

Here in New Mexico, our growing season has lengthened since the 1970s, even as stream flows have decreased. Fire season starts earlier, lasts longer and, in some years, ignites the forests into record-breaking blazes, like the gargantuan Hermits Peak, Calf Canyon and Black fires in 2022.

If you look at the last century in New Mexico, stretches of higher temperatures have lengthened; heat waves are hotter; and nights are consistently warmer.

Rising heat and expanding aridity harm ecosystems, and wildlife and hotter days are dangerous for anyone outside, especially people without housing or access to cool spaces. Extreme heat even interacts with certain medications people need for their physical and mental health.

It should be no surprise that we're facing another crackly dry spring, summer and fall. Fans watching the March 2 Oscars on Albuquerque TV saw flashing red-flag fire warnings. The next day, high winds and dust storms blasted the state; near Deming, a haboob of fast-moving dust shut down highways.

As of early March, 92 percent of New Mexico was experiencing drought, with almost 30 percent of the state in severe to extreme drought, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor.

Arizona is in even worse shape: 100 percent of the state is in drought, with 87 percent in severe to exceptional drought. And the interior West's three-month outlook is for warm, dry conditions — especially in Arizona and New Mexico.

Here in New Mexico, the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District — which supplies water for farms — is warning runoff season will be short and river flows low. The district's leaders are urging farmers to plan for extended periods between irrigation deliveries and say that without summertime monsoons, they will not meet everyone's needs this year.

During the 1900s — including during the infamous 1950s drought and earlier in this century — farmers could often still expect full water allocations in a dry year.

Now, when farmers don't receive water — and the Rio Grande dries for long stretches — it's not only because there isn't enough snow melting off the mountains. It's also because consistently dry soils suck up any moisture, making both forests and croplands thirstier.

Not only that, but decades of persistent drought and warming temperatures have desiccated reservoirs along the Rio Grande and its tributary, the Chama River.

On the Chama River, Heron Reservoir is 14 percent full; its neighbors, El Vado and Abiquiu, are at 14 percent and 51 percent, respectively. Further down the watershed, on the

Opinion: Writers on the Range

Not only that, but decades of persistent drought and warming temperatures have desiccated reservoirs along the Rio Grande and its tributary, the Chama River.

Rio Grande in southern New Mexico, Elephant Butte Reservoir is only 13 percent full, and its neighbor, Caballo, 9 percent full.

In New Mexico, some water users, including the irrigation district, rely on water piped from the Colorado River watershed into the Chama and then the Rio Grande. This year, most of that supplemental water won't be there.

The view upstream on both watersheds is also troubling, especially in Arizona, New Mexico and southern Utah, where the snowpack is "below to well-below median." Last month, the Colorado River's two largest reservoirs, Lake Powell and Lake Mead, were 34 percent full, the lowest they'd been in early February for the last 30 years of records.

I'm alarmed by many things happening right now, including the disappearance of climate data from federal websites and the gutting of federal workforces and budgets. We need wildland firefighters, scientists, and the staffers who kept our parks and public lands functioning.

But as a reporter who has covered climate change and its impacts in my state for more than two decades, I take the long view along with a local view.

We have known for decades that the planet is steadily warming and that the impacts of climate change would intensify. And we must resist focusing solely on the current chaos of the federal government.

There's never been a better time to become immersed in local politics or organizing, and to hold state and local leaders accountable for action on climate.

We can collaborate on local solutions and work together to better deal with the crises we face. Really, we have no choice.

Laura Paskus is a contributor

to Writers on the Range, writersontherange.org, an independent non-profit dedicated to spurring lively conversation about Western issues. She is longtime reporter based in Albuquerque, N.M., and the author of "At the Precipice: New Mexico's Changing Climate and Water Bodies." Views expressed do not necessarily represent those of The SUN.

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PAGOSA SCENE . . .

