



Pagosa West subdivision
plans meet opposition at town
planning commission meeting

By Derek Kutzer
Staff Writer

On March 25, the Pagosa Springs Planning Commission decided to delay a final decision on a sketch major subdivision application for a development being called Pagosa West, voting to continue the matter for future consideration.

The decision came in the wake of a packed-house audience that mostly voiced its concerns and opposition to the development.

An agenda document on the matter describes Pagosa West as “a residential and mixed-use commercial development located in Pagosa Springs, situated on a +/- 100-acre site along the south frontage of US Highway 160, between South Pagosa

Blvd and Pinon Causeway.”

The applicant proposes “a multi-phased subdivision development with full build-out occurring over the next 10 plus years,” according to agenda documentation.

Development Director James Dickhoff explained that development would occur in three phases, with phase one expected to connect the subdivision with the existing development around City Market to the other side of the highway, while also adding sidewalks and long-awaited connections to the Town-to-Lakes Trail.

The 100-acre parcel currently encompasses three different zoning districts — mixed-use residential (MU-R), mixed-use corridor (MU-C)

■ See Opposition A9

Fire hydrant testing discussed
at joint town-county meeting

By Derek Kutzer
Staff Writer

On March 25, at a joint meeting, the Pagosa Springs Town Council and Archuleta County Board of County Commission (BoCC) discussed the testing of area fire hydrants.

Most of the fire hydrants in the Pagosa Springs area belong to Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD), with PAWSD District Manager Justin Ramsey saying that PAWSD is responsible for about 1,140 hydrants.

PAWSD had discussed at its March 13 board meeting a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Archuleta County Sheriff’s Office’s (ACSO’s) Office of Emergency Management regarding the testing of fire hydrants.

A story about that meeting appeared in the March 20 issue of The SUN.

However, at the joint meeting, Archuleta County Sheriff Mike Le Roux explained that “at no point in the discussion that we had [with PAWSD]” was there any indication about the sherriff’s office “taking a lead role” in testing the hydrants.

“I certainly will not be signing an MOU, and I will not be taking the lead role in testing any hydrants or taking jurisdictional authority, which belongs to PAWSD,” he said, adding, “I just wanted to clear up some of the misunderstandings in the article published that the sheriff’s office would be available for testing hydrants.”

He then clarified what was discussed.

■ See Hydrants A8

County
attorney
resigns

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

Archuleta County Attorney Todd Weaver submitted a formal resignation letter addressed to all county elected officials and county department heads on Thursday, March 20.

The county posted the job opening the same day.

According to the letter, Weaver will continue working with the county until April 9, adding he is committed to “ensuring a smooth handover of responsibilities.”

Weaver explained in an interview that he is returning to private practice and “joining a law firm in the Front Range as a partner.”

Weaver mentioned that his new position comes with a “significant increase in pay,” adding that it “felt like it was just time for a change” after spending the past six years as Archuleta County’s attorney.

“I’ve enjoyed my time, but I just felt like the time was right to move on to new things, quite frankly,” Weaver said.

He also mentioned that he feels he has “accomplished a lot here,” noting efforts in bringing more affordable and workforce housing to the community from his involvement in the Rose Mountain Townhome project and assisting the county in having lots donated to go toward various

■ See Attorney A8



SUN photo/Clayton Chaney

Members of Archuleta School District’s Master Plan Advisory Committee play “Schoolopoly” during its meeting on March 17, giving members ideas for potential plans and associated costs.

School district’s master plan committee
discusses options for facilities

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

Ideas about the best option for Archuleta School District (ASD) in addressing its aging facilities were tossed around at the March 17 Master Plan Advisory Committee (MPAC) meeting.

The meeting consisted of committee members splitting into

groups to play “Schoolopoly,” where each group was able to come up with multiple possible scenarios, comparing the costs of major renovations versus a new building.

Brian Calhoun and Doug Abernethy, representatives from RTA Architects, facilitated the meeting, explaining the goal of the game was for committee members to

gain a sense of perspective about varying community priorities and the potential dollar cost associated with each project.

ASD Superintendent Rick Holt also reminded the committee that the “hope” is for the MPAC to be able to give a recommendation to the Board of Education (BOE) by the end of the committee’s fourth

■ See Facilities A8



U.S. 160
reconstruction
project underway

SUN photo/Randi Pierce, photo courtesy Colorado Department of Transportation

Downtown Pagosa Springs took on a new look this week as the U.S. 160 reconstruction project began. Initial work included remarking lanes prior to the placement of concrete barriers. The newly configured traffic pattern for the 2025 portion of the project includes two-way traffic in the eastbound lanes.

Slate of candidates for
LPEA board announced

La Plata Electric Association

La Plata Electric Association’s (LPEA) independent election supervisory committee has qualified candidates for the cooperative’s 2025 board of directors election.

LPEA has four director districts, established geographically, and LPEA’s membership elects four representatives to the LPEA Board of Directors, one from each district.

Qualified candidates for the 2025 director elections are as follows:

- District 1, Archuleta County: Dusty Mars and Holly Metzler.
- District 2, south and west La Plata County: Greg Barber, Brad Blake and Terry Greiner.
- District 3, city of Durango: David Peters and Joe Lewandowski.
- District 4, north and east La Plata County: Lyle McKnight and John Witchel.

Expanded voting options
now available

LPEA is excited to announce the introduction of online voting for the 2025 board election.

Paper ballots will still be mailed, and members will have the choice of how they’d like to cast their vote.


Even if a member has opted out of receiving a paper ballot this year, per state statute, they will still receive the notice of the annual meeting by mail.

How to vote

Starting April 21 at 8 a.m., eligible voters will have multiple ways to cast their ballots:

- Online via SmartHub: Log in to your secure SmartHub account (where members pay their bills online). A “Vote Now” button will appear for eligible voters, allowing


■ See Candidates A8



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Opinion

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OUR VIEW

Waiting to be reassured

A Monday headline from The Atlantic rose above the rest: "The Trump Administration Accidentally Texted Me Its War Plans."

We love government transparency around here (even inadvertent transparency), so we clicked and read a number of stories on the matter.

We read, along with millions of others, that Atlantic's editor in chief, Jeffrey Goldberg, had apparently been inadvertently added to a group chat where top officials were discussing plans for ongoing military operations against the Houthis in Yemen.

The chat was taking place on Signal, an open-source, commercially available messaging platform that touts secure messaging through encryption.

We've since heard several responses from the federal government, almost simultaneously, calling it a glitch, indicating it isn't a big deal, and even that Goldberg is a liar, despite others in the federal government stating the communication was authentic and taking responsibility.

There were statements issued that no classified data was transmitted, and that Signal is secure and approved for use on government phones.

On Wednesday the chat was called "sensitive policy discussions" and we

were told we should find the conversation reassuring because of how "dynamic" the military and intelligence team is.

We recognize that more information will come out in the coming days, but we feel like we know enough to be the opposite of reassured.

Not realizing you've inadvertently let someone without proper government clearance into your "secure" and "sensitive" policy discussions isn't very reassuring. Lying about it while simultaneously authenticating it isn't very reassuring. Using an app to discuss sensitive data after the National Security Agency warned against using that app a month prior due to vulnerabilities (including Russian hackers using phishing scams to gain access to conversations) doesn't leave us reassured. The use of emojis instead of actual words somehow also isn't very reassuring coming from top people in what's supposed to be one of the world's top nations.

The incident has brought up numerous questions from national security experts and average Americans alike, and could have put service members in harm's way who didn't need to be there.

And then there's the whole bit of it where those in the highest positions of our country were chatting in a group text

and didn't even know who all was in the group. Whoops.

Some have joked that "VP" in the chat could have been Vladimir Putin.

Whether or not you agree with the action taken in Yemen or not, or if the information Goldberg was privy to is considered "war plans" or not is beside the point. What matters right now are security and trust.

The American people deserve the answers to each and every question being asked of the federal government regarding this situation, without our nation's top officials turning to insults, name-calling and gaslighting.

Because of this, there will likely be questions that we won't have answers for a long time, if ever. Just a few of those are: What else is being or has been communicated via methods that have not been approved for the transmission of classified or sensitive information and matters of national security? Are these records being kept in accordance with our nation's laws? How inadvertently transparent did the United States just make itself to our adversaries at a time when our relationships with our allies are strained?

We'll keep waiting to be reassured.

Randi Pierce

LEGACIES

By Shari Pierce

100 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
March 27, 1925

When only a mile from the local station, a coal car on the Pagosa flyer jumped the track last evening delaying the arrival of the train for about two hours.

Pagosa residents are frequently the recipients of first-class mail sent by aeroplane, one of the latest being Mrs. May Kuhn, who recently received a letter from Chicago the next day after the same had been mailed.

The highway is now open for auto travel and in fair shape, except for a small portion on the west side of Yellowjacket divide. Several cars are daily traversing the road.

The newly organized Archuleta County Game and Fish Protective Association is now quite busy campaigning for membership with excellent results. The officers have decided to enlarge the scope of endeavors of the organization to include every possible need of the community, with especial attention to boosting and encouraging every worthy enterprise. These matters will be brought up and discussed at the first annual meeting to be held in May.

75 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
March 24, 1950

All residents of the town and county are urged to be present at the meeting to discuss the proposed community hospital this Saturday at 2:30 p.m. If it is necessary the meeting will be adjourned until 8 in the evening and those who can't make it in the afternoon will have a chance to take part in the discussion that evening.

There have been several proposals advanced in regard to the proposed building and these will all be presented at the two meetings. One that is of importance to everyone in the county is the proposal that a one mill levy be placed on all property for the support of the hospital. This and others will be explained and everyone will have a chance to express their opinions.

The plans as now drawn up call for an expenditure of \$90,000 for the completed building all equipped and ready to operate. Of this amount only \$53,000 will have to be furnished locally. The remainder will be paid by the federal government.

The meeting will open in the district courtroom at 2:30 p.m. the afternoon of Saturday, March 25 and will reconvene at 8 p.m. All citizens of the county are urged to be present.

50 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
March 27, 1975

Wolf Creek Pass is in the news this week as snowfall records tumbled there last week and more snow has fallen this week. Previous record snowfall for an entire winter was 619 inches. The first of April found snowfall for the winter at 645 inches, 41 inches fell the first of the week and there is more on the way.

A familiar face will be missing from the business section of town as Aubrey Fowler retires. He was been the owner of Moorehead Garage, which has been purchased by Ken Buhler. Aubrey has been one of the seven day a week workers and will now have a well deserved opportunity to travel and enjoy life. He has been with the garage for 42 years and well and favorably known to just about everyone.

EG&G cloud seeding firm reports that weather conditions were suitable on March 23 and 24 and that seeding operations were carried out on those two days. Conditions were also suitable on the 25th but no seeding took place. Conditions were not suitable the rest of the week. EG&G has seeded 12 out of the 27 suitable days this winter.

25 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
March 23, 2000

It was once called Gato, Pagosa Junction was, and like its namesake — the cat — it has had nine lives. Now that the Padilla family is moving out, the old river village and railroad town is empty. For the first time since 1880 and maybe earlier, Pagosa Junction has no residents. The move has moistened more than one cheek with a silent tear shed in memory of an almost forgotten past.

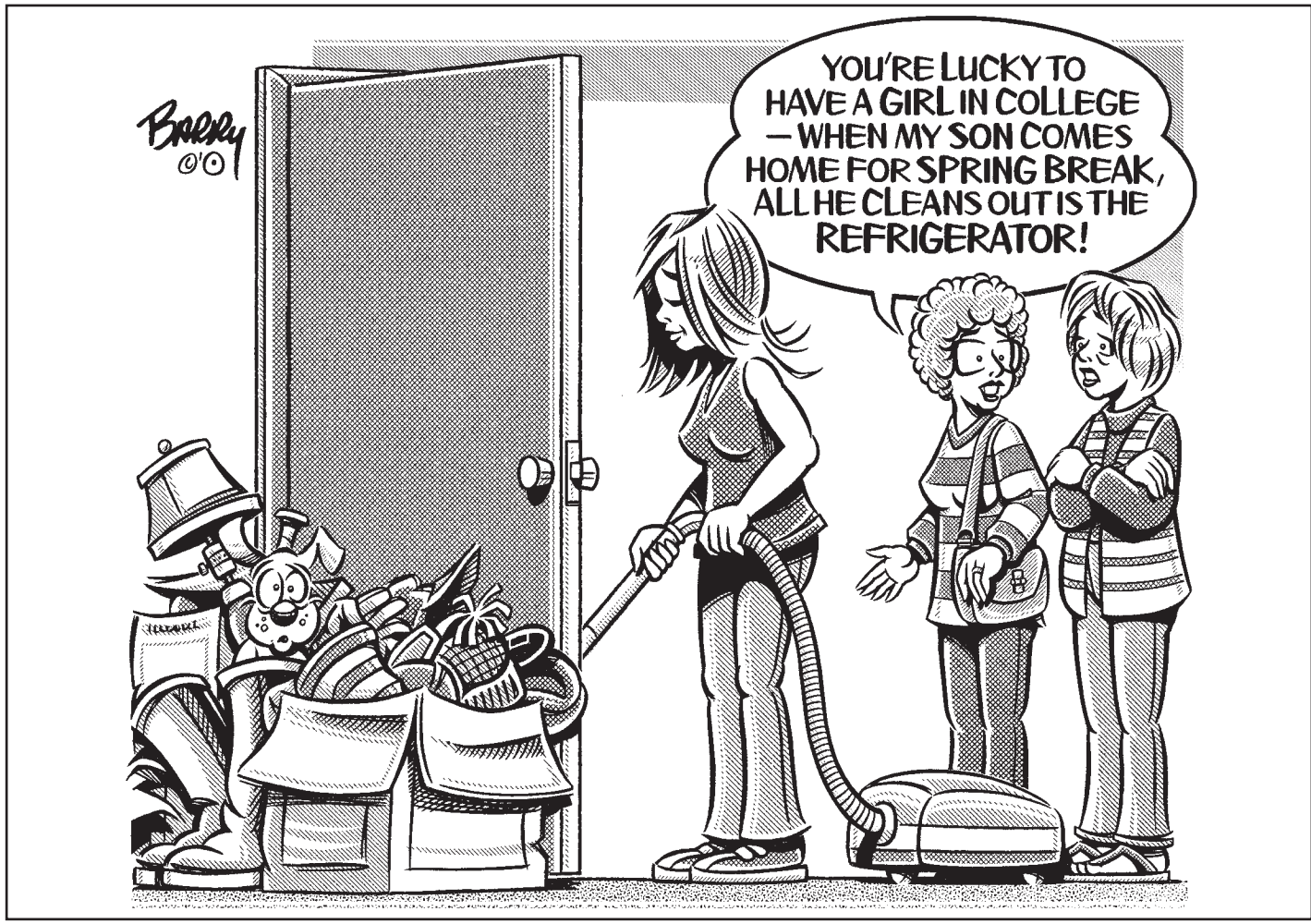
The Gomez Store moved from Pagosa Junction to Pagosa Springs this past week to become part of a museum collection at the Fred Harman Art Museum. The old warehouse formerly located across the railroad tracks from the store also moved out last week and now rests on Juanita Hill on the south side of Trujillo Road overlooking the San Juan-Navajo river union at Juanita.

The Padillas are direct descendants of the pioneering Gomez family and grew to adulthood in Pagosa Junction. For the past few years, Lilliosa Padilla and son Ray have been the only residents of Pagosa Junction, and of a life-supporting system for the crumbling community. Felix Gomez, Lilliosa's father, had closed the doors on the Gomez Store in 1971, leaving its contents intact.



From the March 23, 2000, Pagosa SUN — The Gomez Store is on a truck and bound for a new home. A Pagosa Junction landmark since 1911, the store leaves behind an old friend, the railroad water tower. In former times, Denver and Rio Grande Railroad trains chugged through Pagosa Junction. Passengers and local residents bartered with members of the Gomez family. The store with all of its contents has found a new home at the Fred Harman Art Museum in Pagosa Springs.

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Weather data

Date	High	Low	Precipitation	
			Depth	Type
3/18	44	23	NA	NA
3/19	37	13	NA	NA
3/20	45	9	NA	NA
3/21	51	17	NA	NA
3/22	53	25	NA	NA
3/23	59	22	NA	NA
3/24	63	23	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.

Incompetence

Dear Editor:

My head is exploding with the knowledge that top administration officials were communicating “operational intelligence” freely on an unsecured app, Signal Messenger, LLC, to which some member of the group had “inadvertently” added The Atlantic Magazine’s editor-in-chief, Jeffrey Goldberg. To his credit, Mr. Goldberg wrote about the astonishing incident without compromising the security of US Intelligence.

I am beyond stunned at the incompetence and stupidity of the Trump officials/Cabinet members/Vice-President/Secretary of State/SecDef/Director of National Intelligence/National Security Advisor/Chief of Staff/Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy, et al.

Now they are trying to “spin” this idiotic breach into a working policy discussion as if it is of little consequence. To my mind, this is tantamount to TREASONOUS neglect of intelligence and behavior not in keeping with any patriotic intent. In any other administration, these foolish people would immediately lose their security clearances, their positions, and their time in grade. Some might even face prison sentences. Hegseth has clearly placed American military men and women in harm’s way and could have easily been responsible for the deaths of hundreds of patriotic individuals serving their country in the most honorable of ways. He is clearly unfit for duty.

All of the GOP Congressmen and all of the GOP Senators smoothed the way and consented to the appointments of Hegseth, Rubio and others who make up the top tier of Trump’s Cabinet and governmental appointments. They are responsible and should be held liable for this breach of conduct and thoroughly incompetent, unprofessional behavior!

Trump is trying to cover for the actions of his majorly unqualified crew of moronic minions. We are becoming the laughingstock of the civilized world. America can kiss it’s formerly stellar reputation as a world leader goodbye. Who would trust us now?

Serious question - Is this a violation of any laws regarding exposure to espionage? If so, these people should be relieved of their duties forthwith and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. I am including Trump as well. He has more than demonstrated he is not fit for the duties of President of these precious United States of America. He should be impeached and removed from office as soon as it can be arranged.

The House and Senate Democrats and any Republicans who can no longer live with the shame of having acquiesced to Trump’s pressure to “go along” with his autocratic regime should make haste and act now to save our country and our democracy before it’s too late. Please, I am imploring you to save this country and stop the benign neglect that seems to have overtaken the Legislative Branch of Government!

Sincerely,

Eddie Abbott

Sales tax

Dear Editor:

Dear Town of Pagosa Springs, if you want county residents to help pay for the city’s sewer system upgrades and lower the people in towns sewer bills, I personally think this should be a county wide ballot issue and not just the town as we people in the county are far more numerous than those in town. We will make up most of the tax base as this sales tax will encompass every store and business. As said in the newspaper article it could get passed no problem telling the town they will receive \$10 a month off their bill if they vote yes as the rest of the people in the county get to pay the bill for them. As a long time Archuleta County resident this makes me feel like the town is willing to make me pay someone else’s bills with no say in the matter. I try to spend all my money in town as this is where I live and make my living. This just seems like taxation without representation and if you did this, I would need to do my shopping in Durango or Farmington and take my revenue and sales

tax money out of Pagosa Springs and Archuleta County.

Charles Cloward

Lawless administration

Dear Editor:

“We want to restore the Department of Justice to an institution that focuses on fighting law and order.” Seems the word “for” is missing. This is what is called a Freudian slip: a verbal slip of the tongue revealing a person’s true thoughts and feelings.

Space considerations prevent me from addressing the numerous examples of the current Administration’s lawlessness. Instead, I will address the Chief Justice’s response to the Administration’s ignoring a lawful order to cease certain deportations and threatening impeachment of US District Judge Boasberg.

Finally, Chief Justice Roberts speaks up, barely. He’s a smart man. Certainly, he knows that he and the Court he’s supposed to be leading have created the autocrat who is trying to destroy the judiciary, the legislature, the press, and every other critical institution, agency, and norm our beloved democracy has long revered and relied upon. SCOTUS decisions in Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission, Shelby v. Holder, Trump v. United States and other cases, are the principal contributors to the constitutional crisis we presently face. Also, there is the question of ethics and the countless situations where Justices should have recused themselves when there was an obvious or perceived conflict of interest—fundamental ethical standards required of all employees in every corporation and nonprofit for which I worked over my long career.

Roberts’ legacy, and that of his Court, is one of ignominy, and will be reviled long into the future—more treacherous and wantonly destructive than Plessy v. Ferguson, for it is not just black citizens whom he and his Court have betrayed, but an entire Nation.

Each citizen’s response is a matter of personal conscience. But one thing no citizen should do is deny reality or try to normalize that which is not!

Denise Fazio

Jail agreement

Dear Editor:

Too late probably! But don’t sign the IGA yet!

Plain and simple, not one of us, can pay the bills with this-for-that goodwill.

Goodwill of the past is good and well, but doesn’t pay the bills. Charge today what things are worth today, especially here in the most expensive place to live.

Housing another county’s criminals too cheaply and giving them all top health they are sure to demand will come high to those that hold the purse strings. ‘Extending by six years coverage for Archuleta County, in case someone attempts to come back and sue’ is forward thinking yes (see Inmates continued paragraph 9) but will that pay the invoice of being pathetically undersold?

Letters

The SUN welcomes letters from readers.

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

All letters must:

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

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

Letters quoting other people must contain proper attribution.

There is no guarantee letters will be published.

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

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

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

If La Plata County and Durango both today charge 198 dollars per day to house an Inmate and 110 is Archuleta County’s goodwill fee, it seems we may have been undersold and BoCC should seriously hit the brakes, do their own price negotiating, without the Edward Scissor Hands mentality of paying bills with goodwill cookies.

Adjust the rate to current. Why wear the kick me sign and look the uninformed in this. Aspire to do the best for our County, can’t be that hard to figure it out. Someone of BoCC, researching to determine current costs and not just settling on an amount thrown out from the Gallery like going low to win the lottery of it.

With H R comes great responsibility, and is never cheap (and like being traded for goodwill gifts of the past) is also imprudent

Simply, Archuleta County should charge going-rate, perhaps more to cover the cost of living here.

You can pretty much bet that Health Care itself will charge the going rate for everything they do and provide those Inmates.

Considering this-for-that goodwill sentiments as markers like old money laid down, is never going to meet the demand for any payment anywhere. And there is no such thing as cheaply acquired routine health either.

Carmen Ferguson

Constitutional crisis

Dear Editor:

Are we heading for a Constitutional crisis? Some constitutional lawyers and other experts wonder this in news stories every other day, as if it were a cliff we are possibly inching toward. I am not a lawyer but I would say No! We are not heading toward a constitutional crisis! We hurtled over the edge weeks ago and are perhaps millimetres away from hitting the rocks at the bottom. Or, as Ozzy Osbourne sang in 1980, “I’m going off the rails on a crazy train.” The song also says,

“I’ve listened to preachers, I’ve listened to fools

I’ve watched all the dropouts, who make their own rules

One person conditioned to rule and control

The media sells it and you live the role”

Sound familiar? Here we are

again, or still, but now with social media and the ability to choose the news sources we follow and believe, these times seem even more terrible.

Legal immigrants being hauled out of their homes and workplaces, US citizens being locked out of their offices and forcibly removed by an unelected white supremacist tyrant, travelers being detained at borders. The stock market is tumbling, unemployment is being deliberately increased, inflation going up and up. Nobody wants to visit or invest in America.

Meanwhile top notch scientists and weather forecasters are fired as we face even more extreme weather, measles outbreaks and still COVID. History is being erased from government websites: no mention of the Civil War, The Tuskegee Airmen, Navajo Code Talkers or any female or non-white veterans is allowed.

None of this is helping our country, paying off the deficit, keeping us safer or making America great.

Alice Walker reminds us, “That it is right to protect rather than terrorize others; right to feed people rather than withhold food and medicine; right to want the freedom and joyful existence of all humankind. Right to want this freedom and joy for all creatures.”

She also said, “Despair cannot share the same space as wonder.” (We Are the Ones We Have Been Waiting For, Inner Light in Time of Darkness, 2006)

Last weekend when I was skiing, everyone I shared a lift ride with reminded me of all that is good in this country, at this time. Every person was exuberant, freely expressing the joy we share in the powder snow in these beautiful mountains. Strangers laughing together, telling stories, trusting and helping one another. This is what makes us great.

Lisa Jensen

‘A Confederacy of Dunces’

Dear Editor:

There is a book named “A Confederacy of Dunces” by John Kennedy Toole and I am borrowing that title because it so perfectly fits Trump and his cabinet, along with the other minions he has put into key governmental positions. So far, Trump’s cabinet is comprised of inexperienced people

■ See Letters A4

U.S. 160 reconstruction information

Week of March 31 to April 5

Work activity

- Concrete barrier installation to delineate the two-way traffic from the work zone continues.
- The 2nd and 4th street intersections on the north side of U.S. 160 will remain closed until utility and drainage work is complete. Pedestrian crosswalks at these intersections will remain open.
- Pedestrian crosswalks will be open at 1st, 3rd and 4th streets. Mid-block crossings between 4th and 5th will be closed, but the crosswalk at 5th Street will remain open.
- Asphalt milling the north side construction zone continues.
- Crews continue removal of the existing signage.
- Utility potholing (small, drilled holes to locate utilities) will begin in the work zone.
- Night work is anticipated to begin at the end of the week with approval from the Pagosa Springs Police Department.
- Mountain Express Transit shared this important information about bus stops: The River Center stop #18 has moved to 1st Street and U.S. 160 in front of the museum. Bus stop #19, 2nd St. and U.S. 160, has moved to 2nd Street and Lewis Street.

Upcoming work

- Removal of existing sidewalk, and curb and gutter on the north side.
- Access to local businesses will be maintained throughout this operation and businesses will be notified of work taking place around their location.
- Please be alert when you are traveling through the new traffic configuration or visiting the downtown businesses as heavy equipment will be frequently moving throughout the project limits.

Traffic impacts

- Motorists could expect up to 15-minute delays at various times through the work zone as equipment may need to be moved. There will be two-way traffic flowing in the eastbound lanes of U.S. 160 through the first season of operations.
- 10-foot width and 75-foot length restrictions will remain in place 24/7 through Dec. 1.
- During inclement weather, project engineers will assess the roadway and work location to make determinations on work continuing depending on safety concerns for workers and commuters.
- Working hours are Monday through Saturday, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., and subject to change.

Stay informed and connect with the project

- Call the project information line: (970) 335-9230.
- Email the project team: Pagosa160reconstruction@gmail.com.
- Visit the project website: www.codot.gov/projects/us160pagosaprisngs.
- Subscribe to project updates: subscription.cotrip.org.

Information provided by Colorado Department of Transportation

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■ **Continued from A3**

with no knowledge of their departments. My alternate name for the above is the Trump Cartel. If being cruel, a bully, threatening and seeking retribution on people opposed to you, then Trump fits the bill of a leader of a cartel. A shout out to the evangelicals, Trump is an antiChrist. Do you really think that Jesus would act in any way like this president has towards his own people? I don't think so. Now, we have an unelected Elon Musk in charge of slashing the EPA, I mean, who doesn't want clean air and water? Who wants to know if a tornado is coming your way? I could go on, but you get the picture. Then, we have Musk and his crew who are ripping into our Social Security and have access to our personal information. These people have not been vetted, we don't know if they would use information they acquired from Social Security to use it in an inappropriate way once they are out on their own. Musk says he is being transparent. Do you know the names of the people rifling thru our personal information? I don't. I agree that we have a bloated government, but the way Trump and Musk are doing it is inhumane and just mean. Plus he is firing people with good qualifications with commendations for good performance. Then he is rehiring the same people -oops- he made a mistake. We need the Forest Service and National Park Rangers to take care of one of our most treasured assets. The National Parks are dedicated to us, the citizens of the United States. Do you remember what happened last time the government was shut down and what people did to our National Parks? If we want to get rid of the bloat, let's look at Congress and wonder what in the world they are doing. So, far, not much. Fear has become the main emotion not only of Congress, but of us. We used to be the home of the brave, now it seems we are the home of the afraid. I hope not and I have seen people who have integrity and ethics standing up to Trump and Musk. We need to support them and we need to do the same. We always preach to stand up to a bully to our children, well, we should practice what we preach.