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS LENTEN FISH FRY

Photos courtesy Gene Tautges

Scene ... kicking off of the 29th Annual Knights of Columbus Lenten Fish Fry on March 7. The fundraiser is held every Friday during Lent at Pope John Paul II Catholic Church located at 353 S. Pagosa Blvd. It is open 4 to 6 p.m.



Bird of the Week



Photo courtesy Jeff Greer

This week's Bird of the Week, compliments of the Weminuche Audubon Society and Audubon Rockies, is the boreal owl.

Hiding is how small owls stay safe from larger predators. Dressed in camouflage, this one roosts quietly during the day close to the trunk, usually 15-20 feet from the ground and often hidden in dense coniferous vegetation.

The boreal owl has a circumpolar distribution, inhabiting forests of spruce, fir, aspen, poplar and birch across northern North America and Eurasia. Its range also includes high-elevation mountain forests in Canada and the western United States. This owl is typically nonmigratory, although in years when vole populations crash, or very deep or crusted snow makes hunting difficult, populations irrupt in areas south of its normal range.

The boreal is a small, square-headed owl with a pale bill, spotted crown, white spots on its back and brown streaks on its belly. Large yellow eyes peer out from its whitish facial disk with a dark border.

These solitary nocturnal owls most often hunt in early morning and late evening hours for voles, mice, shrews, squirrels, small birds and some insects in summer. Living where the ground is often snow-covered, the boreal uses its exceptional hearing to locate small mammals tunneling beneath the snow or scurrying across the ground. In winter, it listens from a perch before diving into the snow to grab its unseen prey in sharp talons.

When hunting is good, the boreal owl stores its excess food, which then often freezes. Before it can be consumed, the owl thaws it by sitting on it.

From mid-February to April, the male boreal owl calls at night to attract a mate to a potential nest cavity. He may furnish it with the bodies of dead prey to show her that he is a good provider. His call may be heard up to 1.5 miles away but he stops calling once he has a mate and otherwise is fairly silent.

Boreal owls change roost sites every day, adding to the difficulty of finding one. What a treat for a local skier who looked up and found this rarely seen owl perched on a tree at Wolf Creek ski area.

For information on events, visit www.weminuchaudubon.org and www.facebook.com/weminuchaudubon/.

Preview Calendar

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

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 cefflitt-kids@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.,

■ See Calendar on page 17

Trinity Anglican Church



*As he hung on the cross,
bloody and broken, the first
words of Jesus - "Father, forgive
them!" Really!? Why? John 3:16
Sunday, 10am*

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Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

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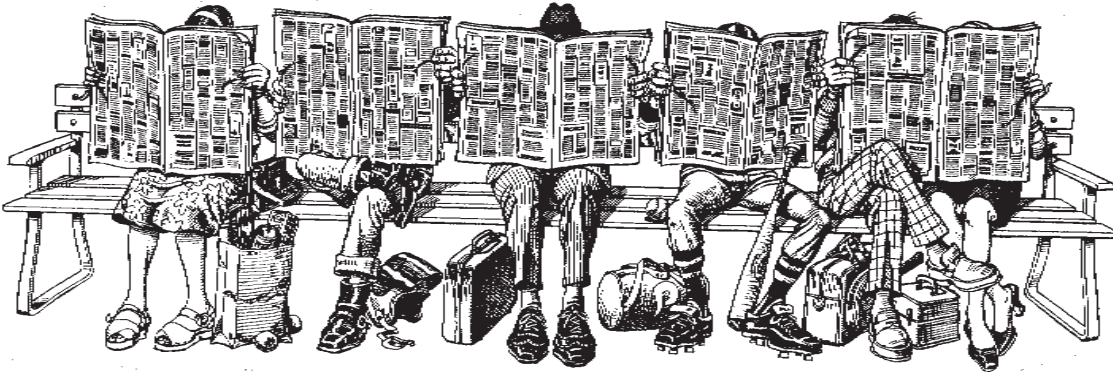
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Preview Calendar

■ continued from page 15

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@aspenhousepagosa.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).