Barbara Parada

Is this what you voted for?

Dear Editor:

Several weeks ago, I asked Trump's evangelical MAGA disciples, "Is this what Jesus would do?" This week, I'd like to ask all Trump voters another simple question, "Is this what you voted for?"

Trump's gutting of foreign aid has abandoned programs fighting disease and starvation around the world. People have already died and thousands more will die in the future. Is this what you voted for?

Trump plans to dismiss over 80,000 employees at Veterans Affairs, including 20,000 veterans. The VA absurdly "promises" that this will not affect veterans' care. Is this what you voted for?

Trump already fired 7,000 Social Security workers and plans to cut the workforce by 50%, leading to office closures, long delays, and termination of phone services for seniors. Musk has said that entitlements are not sacred, based on ridiculous lies about 150-year-old beneficiaries. Is this what you voted for?

Trump wants to cut Medicaid and other health programs by \$880 BILLION. Medicaid is used by 72 million low-income Americans. Trump has also eliminated billions in grants for treatment of cancer, Alzheimer's, and other diseases. People will die! Is this what you voted for?

Trump is eviscerating the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, which includes the National Weather Service. This includes deep cuts at the centers which predict and track tornadoes, hurricanes, fire weather, snowstorms, and tsunamis.

People will die! Is this what you voted for?

Trump's discharge of Federal employees does not consider their education, experience, and value to the citizens of our nation, let alone their personal welfare. What business would do this? Is this what you voted for?

Trump is threatening to ignore the courts when they rule against him, completely upending the Founder's conception of three equal branches of government and setting up a Constitutional crisis. He claims he is above the law. He has already taken control of the cowardly Republicans in the legislative branch. Is this what you voted for?

Trump pardoned hundreds of insurrectionists who injured and killed police officers, including one who was a major drug dealer. Is this what you voted for?

Trump has fired thousands of employees from the National Park Service, leading to closed visitors' centers, cancelled programs, campground closures, and long entry lines.

This is even though our National Parks return far more in economic benefits than they cost. Efficiency? Is this what you voted for?

Trump's sacking of thousands of USFS employees and termination of fire mitigation grants has dramatically increased the threat of wildfire in our own backyard. Is this what you voted for?

Trump has crowned himself the "king." Is this what you voted for?

If your answer to these questions is No, it is too late to repeat the election. But you can make your voice heard to the President and our legislators. We don't have to accept the status quo. Trump and Congress work for US, not the other way around.

John Porco

Elon Musk

Dear Editor:

Elon Musk bought his way into our government by spending \$290 million on Trump's reelection campaign. Musk's businesses have received \$38 billion in government contracts, loans, and tax credits. Now this South African immigrant is working to steal more from ordinary Americans.

Musk plans to defraud our veterans by cutting 80,000 jobs from the VA. He's threatening to eliminate Medicaid, withdrawing healthcare from 72 million needy Americans. He's plotting cuts to Social Security and Medicare.

Before the election, Trump promised to "end inflation on day one." Instead, prices have risen. He now says "a recession might be worth it" as he destroys our economy with tariffs.

Why does Trump love tariffs? Two reasons: The first is that progressive income tax imposes more taxes on the wealthy. Tariffs are essentially taxes on the poor and middle class. Trump wants to extend his tax cuts for the rich by imposing taxes on the rest of us.

Secondly, Trump wants to run our country like a mob boss. If he inflicts pain on all businesses, he can then accept bribes from those seeking an exemption from his tariffs.

Trump brought in Musk not to eliminate waste and fraud, but to transfer the nation's wealth from the poor and middle class to the billionaires.

How can we stop this? Call your senators and representatives every day. Tell your friends how Musk is stealing from them. Pro-democracy demonstrations are springing up around the world. Join a local protest. It's actually a lot of fun.

Philip Riffe
Hesperus, Colo.

LPEA EV charger rebates

Dear Editor:

La Plata Electric Association (LPEA) offers rebates to Members who buy electric vehicle (EV) chargers,

electric lawnmowers, snowblowers, bikes and similar expensive equipment. But is this fair for everyone? All LPEA Members pay uniform electricity rates, meaning every household contributes equally regardless of income. This means Members who cannot afford expensive EV equipment indirectly subsidize wealthier Members who benefit directly from the rebates. This creates an unfair economic imbalance. For example, buying and installing an EV charger can cost more than \$1,500. Many families simply cannot afford electric vehicles and toys and don't want or need that expense. Additionally, offering these rebates can raise LPEA's overall operational expenses, which increases electricity rates for all Members. LPEA should choose better ways to use Member funds. Examples include upgrading older power lines, transformers and infrastructure to reduce outages, or setting aside funds to protect Members from sudden electricity rate increases due to fluctuations in energy costs. Open and transparent conversations within our community are needed to ensure decisions about rebates and spending are fair and helpful to every Member family.

Voice your concerns to LPEA CEO Chris Hanson at a "Coffee with Chris" in Pagosa Springs 04/08/2025 at the Root House 8-9:30 am. Or find him in Ignacio 03/27/25 at Rise and Shine 8-9:30 am. Or email LPEA at memberservices@lpea.coop or call (970) 247-5786. Our electric coop needs to treat its Members fairly while keeping costs down.

Marybeth Snyder

Immigration

Dear Editor:

To continue our exploration of possible immigration policy: If the deepest affirmations about life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness incline us never to limit others' freedom unless they have committed a crime, then we ought to consider all immigrants free to come to the United States unless they have been convicted of a crime.

Now you might receive this assertion and have a visceral reaction to what seems like an "open border" idea. But let's look at the border for a moment. In order to enter the US after a time abroad, we citizens must produce photo identification to a law enforcement official. And while in the line—and often standing in front of the official—we are photographed so that our face and identity are on record. Even though we might, in some sense, say that the border is "open" to US citizens, the government has a keen awareness of my comings and goings. If there is a warrant out for my arrest, then the act of passing through the border will sweep me into the justice system.

In pursuit of broadening our vision of all people possessing life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness we should allow anyone who wishes to enter the United States to do so. Of course, upon entry their identities will be recognized and entered into a federal database linked to their names and other personal information, just as mine is. And, just as I am, now on US soil they will be subject to all the laws of the land.

Let's pause there, because you may be thinking, "But it's against the law just to let anyone in without some sort of documentation (a visa, passport, etc)." And you would be correct. But remember that we are not here seeking to figure out how to enact the law as written; we have already asserted that the present system is broken. We are trying to ascertain what the law should be. The possibility I am opening up is that anyone not convicted of a crime has the right to enter the United States freely.

Of course, certain questions or objections follow. We shall walk through those questions and see how they might be answered based on the principles of life, liberty, pursuit of

happiness, and rule of law.

First: Are we letting in criminals? The short answer to this question must be Yes, just as when we let citizens have children we let them birth criminals. In every population there will be people who commit crimes. A more meaningful way to look at this question is to ask, What proportion of immigrants are convicted of crimes relative to the citizen population. According to a Brookings Institution report (3 Feb 2016) first- and second-generation immigrants have lower crime rates than native-born citizens. Letting people into the United States does not increase our levels of crime.

Next: Criminals Part 2 and, Will they take our jobs?

Thanks for engaging in deep thought about the important issues.

Emrys Tyler

National Vietnam War Veterans Day

Dear Editor:

March 29th is National Vietnam War Veterans Day. The Vietnam War recognition act of 2017 was signed into law by our 45th president and designates every March 29th "National Vietnam War Veterans day" in perpetuity. March 29th was chosen as the day to remember and honor our Vietnam Veterans as it was the day that our last combat troops left Vietnam. It was also, on or about March 29th, when Hanoi released all acknowledged prisoners of war.

As the last U.S. Combat troops left the country, America's direct involvement ended and South Vietnam assumed responsibility for all combat operations. 23 months later, on April 30, 1975, North Vietnamese tanks rolled into Saigon, the capitol of South Vietnam, and with Saigon captured, the war had finally ended.

Approximately 2.7 million U.S. troops served in Vietnam over our 20 year involvement between 1955 and 1975. At the height of the war, there were over 550,000 U.S. troops in Vietnam. More than 58,000 were killed and over 300,000 wounded.

Unlike Veterans of other wars, Vietnam Vets did not return home to cheers and ceremonies. Most Americans wanted to forget the trauma of

■ See Letters A5

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Samuel Rae Gettman

Samuel Rae Gettman, 82, passed away March 8, 2025, at home in Pagosa Springs, Colo., under the care of Hospice of Mercy. No services are planned at this time.

He was born Aug. 4, 1942, to Robert and Elizabeth Gettman in Greeley, Colo. He was married Nov. 27, 1971, to Beverly Richison. Samuel spent many years driving commercial trucks for Safeway in Arizona and retired in 1993. He was a member of Teamsters Local 104 in Arizona. Samuel and Beverly moved to Pagosa in 1995 and back to Arizona in 2005. Samuel loved his Colorado mountains and was an avid outdoorsman, fisherman and hunter. Samuel was a life member of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. They moved back to Pagosa in 2021.

He is survived by his wife, Beverly; children: Austin and Justin (Rhonda) Gettman; granddaughter: Samantha; two great-grandchildren: Waylon and Hayden; and sister: Marlene (Tom) Haberman.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a sister, Annette Fox.

Memorial contributions in Samuel's name may be sent to Hospice of Mercy.

"So when you walk the woods where we once walked together and scan in vain the dappled bank beside you for my shadow, or pause where we always did upon the hill to gaze across the land, and spotting something, reach by habit for my hand, and finding none, feel sorrow start to steal upon you, be still. Close your eyes. Breathe. Listen for my footfall in your heart. I am gone but merely walk within you."

Sam W. Lane Jr.

Sam W. Lane Jr., age 89, died Saturday, March 22, 2025, in Center, Texas.

Visitation will be held from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., Friday, March 28, 2025, at Watson and Sons Funeral Home in Center. Graveside service will be held at 2 p.m., Saturday, March 29, 2025, at Oaklawn Memorial Park in Center.

Sam was born Feb. 26, 1936, in Austin, Texas, to Sam W. Lane Sr. and Irene Childs Lane, who predeceased



him. He spent his early years in Center, Texas, with his aunt and uncle, Judge Wardlow Lane and Lois Lane, and was devoted to both them and his parents. Sam graduated from the University of Texas School of Business and later joined the United States Army in 1960. He earned his juris doctor in 1965 from the University of Texas at Austin School of Law, admitted to Texas Bar in 1966, and went on to open a private law practice in Dallas, Texas.

Sam enjoyed listening to music, reading and watching football, especially the Texas Longhorns. He loved his afternoon naps, jogging, skiing and spending time in Pagosa Springs.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Sam W. Lane Sr. and Irene Childs Lane; and brother, Wardlow Lane II.

He is survived by his wife of 38 years, Frances; sister-in-law, Linda; nieces, Lauren Lane, and Aleshia Fife and husband Keith; nephews, Wardlow Lane III and wife Catherine, and Mark Massey and wife Wendy; and many great nieces and nephews.

Pallbearers will be Wardlow Lane III, Michael Soto, Kristopher Dufrene, Frank Lane M.D., Donald Monroe and Howard Busby.

Thank you to the ladies of HeartsWay Hospice for their great care and compassion. Special thanks to nieces Lauren and Aleshia, and nephew Wardlow III and wife Catherine, for their help to Frances in caring for Sam at home during his illness.

Memorial donations may be made to Fannie Brown Booth Memorial Library, 619 Tenaha Street, Center, Texas 75935.

Online condolences and tributes can be sent at www.watsonandsons-funeralhome.com.

Randy R. Romero

Beloved brother, Randy R. Romero was born Sept. 14, 1958, in Durango, Colo.

He passed Mar. 9, 2025, in Denver, Colo.

Surviving Randy are brothers and sisters: Daniel Romero - Margaret, Maria Storts - John, Gloria Sublett - Bill, Richard Romero - Debra, Cayatana Camargo - Jose, Cindy Kenemer - Max, Becky Romero; and several aunts, nieces, nephews and cousins.

He was preceded in death by parents Elias and Cora Romero; brothers Leon Romero and Tommy Romero; and sisters Loretta Romero and Debra Thorne.

Randy loved billiards, cards, read-



ing and animals.

Services were held March 25, 2025, at Pope John Paul II Catholic Church in Pagosa Springs, Colo.

Steven Michael Ryan

The world feels a little colder without the warmth of Steven Michael Ryan, born May 22, 1950, in Illinois, who passed away on March 7, 2025. Steve's remarkable life was shaped by his love of the outdoors — whether it was building, skiing, AT'ing or simply soaking in the wild landscapes he cherished. After retiring from the Midwest, he found his true home in the mountains, where his passion for mountain life touched the hearts of everyone he met.

Steve was a man of many talents and interests. In his early years, Steve studied electrical engineering and civil engineering at Milwaukee Area Technical College and Milwaukee School of Engineering. He spent his career as an inspector for the Wisconsin power company. Raising his family in Oconomowoc, Wis., he retired at 55 years old and moved to Pagosa Springs, Colo. There, he became an active and respected member of his community, helping to establish the Pagosa Trail Riders ATV Club and joining the Gray Wolf Club at Wolf Creek Ski Area. He also dedicated his time to Habitat for Humanity, embodying the spirit of service and community.

Steve's life was further enriched by his family. He is survived by his loving wife of 52 years, Joyce Ryan, and their three cherished daughters, Autumn (Matt) Kappes, Shay (Eric) Lunseth and Shannon (Amelia) Dexter. The love he shared with his grandchildren, Katherine, Timmy, Steven, Grey, Aryanna and Leland, brought him immense joy in the final 16 years of his life. He is also survived by his brother, Gary Ryan. Steve was preceded in death by his parents, Phillip Ryan and Shirlee Harloff, who instilled in him the values of kindness, resilience and a deep devotion to family — values he carried with him throughout his life.