Saturday, March 15

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 Piecemakers Quilt Guild. 10:15 a.m., Cornerstone Church. The meeting room is accessed through the back door of the church. Come early to fellowship. There will be refreshments and coffee.

Sarah Platt Decker Champster of the Daughters of the American Revolution. 10:30 a.m., Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St. The program will be an introduction to the local chapter's website that is under development.

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

St. Patrick's Day Festival. 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church. The event will feature the world's shortest St. Patrick's Day Parade at 11:15 a.m. and more. Children are welcome to ride on the float, and leashed dogs can participate in the parade.

Pokémon Club. 12:30-2:30 p.m., Sisson Library. For ages 6-11. Bring your cards to battle against others who love Pokemon too. No experience is required.

'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 17

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.

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

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

High School Math Tutoring. 4-5:30 p.m., Sisson Library. Math tutors are available for ages 14 and up. Registration is required.

Pagosa Unplugged. 4-6 p.m., Sisson Library. Musicians of all abilities are invited to jam and sing with others.

Archuleta School District Master Planning Advisory Committee. 5:30 p.m., Pagosa Springs Middle School library.

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.

BYOBinoculars. 8:15-9:15 p.m., Coyote Hill Trailhead. Join the Pagosa Sidewalk Astronomers for a tour of the night sky. Bring your own binoculars. A star guide will point out large deep-sky objects that look great with binoculars. The tour will begin promptly at 8:30 p.m. Dress warmly and, please, dim headlights as soon as possible.

Tuesday, March 18

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.

Adult DIY. 1-2:30 p.m., Sisson Library. Follow along and paint with Bob Ross.

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

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

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

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

Conversational Spanish. 4:30-5:30 p.m., Sisson Library. Practice your Spanish conversation skills in a group setting. No minimum skill level required.

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 19

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

Introduction to Pickleball. 8:30-11 a.m., Ross Aragon Community Center. Register on the Pagosa Springs Parks and Recreation page at <https://secure.rec1.com/CO/pagosa-springs-co/catalog>.

Kids Kare. 9:30-11:30 a.m., Pagosa Bible Church, 209 Harman Park Drive. A weekly club for 3- to 5-year-olds where the Bible is taught with songs, stories, object lessons, games and more. For more information, email Frank and Connie Porter at ceflittlekids@gmail.com.

Family Storytime. 10-11 a.m., Sisson Library. Join us for great stories, fun songs, and plenty of reasons to get up and move. It's a great way for kids to have fun while building the skills they need to become independent readers. For all ages. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information.

Mountain High Gardeners. 10-11:30 a.m., Community United Methodist

■ See Calendar on next page



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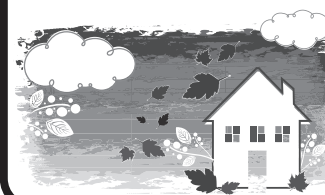
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Application Orientations

Monday, March 3rd at 5:30PM

@middle school library 309 Lewis St

Monday, March 10th at 1:00PM

@public library 811 San Juan St

Monday, March 24th at 5:30PM

@PCI 550 Hot Springs Blvd

www.habitatarchuleta.org
970-264-6960



Preview Calendar

■ **continued from previous page**

Church, 434 Lewis St. Join a roundtable discussion on preparing your garden for a successful planting season in Archuleta County. Both vegetable and flower gardeners are welcome to join in exchanging ideas, successes and challenges.

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

Mindful Drawing. 1:15 p.m., Senior Center.

Weminuche Audubon Society. 3 p.m., Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St. The local American Dipper Project will be highlighted.

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 High School Booster Club. 5:30 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School.

Weminuche Audubon Society. 6 p.m. Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St. Meet to socialize at 6 p.m. before the meeting at 6:30 p.m. Amy Dolan, conservation biologist, will speak about bumble bees, conservation concerns and what can be done to help.

BYOBinoculars. 8:15-9:15 p.m., Coyote Hill Trailhead. Join the Pagosa Sidewalk Astronomers for a tour of the night sky. Bring your own binoculars. A star guide will point out large deep-sky objects that look great with binoculars. The tour will begin promptly at 8:30 p.m. Dress warmly and, please, dim headlights as soon as possible.

Thursday, March 20

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

Online Author Talk: Clara Bingham. Noon, virtual. "How Women's Liberation Transformed America" with Clara Bingham. For details and to register, go to <https://libraryc.org/pagosalibrary/upcoming>.

End of Life Education. 1 p.m., Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St. Karis Meskimen will share about terramation, or body composting. Following at 2:30 p.m. will be the Writing for Generations activity.

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 of-

fers 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 21

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.

Internet Safety with Rise Above Violence. 2-3 p.m., Sisson Library. Learn about internet safety with Rise Above Violence.

Craftapalooza. 2-3:30 p.m., Sisson Library. Join for a variety of crafts for people of all ages and abilities.

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.

BYOBinoculars. 8:15-9:15 p.m., Coyote Hill Trailhead. Join the Pagosa Sidewalk Astronomers for a tour of the night sky. Bring your own binoculars. A star guide will point out large deep-sky objects that look great with binoculars. The tour will begin promptly at 8:30 p.m. Dress warmly and, please, dim headlights as soon as possible.

Saturday, March 22

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.

Knitters Circle. 1-3 p.m., Sisson Library. Join new or experienced knitters to get help with your project, or sit and knit.

Monday, March 24

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

Women's Fellowship. 9 a.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church classrooms.

Brain Fitness and Mobility. 10-10:45 a.m., Senior Center. For anyone 21 and older.

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

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

High School Math Tutoring. 4-5:30 p.m., Sisson Library. Math tutors are available for ages 14 and up. Registration is required.

Habitat for Humanity Application Orientation. 5:30 p.m., The Studios by Pagosa Community Initiative, 550 B Hot Springs Blvd.

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 25

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.

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

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guage 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 26

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

Introduction to Pickleball. 8:30-11 a.m., Ross Aragon Community Center. Register on the Pagosa Springs Parks and Recreation page at <https://secure.rec1.com/CO/pagosa-springs-co/catalog>.

Family Storytime. 10-11 a.m., Sisson Library. Join us for great stories, fun songs, and plenty of reasons to get up and move. It's a great way for kids to have fun while building the skills they need to become independent readers. For all ages. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information.

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

Mindful Drawing. 1:15 p.m., Senior Center.

Thursday, March 27

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

Caregiver Support Group. 10:30 a.m.-noon, Community Center.

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.

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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 28

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

Community Vaccination Clinic. 8:30-11:30 a.m., Community Center. 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.

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.

Saturday, March 29

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.

BYOBinoculars. 8:15-9:15 p.m., Coyote Hill Trailhead. Join the Pagosa Sidewalk Astronomers for a tour of the night sky. Bring your own binoculars. A star guide will point out large deep-sky objects that look great with binoculars. The tour will begin promptly at 8:30 p.m. Dress warmly and, please, dim headlights as soon as possible.



Celebrating National Nutrition Month: community resources

By **Rose Chavez**
PREVIEW Columnist

National Nutrition Month is March and is a good time to take a look at factors that might be interfering with your efforts to make sure you and your loved one are eating healthy. There's no question that selecting fresh, healthy ingredients is fundamental to older-adult nutrition.

As elders living alone and as caregivers, we're often called on to plan meals, prepare food, shop for groceries and sometimes eat alone or serve meals to our older adult loved ones.

Besides making sure food and snacks are on hand and properly stored, we also may need to ensure items that become spoiled, stale or otherwise past their prime are promptly discarded.