Steve's legacy lives on through the memories he created, the people he touched and the communities he helped build. We invite friends and family to share their reflections, stories, and photos on his memorial page (<https://cedarvalleyfuneral.com/obituaries/steven-ryan>) as we celebrate the vibrant spirit of a man who gave so much of himself to others. In lieu of flowers, please consider



planting a tree in Steve's honor or contributing to some of his favorite causes — Habitat for Humanity and the animal humane society.

As Emily Dickinson once wrote, "Unable are the loved to die, for love is immortality."

Though Steve is no longer with us in body, his love, his legacy and his light will continue to guide us forever.

John A. Tator

It is with great sadness that the family announces the passing of John A. Tator, age 76. John started his journey in up-state New York, where he spent much of his time hunting and fishing. In school, he was an athlete and a scholar. During the Vietnam War, John was a medic with the 101st infantry division and, although he did not talk about this time in his life, his role saved many lives and was awarded the Bronze Star Medal. After the war, his journey led him down many paths: he worked in the medical field, was a roadie for the band NRBQ and eventually landed in Portales, N.M., at Eastern New Mexico University, where he met the love of his life, Diann Vasquez. Their adventures were full of laughter, 80-mile hikes in the wilderness, road trips, music and dreams of a family. After graduation, Diann and John moved to Chama, where he began his teaching career. They then moved to Dulce and then to Lumberton, N.M., where John continued teaching at Dulce Middle and High School. In his time at Dulce schools, he was a science teacher, coach, bus driver, union leader and school board member.

In his life, John had many roles: an outdoorsman, a decorated soldier, an educator, a farmer, a rancher, a husband, a father and a loving grandpa. He was passionate about equality and justice. He was loving, loyal and a hard worker. He found so much joy in the years following his retirement through traveling with his wife and by being a full-time Papa.

He is survived by his wife, Diann; his three children and their spouses, Ian (Kristen), Kyle (Lisa) and Nievectas (Bill); his nine grandchildren; his brother, David; his sister, Lisa-beth Downs; and many nieces and nephews. John Tator's impact on his students, friends and family is his unique legacy. We love and miss you every day, Papa.



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County opts out of Big Spring Clean event for 2025

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

Archuleta County has opted out of the annual Big Spring Clean event this year.

Archuleta County Public Works Director Mike Torres spoke at a work session held by the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) on Tuesday, March 18, explaining current working phases and cell expansion plans at the county landfill.

Torres explained that, due to the work planned at the landfill, he suggested the county and Town of Pagosa Springs postpone this year's Big Spring Clean event until 2026, once the work at the landfill is completed.

Torres explained that trash is currently being put in cell 4A, and that "there's overburden from phase two, phase three and part of the trash that's overburden in the next upcoming construction of cell 4B."

According to a press release from Archuleta County, "The landfill expansion project involves excavation of approximately 172,550 cubic yards of earthen material, including an estimated 92,000 cubic yards of

previously disposed waste. This material must be relocated to the active cell, temporarily reducing the landfill's capacity for refuse disposal and making the hosting of the Big Spring Clean event impractical."

During the work session, Torres mentioned, "That's just an estimation right now," noting it's difficult to estimate what is actual trash and what is dirt.

"With that, my recommendation is going to be for the town and the county to hold off on the Big Spring Clean event until 2026," he said, explaining that would allow enough time for the completion of cell 4B to have enough space required for these types of cleanup events.

Torres also suggested that the county hold off on other volunteer roadside cleanup events until 2026 as well.

For a reference, Torres compared the amount of trash being excavated to the size of eight football fields with dimensions of 120 yards long, 53 yards wide and 10 feet high.

"Just something to consider," he said.

Commissioner John Ranson asked if the county had met with the town in

regard to postponing the event.

Torres explained he met with Tourism Director Jennifer Green, who indicated the matter would be brought to the town council.

County Manager Jack Harper indicated that the town also wishes to postpone the event.

Commissioner Veronica Medina clarified by asking if the town and county were "on the same page."

Ranson commented that he was "disappointed" to lose the event this year, but understands the needs at the landfill.

Medina commented that the community is not "losing" the event, but postponing to have a better plan for 2026.

Medina mentioned this is a "good time to recalibrate" in order to offer a better event next year.

The BoCC unanimously approved opting out of the event for this year during its regular meeting later in the day.

The county's press release also states, "Both the Town of Pagosa Springs and Archuleta County staff are committed to resuming the Big Spring Clean event in the spring of 2026."

clayton@pagosasun.com

Sir Winston Churchill once said: "All the best things are simple, and many can be expressed in a single word; Freedom, Justice, Honor, Duty..."

Thank a Veteran on March 29th (And every day!) and if they are a Vietnam Veteran, add "Welcome Home".

Richard Walker



■ Continued from A4

the Vietnam war and move on. As a result, Vietnam Veterans were seen as a reminder of defeat and a time that should be forgotten. While the initial reception was poor, there have been efforts to recognize and honor our Vietnam Veterans, including the des-

ignation of March 29th as National Vietnam War Veterans Day.

At a Medal of Honor presentation in 1981, President Reagan said of Vietnam Veterans: "They came home without a victory, not because they had been defeated, but because they had been denied permission to win."

Local people, local reporting.

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LPEA to offer ‘Current Conversations with Chris’ events

La Plata Electric Association

La Plata Electric Association Inc. (LPEA) invites cooperative members to meet LPEA's CEO, Chris Hansen, for a series of “Current Conversations with Chris” events.

These informal gatherings are an opportunity to engage with Hansen, ask questions and learn more about the cooperative's transition to energy independence during hours more convenient for those who work.

These meetings are in addition to the “Coffee with Chris” events taking place in local communities.

Appointed as LPEA's CEO in November 2024, Hansen brings more than 25 years of experience in the environmental and energy sectors.

A former Colorado state senator and executive director of the Institute for Western Energy, he has worked with renewable energy organizations, utilities and government agencies to



Chris Hansen

advance efficiency and sustainability.

Hansen is eager to connect with members, listen to their perspectives and discuss LPEA's efforts to

shape a sustainable and electrified future. These events have no formal agenda — just coffee, conversation and a focus on building community connections.

When and where

- March 25: 5:30 to 7 p.m. at Ska Brewery in Durango.
- April 16: 5:30 to 7 p.m. at Ramon's in Pagosa Springs.
- April 25: 5:30 to 7 p.m. at the Marvel Grange in Hesperus.
- June 10: 5:30 to 7 p.m. at Ska Brewery in Durango.

Why

These events offer an opportunity to learn about how the cooperative is proactively preparing to manage its own power supply with its departure from its current wholesale contract a year from now.

Attendees can ask questions about how LPEA is securing its own diversi-

fied energy portfolio, how the co-op is positioned to meet and exceed Colorado's climate targets or LPEA's broader vision for the future while engaging in open and meaningful conversations.

To RSVP and learn more about Current Conversations with Chris, visit lpea.coop/join-us-current-conversations-chris.

About LPEA

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

LPEA is the fifth-largest cooperative of 22 in Colorado and aims to provide safe, reliable electricity at the lowest reasonable cost to its approximately 36,500 members.

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

Rezone request for tiny home village for employee housing approved

By Clayton Chaney

Staff Writer

A rezoning request to allow for employee housing was recently discussed by multiple county boards before being approved by the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC).

The Archuleta County Planning Commission meeting on Feb. 27 consisted of nearly an hour-long discussion in regard to a rezone request being put forward by the Sharp family for the approval of two tiny homes and three RV pads to serve as housing for their ranch employees.

Planning Manager Owen O'Dell explained that the rezone request “comes out of the creation of Snowball Five minor subdivision,” which was approved by the planning commission in October 2024. That subdivision divided the Sharp's land into two parcels, one approximately 97 acres and the second approximately five acres.

O'Dell noted that the property was zoned as agricultural ranching, which allows for a maximum number of two dwelling units.

O'Dell also mentioned the area is designated as very low-density residential under the county's future land use map.

Attached to the meeting's agenda is a narrative from the Sharp family stating that La Plata Electric Association (LPEA) and the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD) will be able to serve the property.

The planning commission ultimately recommended approval for the rezone with a split vote of 3-1, with planning commissioner Peter Beaudry being opposed and commissioners Matt Nobles, Andre Redstone and Peter Vecvangs voting in favor.

The matter was then considered and unanimously approved by the BoCC on March 6.

During the Feb. 27 meeting, O'Dell explained that the Sharps intend to provide housing for full-time and seasonal employees on their ranch.

O'Dell mentioned that the request to rezone the property as a mobile home park will allow the Sharps to have a tiny home village designation, which requires a use-by-right permit under the county's land use regulations.

He went on to explain that in order for a rezoning application to be reviewed, the applicant must meet at least one of 10 review criteria outlined in the county's land use regulations, noting the application met eight of those 10 listed criteria.

O'Dell added that the development of employee housing is in line with the community's economic development plan.

Questions from the planning commissioners revolved around the significance of meeting one or all of the review criteria, along with if rezoning the property is the best approach to accommodate the plans and goals of the Sharp family.

Development Director Pamela Flowers explained that as long as at least one of the review criteria are met, then there is a reason to consider a rezone, and O'Dell commented that with the applicant meeting eight of the 10 review criteria, it exemplifies their compliance with the county's regulations.

Flowers mentioned that some of the criteria are conflicting, making it impossible for an applicant to be

able to meet all 10 review criteria elements.

Redstone voiced concern over the planning commission setting a precedent with its decision moving forward, noting the parcel in question is under the 35 acre minimum to be zoned as agricultural ranching.

Nobles also mentioned that the property could potentially be sold in the future and that future owners may seek to expand on the amount of dwelling units on the property.

Nobles commented that the planning commission previously approved the subdivision, and “now you're coming back and asking for a rezone as a mobile home park.”

O'Dell and Flowers both explained that county staff examined multiple other options to address the Sharp's request and found the rezone request for a mobile home park would allow them to obtain a tiny home village use permit.

Nobles inquired if the property could seek lodging permit approval rather than a rezone.

O'Dell explained that lodging is for commercial use, while the intention of the rezone is to provide residential housing.

“It's like a rental situation,” Flowers added.

O'Dell further noted that a maximum of two dwelling units is allowed for parcels three acres in size, which includes RVs.

He also mentioned there are dimensional standards as to how many mobile homes are allowed and that any additional dwelling units would have to be approved by the county if a

new owner were to come in and wish to increase the amount of tiny homes on the property.

O'Dell also noted that the property's septic system would need to be able to accommodate any additions, noting the current design is for the septic system to be able to handle three tiny homes.

O'Dell also reminded the planning commission that it is only considering the rezoning request in order for a tiny home village designation.

Nobles asked about other mobile home parks zoned in the county, with O'Dell explaining that mobile home parks are typically always “spot zoned” in nature, noting the last mobile home park approved in the county was in 2006, when the land use regulations were first introduced.

Redstone described the rezoning request as a “multifaceted application” while questioning if the planning commission could support its approval without setting a precedent for future cases.

Flowers explained that since the Snowball Five minor subdivision occurred, the planning department has changed its policy to where it will no longer approve the dividing of parcels under the 35-acre threshold attached to agriculture ranching zoning.

Flowers also explained that if the policy would have been changed before this application, the process would have happened in a reverse manner.

O'Dell and Flowers both explained that county staff examined multiple other options to address the Sharp's request and found the rezone request for a mobile home park would allow them to obtain a tiny home village use permit.

“This is what works,” O'Dell stated.

No public comment on the matter, in favor or against, was given at the planning commission meeting.

The property owners were in attendance at the BoCC meeting on March 6, and stated they have no intention to sell their property, implying the family is rooted in Pagosa Springs, with multiple family members owning various properties in the county, along with running three small businesses, mainly related to

ranching.

Jamie Sharp commented that she originally bought this property “in order to maintain the character of the area.”

She added, “We all live in Pagosa; we want to stay in Pagosa.”

One public comment from individuals claiming to represent the property's northern neighbors stated they were not opposed to the Sharp's proposal and planned use of the tiny home village to provide employee housing, but wanted clarification on if a larger mobile home park could result if the Sharps ever sell the property.

O'Dell and Flowers explained that a new buyer could add additional mobile home units, noting the maximum number of units allowed is 12 mobile homes per acre, and that density caps, dimensional standards and the service ability of PAWSD and LPEA would all have to be considered for any additions.

“They could have more, but not 60,” Flowers said.

Alex Sharp mentioned that the family understands the concerns from their neighbor and the county planning commissioners of what could happen if the property is sold with it being zoned as a mobile home park, but reiterated the family has “zero interest” in selling the property.

Commissioner Veronica Medina acknowledged the statements from the family about their intentions not to sell, but noted that there is no “crystal ball” with answers about what the future might hold.

Commissioner Warren Brown acknowledged the same concerns, while also considering the viewpoint of the applicant asking neighbors for an agreement on what could happen to their properties if the neighbors decided to sell their land.

Brown noted that those two requests do not seem any different from each other while also not being appropriate, indicating that if the applicant is meeting the qualifications, then the request should be approved.

Brown then motioned to approve the request, which was unanimously approved by the BoCC.

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Agreement approved to house Durango municipal offenders

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

On Tuesday, March 18, the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) approved an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) with the city of Durango for the county to house Durango municipal offenders at Archuleta County's detention center.

Durango's city council initially approved the IGA during a regular meeting on March 4, and the BoCC was briefed on the IGA by Archuleta County Sheriff Mike Le Roux during a work session held on March 6.

The matter was approved by the BoCC on March 18 as part of the meeting's consent agenda.

Commissioner Veronica Medina recused herself from voting on the consent agenda due to a line item associated with the payable warrants and purchase cards from March 5 to March 18.

Medina indicated that the line item amount was for \$8,934.50 which was an attorney fee for "an ethics complaint that has been brought against me."

She added, "That is what the taxpayers are paying for."

Later in the meeting, following an executive session in regard to a purchase and sale agreement for a piece of property, Medina offered additional comments related to the IGA.

Medina explained that due to recusing herself from voting on the consent agenda she was "thrown off" and did not offer comments on the matter at that time.

She then voiced her opposition to the IGA.

"I am not in favor of this IGA," Medina said, explaining her reason is for the same concerns she brought up during the work session with Le Roux, which included concerns over additional cost associated with transportation and medical services.

Medina acknowledged the relationship between Archuleta County, La Plata County and Durango, noting "we have a great relationship," but felt that Durango is choosing to not work with La Plata County.

"I don't think this agreement is right for the constituents of La Plata county and Durango," she said, adding that is not her call to make.

Medina also noted that the daily rate initially presented to the BoCC of \$110 per day did not change, "and

that's disappointing."

She highlighted sections of the agreement that involve meals and medical treatment, claiming the cost of meals may not be properly reflected in the IGA.

Medina went on to mention that she was unsure why the two-year agreement was for "such a long timeframe," on something that can "easily" be resolved.

She also stated that she was hopeful Le Roux would've been in attendance at the meeting, but he was not.

Medina went on to claim that the \$110 per day is likely not the final cost.

"I doubt that they're going to be saving money," she said, "there's a lot of extra costs."

Medina also commented that she was "disappointed" in herself for not offering comments on the matter earlier.

She then noted that in times when Archuleta County housed inmates in La Plata County, it did so because there was no other option, adding that Durango has options in this scenario.

"So, that's the difference," she said.

Commissioner Warren Brown explained his reasoning for sup-

porting the IGA, noting that the Durango Police Department and La Plata County Sheriff's Office have often helped and supplied various resources and services to Archuleta County when asked.

Brown added that he is "not aware of a single time they sent a bill asking for compensation" for those services or resources.

Brown went on to mention that "it's our turn" to repay the "good deeds" given to Archuleta County by both of those agencies, "at a cost that is not going to break the bank."

Brown also expressed that the IGA does not preclude Durango and La Plata County from working out an agreement amongst themselves, and this IGA will provide time needed for those agencies to address the matter.

Brown noted that he was appreciative of Medina's comments, stating, "I empathize there," though he believes this is an opportunity to be a good neighbor.

Commissioner John Ranson mentioned he was in favor of approving the IGA and he wished the BoCC could've voted on the matter separately, noting it would've been the first 2-1 vote for the current BoCC.

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Water districts discuss Running Iron Ranch management

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

At recent meetings, the San Juan Water Conservancy District (SJWCD) and the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD) took steps towards collaboratively determining the future of management at Running Iron Ranch.

At a March 13 meeting of the PAWSD Board of Directors, board member Bill Hudson stated that the PAWSD Running Iron Ranch subcommittee was hoping to reach out to the SJWCD board members involved in managing the Running Iron Ranch to work on determining next steps for managing the ranch in the near future.

PAWSD board member Glenn Walsh commented that he believed a helpful first step would be to look at conditions on the ranch together with members of the SJWCD board.

He asked PAWSD board chairman Jim Smith to accompany the subcommittee, composed of Hudson and Walsh, given his expertise in ranch management.

Smith replied that he would be willing to go.

Walsh added that such a tour could hopefully occur in the upcoming two weeks.

He commented that there may be such significant issues with fencing and other infrastructure on the ranch that the boards may have to seek professional ranch management to maintain the property.

"I'm better behaved when I'm walking around," Walsh said.

PAWSD District Manager/Engineer Justin Ramsey presented the board with a bid for removal of a house on the property near U.S. 160.

He explained that the house is currently in poor condition and is causing issues with people living in it without authorization.

PAWSD board member Gene Tautges proposed that, as part of the tour of the ranch, the subcommittee should "get up to date" on insurance for the property and on costs PAWSD has been paying, such as for electricity on the property.

He added that the three-way agreement between PAWSD, the SJWCD and the Colorado Water Conservation Board "pretty clearly states" what costs would be paid by which organization.

As discussed at previous meetings, this proposal would likely involve PAWSD invoicing the SJWCD for costs it claims the SJWCD should have paid.

Walsh proposed that this topic would be more appropriate for a separate subcommittee meeting after the ranch tour.

Tautges commented that he did not want the issue to "fall off the radar."

At a March 17 SJWCD board meeting, the board also discussed the issue of ranch management, with SJWCD president Candace Jones explaining to the board that she had been trying to communicate with the PAWSD board about leases for the Weber family, the current tenants on the ranch, to keep cattle on the ranch.

She added that she and SJWCD board member Charles Riehm had also spoken with Kathy Weber, who expressed an interest in continuing to run cattle on the ranch during the upcoming summer and a willingness to do repairs on the irrigation ditches and fencing on the property to allow this to happen.

Jones stated that this would ben-

efit the districts by ensuring that someone is performing maintenance on the ranch.

She then recapped the events of the recent PAWSD meeting and that board's discussion of the ranch.

Jones stated that she believed that PAWSD might be inviting members of the SJWCD board to join its tour of the ranch, but that she was not certain and wanted to discuss the issue with the SJWCD board prior to reaching out to PAWSD to clarify.

SJWCD board member Rob Hagberg noted that Colorado is a fence-out state and asked, if there are no cattle on the ranch, why maintaining the fences would be necessary.

Jones explained that there are cattle on nearby parcels and that, if the fences are not maintained, those cattle could travel through the ranch and reach U.S. 160.

Hagberg commented that this would not be the SJWCD's responsibility since they would not be the district's cattle.

Jones stated that the issue needs to be discussed to determine if other cattle being on the ranch would impact the district in any way, including through the cattle consuming water on the property.

"If there's no value to us, then this is not a hill we need to climb," Jones said. "If there's value, then there's value."

The board then discussed the value of repairing the ranch fences, with SJWCD board member and former Colorado State University Extension agent Bill Nobles stating that it would not be useful unless the district or a tenant is running cattle on the ranch.

SJWCD board member Susan Nossaman noted that the maintaining the fence is in the interest of the person running cattle, as cattle moving onto the highway and being hit by a car could cause a significant financial loss for their owner.

Nobles added that Colorado being an open range state would reduce the district's liability if cattle moving through the property reached the highway and were involved in a collision.

Riehm noted that the Colorado Department of Transportation has a responsibility to fence cattle off of the highway since Colorado is a fence-out state.

Jones asked SJWCD legal counsel Jeffrey Kane if the understanding articulated by board members about the need to maintain fencing fit his understanding.

Kane stated that Colorado requires that an owner have a "legal fence" in place to keep livestock out if they wish to charge a neighbor with trespassing for having cattle on their property.

He added that he would also want to consider if other cattle on the ranch could cause damage or lasting harm to the property in any way and to weigh the value of doing incremental fence maintenance versus allowing the fence to fall into disrepair.

Kane also commented that the litigation between the SJWCD and PAWSD over PAWSD's attempts to sell the ranch could be concluded this year and that the SJWCD might want to graze livestock on the ranch while it continues with project planning.

Nobles commented that he believes that the Webers have likely done no significant fence maintenance in the last 15 years given the number of cattle they run on the property.

He added that the cost of repairing these fences could be between \$15,000

and \$20,000, with Riehm commenting that the cost could be \$30,000.

Jones asked if there would be any incremental value in having the Webers maintain the fences.

"At this point in time, no, because she's not going to pay you anything," Nobles said, referring to Kathy Weber. "So, therefore, I kind of shudder to think that they're going to fix the fence because they haven't and they leased it forever."

He added that he would want a written statement that the Webers would fix the fence and an outside assessment of the state of the fences.

Jones commented that the Webers "fixing the fences" would mean propping up the barbed wire that is currently present for another year and correcting some leaning fence posts.

Nobles expressed agreement with this assessment and added, "It's still not good enough."

SJWCD board member Joe Tedder stated that the district is also responsible for weed maintenance on the property and that Archuleta County Weed and Pest Supervisor Ethan Proud explained that grazing might help control weeds.

Nobles commented that having no grazing for a few years might not significantly impact weeds, but would likely have benefits on the portions of the land that are currently overgrazed.

The board then debated the issue of grazing and weeds more, with Riehm pointing out that weeds would be likely to grow into trampled areas if no native grasses are seeded.

Nobles noted that the Webers appear to have done no weed treatment on the property for multiple years.

Nobles added that leaving the property without livestock would likely only hurt Kathy Weber by not allowing her to put cows on the property.

Rob Hagberg commented that the district also has a responsibility to prevent invasive species from growing on the property according to state law.

Jones concluded the discussion of weeds by stating that the district would try to have the ranch included on Proud's weed treatment list and that the primary consideration is if the county would take action against the district due to weeds on the property.

Jones then raised the issue of the demolition of the house on the property, noting that the bid PAWSD received for the demolition of the house fell between \$18,000 and \$19,000.

Riehm noted that this bid covered a full demolition of the house and that the bid was made by the Webers.

He questioned if a full demolition would be required.

Jones commented that she had not discussed the issue with the PAWSD board, but that the district did need to engage on this question and that she would like to assign future negotiations on this topic to the SJWCD subcommittee covering the ranch.

"We can offer a lot of things, but they need to talk to us," Jones said. "This we talk about it and then they talk about it and our conversation is one public meeting to the next is just ridiculous and inefficient and ineffective."

Jones opined that the comments made at PAWSD meetings are "all about baiting us into having a conversation and we should be having that conversation sitting at a table so we can actually make some progress."

Riehm stated that the SJWCD subcommittee would contact the PAWSD subcommittee and ask for

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Facilities

■ Continued from front

and final meeting, which is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. on April 21.

Before explaining the game, Calhoun reminded the committee of criteria identified by the BOE that is important in its decision making.

Those criteria include: safety and security, being fiscally responsible, high-quality learning environments, flexibility of facilities to accommodate future needs, supported by the community, aligns with the district's mission and goals, and supports a broad range of student activities.

Calhoun also provided data in response to questions raised in previous MPAC meetings related to building lifespans.

Calhoun explained that the lifespan of the general structure of a building is about 50 to 75 years, while mechanical systems and plumbing systems may last 15 to 20 years.

He noted that athletic turf fields and technology may last for only five to seven years before needing to be replaced or upgraded.

"Buildings are always an ongoing effort to keep them relevant," he said, adding, "Generally, they say the average lifespan of a school building is about 40 to 50 years."

Calhoun also explained that a major renovation on a building can reset the building's profile to be that of a 16-year-old building.

A timeline of ASD's buildings and

expansions was also provided by Calhoun, which indicated that the first building, currently the fifth- and sixth-grade building of the middle school, was built in 1924, with the seventh- and eighth-grade building built in 1954. The seventh- and eighth-grade building had an addition in 1983.

The elementary school was constructed in 1969, and experienced two additions, in 1981 and 1993.

The current high school was constructed in 1998, with the newest district building being the San Juan Mountain School facility constructed in 2020.

Calhoun also spoke about data indicating that new or modernized

school buildings have a positive effect on student performance, citing data from the World Bank Group.

He noted that the study looked at "many different schools" and showed that "buildings do matter, and they can influence learning."

Calhoun also suggested that new and modernized school buildings can lead to higher teacher retention rates, along with a reduction in student absenteeism due to health and respiratory issues.

Committee member and Pagosa Peak Open School (PPOS) board member Bill Hudson interjected, stating that RTA scored the seventh- and eighth-grade building the lowest on its facilities assessment, but claimed that building has had the highest student performance in the district.

Hudson also mentioned that PPOS is located in a former office building, but also has high student performance rates.

Hudson stated that in Pagosa Springs, "student performance doesn't depend on the building."

He also suggested that the committee was being provided with "vague" data that the community is "getting a sales pitch for a certain approach for the future."

Another committee member commented in reply, claiming that "correlation" does not necessarily mean "causation."

Abernethy addressed Hudson's comments, stating that the meeting's exercise is an opportunity for committee members to share alternate ideas about what is best for the community.

"We do want everybody in this room to participate," Calhoun added.

MPAC chair Lisa Scott reminded the committee that, "We are not the decision makers," while indicating that whatever the BOE decides to go with there will be a big cost, "no matter how we fix it."

Scott encouraged the committee to not jump ahead in the process timeline to potential future bond elections, as that is not the confirmed funding mechanism at this point.

She mentioned that the committee's job is to understand the district's facilities "from the professionals that have done the assessment, so we get a realistic view of what we're dealing with."

Calhoun also talked about building grade-level configurations, suggesting that there are benefits to having a kindergarten through eighth-grade campus, compared to a traditional elementary and middle school configuration.

"There is really great research behind K-8s," Calhoun said, explaining that a K-8 building offers more stability to students and families.

"Those are tough years for students," he said, adding that it also makes it easier on family logistics by providing one drop-off location rather than multiple at different campuses.

Committee member and PPOS board member Lawrence Rugar asked if there has been any research

on the possibility of having a junior high campus that would serve seventh- through ninth-graders, indicating there is data to suggest that is also a beneficial configuration for student performance.

Calhoun noted that the trend across the nation currently is for new schools to be built as K-8 buildings.

Schoolopoly and common themes

Each group was given a set of cards that represented different maintenance, renovation and new building costs associated with each of the district's current facilities, including potential improvement costs for things like athletic fields and the administration building.

Calhoun explained that there were options for each group to choose to address the critical deferred maintenance needs, deferred maintenance needs plus educational adequacy renovations, deferred maintenance and a new building.

The cost to address critical deferred maintenance needs at the elementary school was listed at \$20 million, with deferred maintenance and educational adequacy renovations listed at \$50 million.

Groups were able to select an amount ranging from zero to \$36 million for deferred maintenance projects at the elementary school, and a new elementary school building was listed at a cost of \$72 million, Abernethy explained, noting that a new building site was not yet chosen.

For the middle school, critical deferred maintenance was listed at a cost of \$8.5 million, with deferred maintenance costs ranging from zero to \$30 million. The cost of deferred maintenance and educational adequacy renovations was listed at \$52.5 million, and a new middle school building was listed at a cost of \$76.5 million.

For the high school, critical deferred maintenance costs were listed at \$1.2 million, with deferred maintenance and educational adequacy renovations ranging from zero to \$21.5 million.