But what if you've done everything to motivate yourself to inspire meal prep and/or follow what the experts recommend and Mom or Dad just will not eat? If you've already ruled out medical conditions or side effects from a prescribed medication, you might consider adjusting other parts of the food routine to see if it changes your results.

Start with timing. We all know that people are supposed to eat three meals each day at standardized times during the day. But as an older adult or if there is an older person in your care, his or her metabolism may not have received that message. It can be useful to serve the meals you/they want when you or your loved one is actually hungry for them. Even if vegetables aren't your particular idea of a well-balanced breakfast, if that's when you or your older adult wants them, who are we to judge?

Adapt serving styles to your/their preferences. As we get older, our abilities for different tasks change in ways that are unique to each individual. If you suspect you or your elder may be uncomfortable with certain utensils, find a work-around. Serving soup in a coffee cup, for example, or cutting roast chicken into finger-friendly strips may be a solution.

Don't be afraid to spice things up. Nobody likes to eat food that tastes like nothing. As we age, our sense of taste can change or diminish. Some families we serve have found success with adding extra herbs and spices to an older adult's food, even if they previously didn't care for stronger flavors. Just be conscious of salt intake and any other dietary restrictions.

At Archuleta Seniors Inc. (ASI), we take proper nutrition seriously and are always looking for ways to make healthy eating more enjoyable and accessible for those in our community.

If you are an adult 60 or older, or are a caregiver of an older adult who needs nutrition support, please reach out to ASI to learn more about our signature meal program, how to benefit from supplemental nutrition options like meal kits/produce boxes,

Senior News

and/or receive nutrition counseling.

Contact ASI at (970) 264-2167 or stop by the office at 451 Hot Springs Blvd. in the rear of the Ross Aragon Community Center.

New caregiver support group starting March 27

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 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

■ See Senior on page 21



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THIS DAY IN HISTORY



1912: The Girl Guides (later the Girl Scouts) are founded in the United States.

1918: Moscow becomes the capital of Russia again.

2003: The World Health Organization releases a global warning about SARS outbreaks.

Money FACT:

Lenders and other people use this as a way to judge if a person is financially responsible.

Answer: Credit score

Double Word Puzzle

Unscramble the words to reveal the sentence.

NMOYE

1			2		

NVTSEI

3						4

DCERTI

						5

BNKA

			6

		M	
4	3		2

4	1

	U		G		
6		5		2	4

Answer: Time to budget

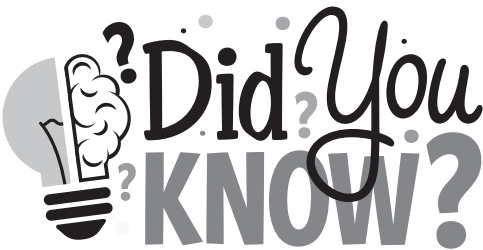
NEW WORD

BORROW

take and use money with the promise to pay it back

How they say that in...

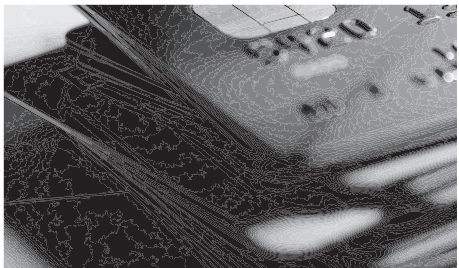
- English: Credit
- Spanish: Abonar
- Italian: Accreditare
- French: Créditer
- German: Etwas einzahlen



Checking your credit score will not adversely affect it. Checking the score can show if something is not right and needs to be corrected.



Get the PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Credit cards

Senior

■ continued from previous page

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.

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 class-

es 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 date is March 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.

■ See Senior on next page

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Senior

■ continued from previous page Community Cafe menu

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.

Monday, March 17 — Beef chili with cheese, wilted spinach, jalapeno cornbread, garden salad, fruit and milk.

Tuesday, March 18 — Chef salad, fresh berries, croutons, grilled cheese sandwich, tomato basil soup and milk.

Wednesday, March 19 — Crispy cod with tartar sauce and lemon, rice pilaf, broccoli, garden salad, fruit, cottage cheese, and milk.

Thursday, March 20 — Pork tenderloin with harvest chutney, sweet corn, garden salad, banana pudding, muffin and milk.

Friday, March 21 — Potato leek soup, focaccia bread, garden salad, fruit, dessert bar 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

pickup a meal. A suggested donation of \$6 helps to sustain our program. For ages 59 and younger, the cost is \$10.50. No one will be turned away for their inability to donate. Please call or text us at (970) 264-2167 to make a reservation.

Meals on Wheels

We deliver fresh Meals on Wheels five days a week (and provide frozen Meals on Wheels for weekends) to homebound Archuleta County residents. Call or text us at (970) 264-2167.

Mobile food pantry service

Older adults needing a ride to a local food pantry should contact the MET to schedule a ride with its para-transit service. For more information, contact Lavonne at (970) 264-2250.

Text reservations

Don't forget that we offer a convenient texting service for you to communicate with us. Text us at (970) 264-2167. When texting, please include your name, phone number and the days you want a meal. If you are canceling a reservation, please include your name, phone number and the days you want to cancel.

Texting services are available for dine-in meal reservations, Grab-N-Go meals and Meals on Wheels recipients.

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.

Support the Senior Center

Please support our ongoing operations and programming that provide critical services to some of the most vulnerable in Archuleta County.

You may mail your donation to P.O. BOX 3444, Pagosa Springs CO 81147, or please visit our website: <http://www.psseniors.org/> (donation button).

Donation checks can be written to: Archuleta Seniors Inc.

We are located at 451 Hot Springs Blvd. For more information about ASI, please visit <http://www.ps-seniors.org/>.

Colorado Department of Education publishes free K-12 math resources

Colorado Department of Education

The Colorado Department of Education (CDE) released a suite of free K-12 resources to support educators and families with math instruction.

The CDE Math Intervention Resources were co-created with 18 math teachers from 12 Colorado school districts and four institutions of higher learning and the Colorado Council of Teachers of Mathematics (CCTM).

These resources are designed for educators, families and out-of-school-time professionals to support student success in key areas of mathematics.

The resource toolkits include educational materials, assessments and engaging activities designed for classroom and out-of-school-time use and address critical gaps in effective math intervention strategies.

"Math is the foundation for so many opportunities in school, careers and life, and we are committed to ensuring every Colorado student has the support they need to succeed," said Colorado Education Commissioner Susana Córdova. "These new intervention resources provide educators, families, and community partners with targeted,

research-based tools to strengthen math learning and help students build confidence in their skills."

The toolkits are designed to complement the initiatives established under House Bill 23-1231, a bipartisan legislative effort to improve K-12 math proficiency in Colorado following a decline in math scores since 2020.

The initiative is part of a broader effort to enhance math instruction and provide targeted support to boost statewide student achievement.

The toolkits can be found at www.cde.state.co.us/comath/math-toolkits.





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CDL DRIVER. Ponderosa Lumber is hiring a CDL Driver. This is a full-time position. Duties include deliveries, loading /unloading trucks, and helping customers. Requires the ability to drive a stick shift and have a Class B endorsement. We offer paid time off, medical, dental, vision, prescription, 401(k) and Profit Sharing. Please apply at Ponderosa Lumber 2435 Eagle Dr. (970)731-4111.

J AND J ENTERPRISES is looking for friendly and enthusiastic people who are eager to help customers navigate the wide world of cannabis. We offer paid sick leave, product sampling, employee discounts, sales bonuses and comprehensive on-site training! Must be 21 years of age. A Marijuana Enforcement Division badge is required to start work. E-mail your resume to employment@jandjinc.net or check us out on Indeed.com.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONCERNED ABOUT ANOTHER'S DRINKING? Pagosa Springs Al-anon Family Group meets Tuesdays 6-7p.m., Pagosa Bible Church. Questions? Call/ text (303)815-8569. www.al-anon.org.