Also included in the high school scenarios was the cost of critical deferred maintenance plus the addition of an auxiliary gym listed at \$9 million.

Calhoun also explained that the estimated cost for a new K-8 building would be \$123.5 million, while up to \$800,000 could be spent on renovations to the district's administration building and up to \$5 million could be spent on improving the district's athletic fields.

Abernethy explained that the estimated costs include things such as temporary modular classroom rentals needed for student displacement during major renovations, while also not forecasting for "tons of" growth in the district.

Abernethy also explained that an 8 percent yearly increase in construction costs was included in the estimations, along with an additional \$500,000 potentially needed for asbestos removal in the event of a major

renovation project.

Abernethy added that the district could apply for a BEST grant through the state, which is a matching grant the district could receive for a project that would act as a "44 percent off coupon."

Hudson commented that BEST grants are likely only to be awarded for safety and security projects.

Calhoun went on to provide additional data from STIFEL, outlining the economic impact on families in Archuleta County if the district were to pursue a \$25 million, \$35 million or \$60 million bond.

According to the data presented, the monthly impact on households in the county for a \$25 million bond would be approximately \$9 per month, while a \$60 million bond would translate to an impact of \$22 per month.

Calhoun also explained that the total repayment on a \$25 million bond would come out to approximately \$44 million, while total repayment on a \$60 million bond would be approximately \$106 million.

Each of the five groups taking part in the "Schoolopoly" activity came up with a scenario that included building a new K-8 building while also choosing to invest in the district's athletic fields.

Reasons for support of K-8 building included that having the least amount of student disruption and getting the best product for the attached cost.

"As a teacher, I want the least amount of disruption for our students," committee member Darcy DeGuise said.

Other scenarios looked at addressing only the critical deferred maintenance needed at each building, which came out to an estimated cost of \$65 million, while scenarios including the construction of a new K-8 building and investments into improving athletic fields totaled around \$150 million.

Members of the committee also expressed concerns over spending money to address critical maintenance needs, suggesting that will not solve long-term issues and raising the question of if the community would be in favor of a higher initial price tag compared to a lower initial price tag that may not serve the district's needs for an extended amount of time.

Other ideas shared from committee members expressed support of investing in the San Juan Mountain School facility, as well as the career and technical education center.

Following discussion on possible scenarios, the committee raised questions about the priorities of the community and how that relates to dollar amounts.

Abernethy indicated that RTA will review the feedback given by the committee and develop two or three different scenarios to present at the April meeting, also indicating it will be important to know what the community is willing to support.

"We'll bring that data back," he said.

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Hydrant

■ Continued from front

cussed.

"What we did talk about is a testing protocol. Certainly our staff and personnel" would be available, he explained, but added that "typically wildland firefighters don't use fire hydrants."

Pagosa Springs Mayor Shari Pierce said that she wanted Ramsey to "clarify what we are doing with our hydrants because this is a big, big concern for our community members, for our insurance and the upcoming fire season."

Ramsey recommended hiring a third party to test the hydrants, saying it would "take years" for PAWSD to test all 1,140 hydrants spanning over 70 square miles.

He explained that this ultimately would be a PAWSD board decision to hire a third-party contractor, but either way the testing cannot start until freezing temperatures pass.

Pierce responded, "I'm gonna say 'years' is not a good answer ... I've gone through a house fire. This is important."

Commissioner Warren Brown asked if the testing could be done by a combination of a third-party contractor and another entity "so, potentially, we could cover a lot more hydrants in a shorter period of time?"

Ramsey responded, "Possibly."

Commissioner John Ranson asked Ramsey, "Is it your understanding that this is PAWSD's responsibility? Who owns the hydrants?"

Ramsey answered that PAWSD owns the hydrants, with Ranson responding, "Then whose responsibility

is it?"

He added, "This is a very serious matter and you're saying you don't know the costs ... I don't care what number it is, if we don't, as leaders of this community, with levers that we have, and after watching LA ... we should have something farther along than we do right now," Ranson said. "I don't want to hear about the costs. I don't want to hear who's responsibility it is, because it has to be done, starting with you guys. I'm getting more calls on this than anything. People are frightened out there, and for good reason."

He asked, "So, these haven't been tested in 10 years?"

Ramsey replied that he did not know when the hydrants were last tested, but agreed that it had probably been about 10 years ago or more.

He explained that PAWSD is moving forward with a plan to get the hydrants tested, but added that "we can't start right now," because of the threat of freezing temperatures.

"I understand that, but I don't want to hear that six weeks from now," Ranson replied.

Commissioner Veronica Medina added, "I'm glad to hear you at least have a plan to make a plan, because when we talked last time there was no plan to even make a plan."

Brown said that "in the potential shortfall to be able to test all these hydrants, I'm hoping there's a plan that when there is a fire call, that the fire department shows up with a tanker, so they are anticipating, whether they know or not if a hydrant's been tested,

they're showing up as if they believe that it's not functioning."

He noted that it would be better for the fire department to be "overcautious ... in the event that we haven't tested" all the hydrants and asked Ramsey if he had discussed such a plan with the fire district.

Ramsey replied that he had not had that type of discussion.

Le Roux chimed in to say, "what I can tell you" is that water trucks from the Archuleta County Road and Bridge Department are always on standby and can respond to fire situations.

Le Roux said that the ACSO "will always say yes to assist when we can, and I would not for one second say that we're not gonna be part of this testing in some way shape or form ... but we are just one of multiple agencies fighting fire."

Pierce suggested that she wants Ramsey to come back before the council and the BoCC at another joint meeting on April 14 at Town Hall to report back on what is discussed at the next PAWSD meeting on April 10.

She also suggested having representatives from the fire district attend that meeting.

"This is one of, if not the most important issue right now for our community, given our tinderbox conditions," she said.

Ranson concluded by saying that he hopes PAWSD "would take the lead on this," agreeing that it was "the most important issue we are looking at because of the weather."

derek@pagosasun.com

Candidates

■ Continued from front

members to access the secure voting portal. Follow the instructions to complete and submit your electronic ballot. Once submitted, the "Vote Now" button will disappear.

- Email notification: Eligible members will receive an email containing a direct link to SmartHub to complete their ballot online when voting opens.

- Mail-in ballots: Paper ballots will be mailed to eligible LPEA members in mid-April. Members can complete and return their ballots by mail or

by 24-hour drop box at either LPEA office. LPEA ballots can no longer be dropped at La Plata County or Archuleta County ballot boxes and must be received only at LPEA drop boxes at 45 Stewart St. in Durango or 603 S. 8th St. in Pagosa Springs.

- In-person voting: Members are also invited to vote in person at the annual meeting.

The new online voting procedure prevents the possibility of duplicate votes and provides safeguards for an accurate vote count.

To be counted, online ballots

must be submitted by noon on May 20, and paper ballots must be received by 4 p.m. on May 20. Election results will be confirmed at LPEA's annual meeting on May 21 from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. The meeting will be held in the truck barn at the LPEA Durango Office. For more information on LPEA's annual meeting and to RSVP, go to <https://lpea.coop/> annual-meeting.

For more information about the 2025 director election, voting procedures and candidate statements, visit lpea.coop.

Attorney

■ Continued from front

community housing projects.

Weaver also mentioned that before he departs he hopes to help "wrap up" the purchase and sale agreement recently approved by the Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) for a five-acre parcel intended to be the future home of a new county administration building.

"I just feel like I kind of accom-

plished what I'd hoped to accomplish here," Weaver said, adding he's ready to take on bigger challenges with more opportunities on the Front Range.

The BoCC held a special meeting on Wednesday, March 26, with only one item on the agenda, an executive session for the purposes of discussing the county attorney position.

After nearly an hour-long execu-

tive session, the BoCC returned and no comments were made other than Commissioner Veronica Medina indicating the matter would be discussed again at the next regular BoCC meeting scheduled for Tuesday, April 1.

That meeting is scheduled to begin at 1:30 p.m. in the commissioners' meeting room at the county's administration building on Lewis Street.

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The Blotter

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

Archuleta County Sheriff's Office

- March 17 — Death investigation, Colo. 151.
- March 18 — Agency assist, County Road 600.
- March 18 — Registration-fictitious plate, Colo. 151.
- March 19 — Driving under restraint-alcohol/drug related, County Road 982.
- March 19 — Drug paraphernalia, County Road 982.
- March 19 — Violation of protection order, information only, Golden Pond Place.
- March 19 — Criminal mischief \$5,000 to \$20,000 private, information only, West Golf Place.
- March 19 — Theft \$50 to \$300 from building, Park Avenue.
- March 20 — Assault in the third degree, harassment-strikes/shoves/kicks, North Pagosa Boulevard.
- March 20 — Warrant arrest, Navajo Trail Drive.
- March 20 — Unlawful sexual contact-no consent, Harman Park Drive.
- March 21 — Dog at large, information only, County Road 988.
- March 21 — Agency assist, Country Center Drive.
- March 21 — Violation of a protection order-criminal, North Pagosa Boulevard.
- March 22 — Third-degree criminal trespass, information only, Hills Circle.
- March 22 — Lost/found property, USFS 629.
- March 22 — Unlawful ownership of dangerous dog-misdemeanor, information only, Raccoon Drive.
- March 22 — Agency assist, North Pagosa Boulevard.

- Pagosa Springs Police Department**
- March 17 — Theft/intending to deprive, Country Center Drive.
- March 17 — Theft \$20,000 to \$100,000, South 5th Street.
- March 17 — Theft/intends to deprive person, South 9th Street.

- March 20 — Criminal mischief, North 5th Street.
- March 21 — Careless driving, left scene without providing information after striking unattended vehicle or property, West U.S. 160.
- March 21 — Hit and run failed to remain on scene of accident-damage only, Pinon Causeway/San Juan Street.
- March 21 — Criminal invasion of privacy, Florida Street.
- March 22 — Theft/intends to deprive person, Rosita Street.
- March 22 — Harassment/communication at inconvenient hours, Eaton Drive.
- March 22 — Harassment/following person in a public place, Country Center Drive.
- March 23 — Harassment/communicate by telephone or computer, Hot Springs Boulevard.
- March 23 — Assault in the third degree, menacing-felony-aggravated-nonfamily-weapon, false imprisonment, criminal mischief under \$300 private, domestic violence, violation of protection order-criminal, Lewis Street/Eagle Drive.
- Pagosa Springs Municipal Court: Judge Anthony D. Edwards**
- March 10 — Cheyenne McSwain, failed to yield when proceeding from a stop sign, three points off, fine, surcharge and costs — \$116.
- March 10 — Lucas Tardio, following too closely, four points off, fine, surcharge and costs — \$146.
- March 10 — Chirag Parmar, speeding 20-24 mph over PFL, six points off, fine, surcharge and costs — \$278.
- March 10 — Steven Jay, failed to drive in single lane (weaving), three points off, fine and surcharge — \$111.
- March 10 — Nicholas Ingram, failed to yield to oncoming traffic when making a left turn, three points off, fine, surcharge and costs — \$116.
- March 10 — Patricia Jones, following too closely, four points off, fine, surcharge and costs — \$146.
- March 10 — Rosario Quezada, following too closely, four points off, fine, surcharge and costs — \$146.
- March 12 — Connor Neff, failed to obey traffic control signal, four points off, fine, surcharge and costs — \$146.
- Archuleta County Court: Judge Justin P. Fay**
- March 4 — Brandon W. Hardesty, speeding 5-9 over limit, fines and costs — \$127.50.

- March 4 — Douglas Self, license plates-expired, driver's license-driving without, fines and costs — \$201.50.
- March 5 — Octavio Zazueta-Sandoval, speeding 20-24 over limit, fines and costs — \$314.50.
- March 5 — Levi Tenbrink, license plates-expired, turning improperly, fines and costs — \$236.50.
- March 5 — Alexandra J. Rush, license plates-expired, fines and costs — \$155.50.
- March 5 — David Pereyra, speeding 10-19 over limit, license plates-expired, fines and costs — \$296.50.
- March 5 — Noel Montes Mendoza, registration-unregistered vehicle, fines and costs — \$161.50.
- March 5 — Bruno Mendoza, speeding 10-19 over limit, fines and costs — \$233.50.
- March 5 — Amber Lawson, speeding 10-19 over limit, fines and costs — \$233.50.
- March 5 — Michele C. Gallegos, pass on left-insufficient clearance, fines and costs — \$172.50.
- March 5 — Nicholas Ayers, driving under restraint, license plates-expired, fines and costs — \$271.50.
- March 5 — Loaiza J. Arroyo-Zayas, speeding 10-19 over limit, fines and costs — \$233.50.
- March 5 — Justin Thada Graff, speeding 10-19 over, fines and costs — \$225.
- March 5 — Christopher Newsham, speeding 10-19 over, fines and costs — \$225.
- March 5 — Jerry Lee Moore, passing on left improperly, fines and costs — \$170.
- March 5 — Madera William Ceniceros, obedience to official traffic control device, fines and costs — \$170.
- March 5 — Lataura Brezze Porambo, driving under the influence-with prior, 275 days jail (365 days suspended imposition), 60 hours community service, 24 months probation, fines and costs — \$1,920.50.
- March 5 — Carlos L. Gutierrez, careless driving resulting in death, 10 days jail, 50 days electronic surveillance, 200 hours community service, five years probation, fines and costs — \$3,495.50.
- March 5 — David Martens, speeding 25+ over, fines and costs — \$205.
- March 5 — Michael Ciddio, speed-

- ing 10-19 over limit, moving violation in construction zone sentence enhancer, fines and costs — \$333.50.
- March 5 — Lawrence Gallegos, driving under restraint-alcohol related, fines and costs — \$276.50.
- March 5 — James Gordon Anderson, speeding 20-24 over limit, fines and costs — \$291.50.
- March 5 — Eugene Puerto, driving under restraint, fines and costs — \$142.50.
- March 5 — Kyle Fine, careless driving, fines and costs — \$185.
- March 5 — William S. Douglass Jr., driving under restraint-alcohol related, fines and costs — \$276.50.
- March 5 — Isaiah L. Goodrich, no insurance-owner, off-highway vehicle operated on street, registration-unregistered vehicle, fines and costs — \$794.50.
- March 5 — Jaime Chatagnier, speeding 10-19 over limit, driver's license-driving without, fines and costs — \$244.50.
- March 5 — Rex Abbey, driver's license-driving without, license plates-expired, fines and costs — \$166.50.
- March 12 — Matthew B. Guerra, speeding 10-19 over limit, fines and costs — \$198.50.
- March 14 — Charles Jacob-Levi Bilazzo, speeding 5-9 over, fines and costs — \$125.
- 6th Judicial District Court: Judge Justin P. Fay**
- No report.
- 6th Judicial District Court: Judge Jeffrey R. Wilson**
- March 3 — Martin Rodriguez, felony menacing-real/simulated weapon, one year Department of Corrections, fines and costs — \$428.50.
- March 3 — Martin Rodriguez, controlled substance-distribution, four years Department of Corrections, fines and costs — \$3,433.50.
- March 3 — Martin Rodriguez, felony menacing-real/simulated weapon, four years Department of Corrections, fines and costs — \$428.50.
- March 4 — Robert Taylor Rosendahl, false reporting-false information, 23 days jail, fines and costs — \$258.50.
- March 17 — Matthew David Smith, controlled substance-possession 1-4g fentanyl, one year Department of Corrections, fines and costs — \$1,933.50.