PAGOSA AA: M-W-F 5:30p.m. Mens' meeting Tuesday 5:30p.m. Saturday and Sunday 10a.m. Tuesday and Thursday at noon. 315 N. 2nd St., County Road 200 (.2 miles off 160). Zoom Sunday 10a.m. Zoom Thursday noon women only; ID 858 319 763, password 754 234. Call Kathi (970)946-1482 or Central Office (888)333-9649.

THERE IS A SOLUTION GROUP of Alcoholics Anonymous meets Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, 5:30-6:30p.m. Pagosa Bible Church, 209 Harman Park Drive. Questions? Richard: (970)903-1456. Diamond: (970)264-1073. More resources: www.aa.org, www.aa-westerncolorado.com, (970)245-9649, (888)333-9649 (24 hours).

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COLORADO DREAM HOMES is seeking a finish carpenter for year round work. Pay is dependent on skill set and experience. Paid holidays, accrued PTO and annual bonuses. Please send resumes to coloradodream-homesinc@gmail.com or swing by our office at 2283 Eagle Dr. to hand deliver or fill out an application.

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Benefits for all FULL-TIME positions include (but are not limited to) PERA State Retirement, Life Insurance, optional Health and Dental Insurance and paid Discretionary Days.

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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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THE TOWN OF PAGOSA SPRINGS is seeking to hire an **Administrative Assistant** in the Administration Division. The individual selected for this position is responsible for performing a variety of routine and complex clerical, record-keeping, and administrative functions to support the operation of the Administration Department. 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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HOMES FOR SALE

HOMES FOR SALE

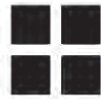
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Grace, inclusion and bring brought back

By Stan and 'Bert Counsell
PREVIEW Columnist

Stress. Who doesn't encounter it? At times, we can have it on speed dial. We all know that famous saying, "If it doesn't kill you, it only makes you stronger." Although true for most, sometimes it can kill one emotionally and spiritually who is in want of a Christ-honoring church.

We once co-pastored two churches in the high desert. It was common to suffer from very humid/fainting heat, driving dust devils and sometimes deal with more rattlers than people. We must admit though, sometimes the rattlers were nicer to hang around.

But, there are times when stress seems to sucker punch all of us when we least expect it: times of political unrest, disturbing world news, family upheavals, financial woes and the almost never-ending burden of age-related health decline. During such, we can forget our standing with our loving Almighty God.

If you recall, we had been looking at the lives of sisters Martha, Mary and their brother Lazarus. This close-knit family was well-heeled they would not be in want for their daily living. They had the finances, housing, food, water, wine, clothing, jewelry, friends and village popularity. Yet, with life, they too had the tables turn on them.

The Lord knew this before all of creation. Satan was going to rival Him from every angle, seeking to destroy or dilute the Lord's every plan. In Genesis 1:31, the Lord declared that His finished work was "very good." From ancient Hebrew, the words "very" and "good" meant: "exceedingly mighty, precious and excellent." In short, the whole of creation was beyond awesome.

But, it didn't take long for Satan to spring into action. He ruined the perfect harmonious relationship that Adam and Eve had with their Creator; once walking with the Lord, now they hid from Him. Their relationship with God was forever tarnished, the family structure falling into disrepair.

Grievous stress had entered the lives of the sisters and their brother. Lazarus had fallen ill and his strength was waning rapidly. Feeling "not so hot" soon became the dread of impending death. Martha and Mary, seeing his decline and knowing that medical care failed, immediately sent word to Jesus. Yet, Jesus seemed not to be coming.

We all know those feelings of abandonment, isolation, being ghosted, ignored, our plight not even on God's radar. It is a horrible situation to navigate — prayers seem unanswered, godly counsel appears insufficient, one starts to feel alone in a crowd.