Opposition

■ **Continued from front**

and mixed-use town-center (MU-TC) — and any new development would need to adhere to the codes for those specific districts, unless certain areas of the subdivision were rezoned, Dickhoff explained.

An 88-unit workforce housing apartment complex is being proposed on a section called Lot R, within the MU-R section of the subdivision.

Dickhoff explained that the workforce housing project, being called Pagosa Peaks Apartments, would be part of phase two of developing the proposed subdivision.

On this front, the town received a \$1,989,000 Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) More Housing Now grant award, with this grant aimed toward helping with “the cost of public infrastructure associated with” the workforce housing apartments, the agenda document states.

The applicant for the subdivision, listed as Montrose-based Arena Labs LLC, represented at the meeting by David Dragoo, cited its community partners as the Town of Pagosa Springs, the Pagosa Springs Community Development Corporation, and Reynolds Ash and Associates, an architectural firm.

Dragoo explained that public improvements for the community would include “trail development and open space, a multimodal transit stop, upgrades to Pinon Causeway intersection and a new interior road,” being called Pagosa West Boulevard.

Dickhoff explained that the applicants also have applications out to La Plata Electric Association for electrical utilities and Black Hills Energy for natural gas.

He noted that the project is compatible with many of the town's goals, including the Access Control Plan's goal to “create off-highway local road networks,” the Town-to-Lakes nonmotorized trail system and the increase of workforce housing supply.

But many in the audience expressed concern about the amount of “density” being proposed on the 100-acre parcel, and there was also near unanimous opposition to a storage unit and car wash business.

Resident Sharon Carter said that the “high density” would be “out of sync” with the adjacent Vista San Juan neighborhood, where she lives, expressing worry that the higher-density subdivision would be right

up against “a lower density, rural neighborhood.”

She recommended that the developers consider a “buffer zone” between the development and her neighborhood to make the transition smoother.

Dickhoff explained later in the meeting that the higher density for this subdivision was intentionally intended to curb urban sprawl and that the development would be concentrated around the highway corridor where all the utilities are accessible.

Resident Bruce Cooper told the audience that the area has been zoned as commercial for about 20 years and that the time to oppose development here was “20 years ago,” when the zoning districts were established.

He added, “You have a town that's gonna grow. No matter what.”

Another resident, Jane Wetzell, stated that she does not think the subdivision meets the values in the Land Use and Development Code (LUDC), adding that “we don't need another storage unit when we already have 12 of them.”

She also noted that the “beauty of Pagosa” is “near and dear to my heart” and expressed worry that the subdivision development could jeopardize the aesthetic beauty of the area.

Resident Gary Woods expressed that he thought that “the developer had no conception of the character” of Pagosa, and thought that the name “Pagosa West” was trying to change “the heritage” of the town.

“I'm adamantly opposed to the project in this form,” he said.

Another resident said, “People do not want this in Pagosa. We don't want this. Why would we want to be like everybody else?”

Resident Bill Hudson expressed that he thought it was “odd” that the town applied for a grant to help the workforce housing component of the subdivision before the town's planning commission had even approved the sketch subdivision plans.

Dragoo explained that the nature of the businesses within the subdivision are very likely to change, saying that the car wash and storage unit, listed on the plans, only reflect current interest in the parcels.

“This is a sketch plan,” he said. “We can make adjustments, and what types of buildings go in there could change.”

Dickhoff added that each pro-

posed building in the development would need to go through its own public process of the town's design review approval and that changes were likely on that front, as well.

When opened to discussion among the planning commission, planning commissioner Chad Hodges expressed that he “didn't understand everything” about the project and that he might need “more time” to think about it.

“I don't have the ability to make an educated opinion at the moment,” he said.

Planning commissioner David Pribble agreed with Hodges that he was not yet ready to make a decision on the sketch subdivision application, but he added that he wants to see more parks and “community” spaces “for children” within the development.

Planning commissioner Julie Gurule also thought that more parks and preservation of trees would be better than a storage unit.

Brad Ash, of Reynolds Ash and Associates, chimed in, reminding the commissioners that this was only a sketch plan and that the only thing they should really be considering is if the “uses are appropriate for what is being proposed.”

He reiterated that the buildings themselves are all likely to change as both the subdivision and each individual development goes through the public application process.

Planning commissioner Kristen McCollam said, “I feel there's a lot to consume here,” and agreed with the other commissioners that they should come back for a decision at a later time.

When it appeared that a continuance was the direction that the commission was heading, both Dragoo and Ash sought some direction on how to move forward.

Dickhoff advised them to take into consideration the public comments that they had heard during the meeting, as well as some of his notes in the meeting packet.

He also recommended more details on the workforce housing component of the project for the public to see, saying that a sketch design, even at this early stage, could be useful.

When Hodges made a motion for a continuance on the matter, it was passed unanimously by the board, with Chris Pitcher and Mark Weiler being absent from the meeting.

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Photo courtesy Pagosa Peak Open School

Pagosa Peak Open School's (PPOS's) Battle of the Books team won Finalist Reading Medals at this year's competition in Durango. The team included four PPOS students in third through fifth grade: Armin (not pictured), Simone, Tenzin and Cora Jean.

PAWSD forms subcommittee to investigate rates for affordable housing

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

At its March 13 meeting, the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD) Board of Directors discussed a request by Generation Housing Partners for an alteration in water and wastewater service fees for its Timberline affordable housing project and voted to create a subcommittee to study the issue further.

The project is located along Alpha Drive and Timberline Drive.

Generation Housing Partners representative Chris Applequist opened the discussion by thanking PAWSD for its assistance in providing fee waivers to help the project move forward.

He explained that the project currently pays for 51 equivalent units (EUs) worth of water in its water bills, including 50 EUs for its 50 residential units and one for its clubhouse, even though the project was designed to use nine EUs worth of water.

He stated that this difference in EU calculation has significantly impacted the operating costs and utilities on the project.

Applequist stated that the company is currently paying a substantial base rate despite currently consuming no water and requested that the development be considered as a single commercial account for both water and wastewater, which would reduce the development's EUs to

match the amount of water it uses.

He added that this approach aligns with the approach used by other jurisdictions.

PAWSD board member Glenn Walsh commented that, on the water rate side, he felt it would be difficult to run the entire development with only eight EUs for the residential units.

He added that having so few EUs would also increase the likelihood that the development would hit penalty rates for high water use.

Walsh stated that the reduced number of EUs on the wastewater side is problematic since the district has high capital expenses connected to wastewater treatment.

He explained that, when PAWSD approved the capital investment fee waivers for the subdivision, he argued that lowering the startup costs for affordable housing projects was critical, but that the waiver would not "pencil out" if each resident did not pay a monthly bill.

He added that the board could potentially consider different ways to calculate wastewater fees for varying types of housing at a later date, but that any changes would apply to all projects, not just workforce housing.

Walsh also noted that several PAWSD board members were only willing to support giving the development fee waivers due to the compromise that each unit would pay water and wastewater bills, which he commented is valued at \$1.2 million

or \$1.3 million.

He concluded that he would "stick with the compromise," even though it was not his preference.

Applequist noted that the district's capital investment fees for the project increased from about \$300,000 to about \$1.2 million during the planning period for the project and that the waiver the developer received only brought the fees back down to \$300,000 when it had initially been planned to reduce it below \$300,000.

He also pointed out that affordable housing developments do not receive operating subsidies which might mitigate high utility or insurance costs.

The current utility rates are extremely high, Applequist stated, proposing that the company could potentially work with PAWSD staff over the upcoming month to determine a solution that would reduce costs while being fair to the district.

Generation Housing Partners representative Travis Barber commented that the company is not concerned about how it is billed for usage, but is concerned about the high monthly base rate of \$4,000 a month that the Timberline project is being charged.

He noted that this is 10 or 12 times higher than what other nearby municipalities like the Town of Pagosa Springs or the city of Durango are charging.

Barber added that the usage rates

Pagosa Peak Open School students reach semifinals in Battle of the Books

By Emily Murphy
Pagosa Peak Open School

"In which book does a doctor take a dog home?"

This answer would determine additional points, or stolen points, for one of the 33 Battle of the Books teams who attended the quiz-bowl event in Durango this March.

Students in the third through fifth grades from across Southwest Colorado traveled to Durango to compete after reading 12 predetermined books.

Pagosa Peak Open School's (PPOS's) team, the Pika Paragons, earned the most points in the first round and did not miss a single question, earning them finalist medals and a spot in the semifinals.

"We had a dream team," fifth-grader Simone said.

"We worked together and encouraged each other," third-grader Cora Jean said. "Instead of having one per-

son know all the answers, we helped each other."

Battle of the Books is a national reading competition meant to incentivize students to read a variety of books.

PPOS students agreed that within the 12 books they were required to read, some of them not only became their favorites, but were also ones they would have otherwise never read.

"I really liked all the books I read," fifth-grader Tenzin said. "I know I wouldn't have read some of them if I didn't participate."

Books included in their list were "Orphan Train Girl," "We're Not from Here," "Kite Fighters" and "The Last Mapmaker."

"My favorite was 'Orphan Train Girl,'" Simone said. "It's a historical fiction book, and so it made learning fun."

The PPOS participants agreed they want to compete next year, when the competition will be open to grades

two through 12 and 24 books will need to be read.

"I'm a little anxious about it because 24 books is a lot," Cora Jean said. "But our team can be bigger, too."

The students have already begun recruiting and are looking forward to getting their hands on the book list as soon as possible.

"It was so fun, and Ms. Corbett told us this year was like a practice since it was the first time we did it," Simone said. "Next year, I think we'll get the trophy."

Exceptional Student Services Director Katy Corbett organized, encouraged and brought the PPOS team to the competition.

"Some teams had practice rounds and our kids didn't," Corbett said. "Our kids had poise, were thoughtful and respectful. Their teamwork was amazing and I was very proud of them."

To learn more about PPOS, visit pagosapeakopenschool.org.

the project.

Hudson moved to create a subcommittee to investigate the issue, which Walsh seconded.

The board then discussed who would serve on the subcommittee, with PAWSD board member Alex

Boehmer and Hudson agreeing to potentially serve on it.

Tauges expressed concerns about the precedent that granting such rate reductions would set.

The board then unanimously voted to create the subcommittee.

Pagosa Springs Elementary School announces kindergarten open house

By Sally Geren
Pagosa Springs Elementary School

Please join us for our kindergarten open house on Wednesday, April 9,

from 4 to 6 p.m.

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Board of Health talks measles, emergency plan preparations

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

The Archuleta County Board of Health (BoH) discussed measles outbreaks that have been reported in surrounding states, including Texas and New Mexico, during its regular meeting held on March 20.

Public Health Director Ashley Wilson informed the board of current department plans and preparations for "if and when" a case is reported in the state or in Archuleta County.

"There are measles outbreaks in surrounding states," Wilson said, explaining she has been meeting with regional partners as well as with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment to monitor the situation.

Wilson explained that the county's public health department does not provide testing for measles, noting that local care facilities do.

"In a large outbreak that may change," Wilson said.

She went on to explain that if someone tests positive for measles there is an isolation request, noting infants and unvaccinated individuals have a higher chance of testing positive.

She explained that if unvaccinated individuals are exposed to the virus, there is a 21-day stay-at-home request, noting that education efforts are being done with schools so that families are aware of potential consequences in missing a prolonged amount of school if their child is unvaccinated and exposed to the virus.

"The best way to prevent measles is through vaccination," Wilson said, explaining there are coordination efforts happening to ensure more vaccines are available to the community if needed.

Wilson also mentioned there is "some evidence" that a vaccine may still be effective even after being exposed to the virus.

"As of right now there are no positive cases in the state of Colorado," she said.

Wilson explained that her department is mainly responsible for contact tracing, explaining that if there is a positive case in the county, her department would be responsible for identifying and contacting anyone who was exposed.

BoH president Jon Bruss mentioned that although the board can not mandate any vaccine policy, it would be beneficial to know what care facility and school staff are vaccinated in order to mitigate potential risks.

Wilson explained that anyone unvaccinated is a "particular risk," explaining that most medical facilities have vaccine requirements for employment.

Commissioner Warren Brown, also a BoH member, commented that some sort of public outreach or notification about traveling to places with active outbreaks may also be beneficial.

Wilson explained that her department does not want to cause a "mass hysteria," but noted that there would likely be some public engagement informing the community about traveling to places with active outbreaks over the spring break period.

Wilson went on to explain that individuals are considered immune if they've had their standard childhood vaccines that should have included two shots, one around a year old and another around the age of 4 or 5.

"At this point they're not recommending boosters for anyone who got the two series," she said, explaining the vaccines provide up to a 95 percent protection rate after receiving both doses.