Jesus did arrive, but not when the sisters wanted it; he was far too late. Their beloved brother had died and was long buried. The anger, feelings of hopelessness and dreadful ac-

A Matter of Faith

We all know those feelings of abandonment, isolation, being ghosted, ignored, our plight not even on God's radar.

cusations of, "Just, where were you? We needed you," permeated the mourners.

Their anguish, frustrations and rage started to take its toll. Faith in Jesus was now openly challenged, accusations overwhelming many. Such a torrent of emotions deeply moved Jesus. It also frustrated him to near anger with all the shedding of tears; they had chosen their feelings over their faith in him.

Yet, Jesus said, "Where have you laid him?" Jesus, being the Son of God, didn't need to ask; he knew full well where Lazarus was buried. But, he was bridging the gap of raging despair by asking for them to "assist" him.

When at the tomb, Martha got in a final and painful jab, "Lord, he's been dead for four days." Translated, it was far too late now, the body was decaying, releasing horrible odors. Jewish culture and traditions always said that when death had reached four days, all hope was lost for resurrection. But, didn't Jesus decry human traditions?

Such anger, judgments and chidings didn't confine him. He could have easily commanded the stone to move away from the tomb's entrance. But, with his love and grace, he again asked for their assistance, "Take away the stone." He then called for Lazarus to come out.

To everyone's shock, horror and amazement, Lazarus stumbled forward, his face still covered in his burial mask, his hands and feet still bound. Again, Jesus could have commanded all burial trappings to immediately fall off, but he didn't. Instead, he again included the "assistance" of the people to remove the mask and ties.

This is one of the glorious traits of Almighty God. We can disappoint,


aggravate and grieve God, but it isn't He who walks away. It's us with our unbelief. Jesus, by asking for their assistance, brought them back into the fold by including them in his mighty miracle. The followers were, once again, back with Jesus being their shepherd. Isn't that incredible? God often includes us, even when kicking and screaming, to partner with Him in miracles — that's grace.

When a large throng grew hungry and faint when listening to him far from their villages, he told the disciples to feed them without proper resources. They found a lad with barley loaves and a few fish and brought them to him. Jesus blessed them and had the disciples disseminate it to the needy people. Surprising all, the food continued to multiply as needed. Yes, Jesus created the miracle, but he included the disciples from beginning to end. They were a team with Jesus at the helm.


Miracle after miracle involved, by his grace, the disciples. After all, Jesus had said more than once, "Follow me." Note he never said, "Lead me." With him in front meeting the needs of the people, the disciples were included, for they followed him. Jesus didn't need them for the miracles, but he included them.

We fall short all the time, but Jesus doesn't. We, so flawed, can grieve and bring sorrow to him, but he will still reach out and bring us back to himself. He's but a breath away, inviting us back to him, to fully use and encourage us. Isn't that beyond wonderful? He will find and bring us back.

This column may include both fiction and nonfiction, and views expressed do not necessarily represent those of The SUN. Submissions can be sent to editor@pagosasun.com.



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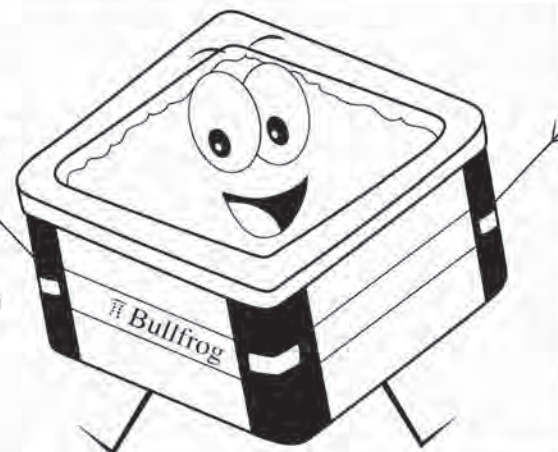
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