However, Wilson also indicated that there is a "sensitive period" of birth years that may not be fully protected. While not certain on the range of years, Wilson estimated that it could range in birth years from the 1950s to 1960s.

She noted that boosters are available for those "sensitive" years.

Wilson also noted that the county's public health department, along

with each public care facility, has vaccines available.

Emergency shelter plans

At the end of the meeting, BoH member Commissioner Veronica Medina inquired about a list of services the health department is able to provide in times of emergency, along with potential locations that may be available to use as warming centers or disaster housing.

Wilson explained there was "some confusion" around what the public health department was able to provide during the most recent extended power outage that occurred in February and left some Archuleta County residents without power for six hours.

"We don't have a way to make oxygen and we do not keep bottles of oxygen available," she said, explaining that people can, however, use the public health department building located at 502 S. 8th St. to charge their oxygen concentrator systems.

This helps keep room at emergency centers clear, Wilson mentioned, explaining the department's building has a generator available for power backup.

Medina also noted there was "a lot of confusion" during the February power outage, specifically from seniors in the community looking for a place to go and get warm.

Medina indicated that the Town of Pagosa Springs has offered the Ross Aragon Community Center as a space to use in emergency situations.

Wilson mentioned that she is working with the town to identify potential funding opportunities for a generator for the community center.

Medina also mentioned that Pagosa Springs High School could be set up as a shelter location in the event of an emergency.

Bruss encouraged the board to "think more broadly" on the topic, mentioning that certain shelter types and functions may be required for certain disasters that might affect the local area.

Bruss specifically mentioned that

a shelter may be needed in the event of a large forest fire, which would require air ventilation equipment.

Wilson explained that in the event of a disaster, "we don't necessarily have an ideal location," adding that no community has a venue equipped to accommodate any situation.

Brown mentioned that having reliable communication in the event of a cellular outage is important, suggesting the community look into establishing something "a little less technological," such as an analog system.

"That is one of the most concerning things to me," Brown said in regard to not being able to communicate with other county officials during an emergency.

clayton@pagosasun.com

HUD Publisher's Notice



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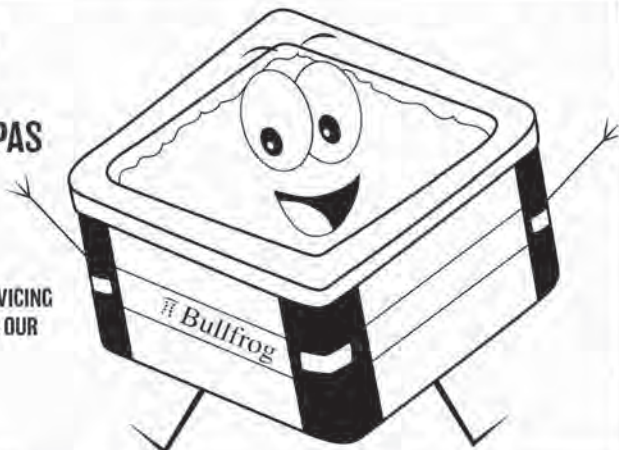
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Locals take to the side of U.S. 160 on Saturday, March 22, near the Ruby M. Sisson Memorial Library in support of the library and against federal cuts to the Institute of Museum and Library Services, among other things.

SUN photo/Randi Pierce

New forensic nurse examination program launched

Archuleta County Public Health Department and Rise Above Violence

The Archuleta County Public Health Department is proud to announce the launch of the Forensic Nurse Examinations (FNE) Program, a new initiative designed to serve individuals affected by trauma, violence and abuse.

This program is a collaborative commitment to ensure those affected by violence can receive timely, expert health care uniquely tailored to their needs.

The FNE Program is a team of nurses with special training in forensic medical care equipped to care for patients of all ages who have experienced violence including:

- Sexual assault: Comprehensive assessments to document injuries, collect forensic evidence and provide post-assault medical care, including testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections and pregnancy prevention.
- Intimate partner violence and strangulation: Detailed examinations to identify visible and nonvisible injuries, collect swabs and photos for evidence, and assess for life-threatening complications often missed in initial medical screenings.
- Child abuse: Trauma-informed medical assessments to identify and document injuries, recognize and evaluate signs of physical or sexual abuse, evaluate for neglect, coordinate care with community resources, and support family members.

“People in our community need to be able to access sensitive, trauma-informed, expert care if they are hurt by another person,” said Faith Koehler, FNE coordinator, Archuleta County Public Health.

There are specific health care needs in the aftermath of assault and abuse. Forensic nurses are trained to carefully, compassionately meet those needs.

Many people know this type of exam to be a “rape kit.” These exams are much more than evidence collection.

“We are trained to help people

make decisions about how they want to move forward after a crime. I am honored to help make this program available in Archuleta County so that if the unthinkable happens, someone doesn’t need to drive for hours to get care,” stated Koehler.

Typically, within five days of an assault, evidence can be collected by a nurse during the exam, which can often have a big impact on the legal case into the future.

Even after the evidence collection timeframe is past, this kind of medical care has been shown to reduce the long-term health consequences of assault and abuse and can still be incredibly valuable for many reasons, both legal and personal.

Koehler and her partners believe this care needs to be close to home and easy to access.

“The Public Health Department is going to be the perfect quiet, comfortable space for exams. We are working hard to collaborate as a program with all the services in our community that help survivors — law enforcement, the district attorney’s office, the Department of Human Services, Rise Above Violence, medical specialists and others — to try to make the very challenging aftermath of a crime as smooth and survivor-centered as possible. I am so grateful that we have already had so much support and encouragement, as our partner agencies recognize the benefit of a forensic nursing program to patients,” said Koehler.

The FNE program is designed to provide comprehensive care to any individual who has been harmed with a specially trained nurse who understands and can further recognize the signs of abuse.

Having a forensic nurse do these specialized examinations also increases the likelihood of justice through their expert training in gathering evidence. In addition, they are trained to understand the legal protocols, including informing survivors of their rights and reporting options.

And, most importantly, forensic nurses are specially trained to address the physical, emotional and psychological needs of survivors,

fostering their recovery and empowerment.

While there is no forensic nursing program at Pagosa Springs Medical Center (PSMC), a patient can receive medical care at PSMC, and then a forensic nurse from the Public Health Department will be contacted to conduct the forensic exam as well.

Otherwise, an appointment can be made to conduct the comprehensive forensic exam at the public health clinic, typically the following day.

“Historically, patients would have had to go to Durango or even Colorado Springs if they wished to seek a full forensic exam. Thankfully, this is no longer necessary through our new program,” said Koehler.

“We are beyond excited that the Public Health Department has embraced this program, ensuring that victims get the services they deserve locally,” said Carmen Lewis, executive director of Rise Above Violence. “This has been a vision for years, to get a sustainable, accessible service for victims to receive specialized care in the aftermath of some of the most traumatic events that can happen to a person. Having a forensic nurse available 24/7 in Pagosa is exceptional and something Rise enthusiastically supports.”

Violence and abuse affect millions of individuals every year, yet many cases go unreported or unresolved due to a lack of evidence or support.

Forensic nurses play a pivotal role in changing this narrative. By providing trauma-informed care and ensuring evidence is collected properly, they not only support survivors on their path to healing, but also strengthen the justice system’s ability to hold perpetrators accountable.

Our program is not just a service; it’s a movement to create a safer, more compassionate community where survivors are heard, supported and empowered.

If you or a loved one is experiencing life-threatening symptoms after an assault, such as difficulty breathing, loss of consciousness or uncontrolled bleeding, please call 911 or go to the emergency room.

Archuleta County Democratic Club to meet April 7

By Lynn Frederick

Archuleta County Democratic Club

The Archuleta County Democratic Club will meet for lunch at Coyote Moon at 11:30 a.m. on Monday, April 7.

The speaker will be John Porco, executive director of the Tracks Across Borders Scenic and Historic Byway.

The byway was officially designated by the Colorado and New Mexico departments of transportation in 2015 and runs from Chama, N.M., to Durango, following the route of the abandoned Denver and Rio Grande Western narrow gauge railroad line.

Join Porco for a tour of the scenic and historic highlights of the byway, the only one in Archuleta County.

Holly Metzger, candidate for the La Plata Electric Association board, will introduce herself following Porco’s presentation.

The Archuleta County Democratic Club meets every month with a

speaker presenting at noon. The club gives local Democrats the opportunity to meet with other Democrats and to hear speakers from the community, meet candidates for local and national offices, and hear about topics of timely interest.

All are welcome to attend. Please plan on coming by 11:30 a.m. to order lunch.

For more information, email lyn-frederick1@gmail.com.

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Sports

TRACK

Pirates open season with ‘great marks’ at Bayfield meet

By **Randi Pierce**
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Pirate track and field team opened its season on March 19 at the Bayfield Invite 1, with Pirates logging several results that put them in the top 10 in Colorado 3A track and field.

“The Bayfield invitational was re-scheduled during what seems like everyone else’s spring break,” coach Connie O’Donnell wrote in an email to The SUN. “Many of the other teams were not running with all of their athletes because of this. Pagosa had the most entries by far.”

But, O’Donnell indicates, the day was successful.

“It was so nice to finally get a competition in after about 4 weeks of practice,” she wrote. “The meet was a bit chilly, but the wind stayed down for the most part and we were able to get some good times and distances that ranked many of our athletes in the top ten so far for 3A track and field.”

Seven Lady Pirates raced in the 100-meter dash at the invitational, with Rylie Carr finishing first overall with a time of 13.29 seconds. Sienna Rose took third overall with a time of 13.47 seconds, and Lexi Campbell followed in fifth with a time of 13.93 seconds. Amber Snarr finished 13th in 15.03 seconds, Nevaeh Evans took 16th in 15.28 seconds, Darria Fiorenza finished 21st in 15.80 seconds, and Italia Pereyra finished 28th in 19.51 seconds.

Carr also finished first in the 200-meter dash with a time of 27.60 seconds, with Rose following in second with a time of 27.97 seconds. Campbell ran a time of 28.80 seconds to finish fourth. Molly Washburn finished eighth with a time of 30.27 seconds, with Snarr running a time of 31.53 to follow in ninth. Fiorenza took 14th with a time of 33.10 seconds. Pereyra finished in 42.19 seconds to take 24th.

Rose took first in the 400-meter dash, running a time of 1 minute, 5.26 seconds. Washburn ran a time of 1:19.07 to finish fourth.

Honestye Sweet notched second in the 800-meter run with a time of 3:06.80.

“Honestye Sweet ran a significantly faster time in the 800 than at this time last year,” O’Donnell wrote. “She is on pace to see some personal records this season in all of her races. Honestye is a great teammate and is very positive. She is looked up to by the underclassmen as a leader. We are thankful to have her leadership.”

Mila Miller ran a time of 3:24.42 in the 800 to finish fifth.

In the 1,600-meter run, Madisen Stretton finished first in 15:03.99, followed by Miller in second with a time of 16:29.85.

Eden Connor finished fifth in the 100-meter hurdles with a time of 21.14 seconds and third in the 300-meter hurdles with a time of 59.12 seconds.

The 4x100-meter relay team of Carr, Rose, Washburn and Marlowe Hedgecock took first with a time of 54.60 seconds.

The 4x200-meter relay team of Evans, Fiorenza, Hedgecock and Washburn took first with a time of 2:03.87.

Hedgecock placed fifth in the long jump with a distance of 12 feet, 10 inches. Evans followed with a distance of 11-8.50, and Jayslynn Perea took 10th with a distance of 11-1.00.

Campbell finished second in the triple jump with a distance of 32-5.25, which O’Donnell notes is 2 inches farther than where she was at the same time last year.

“She is currently ranked 7th in class 3A,” the coach highlights.

Carr tied for first in the high jump with a height of 4-6.00.

“Rylie Carr, who has been dominating our sprints during her high school career, decided to try high jump for the first time,” O’Donnell explains. “We are really glad that she added it to her events because she is already making gains. It will be fun to watch where this takes her.”

Dawson Iverson took 6th in the high jump with a height of 4 feet.

Four Lady Pirates took part in the shot put and discus.

In the shot put, Abigail Nehring finished fourth with a throw of 30-10.25. Malorie Morton followed in sixth with a distance of 25-7.50. Liana Vega threw a distance of 22-11.75 to finish seventh, and Makaela Denton

took ninth with a distance of 19-7.25.

Nehring took first in the discus with a distance of 131-4.00, with the day’s second-place throw sitting at a distance of 105-6.00.

Nehring’s result, O’Donnell highlights, bests her second-place finish at state last season, when she threw a 121-11.

“She is sitting in 1st place in the rankings by over 10 feet,” O’Donnell wrote. “Abi has been working very hard throughout the year to make these gains. There is a good chance that she will own our school record before the season is finished.”

That record, according to O’Donnell, is 134-7.00.

Morton finished fourth in the discus with a distance of 90-5.00. Denton threw an 84-1.00 to take sixth, and Vega claimed eighth with a throw of 71-3.00.

On the boys’ side, O’Donnell indicates Colton Lucero opened the season with a bang.

“Colton Lucero ran a smoking season opener in the 100 with a time of 11.16,” she wrote. “That is just off his personal best that he had at the end of the season last year. He is chasing a school record in this event and is determined to break 11 seconds this year. His time ranks him at 2nd in the state in class 3A. Colton also ran a fast 200 time that is significantly better than this time last year.”

Lucero’s time of 11.16 seconds landed him in first in the 100.

Gavin Carter followed in seventh with a time of 12.06 seconds, which O’Donnell notes also shows improvement.

“Gavin Carter is coming into his own in sprints,” O’Donnell wrote. “He ran a 12.28 last year in the 100 at this time. In Bayfield, he ran a 12.06.”

Tommy Nigro finished ninth in the 100 with a time of 12.08 seconds, and Alex Pacheco finished 11th with a time of 12.12 seconds. Xavier Haynie finished 16th in 12.42 seconds, followed by Jeremiah Dean in 17th with a time of 12.50 seconds. Jonathan Baker took 20th in 12.77 seconds. Jonathan Rodriguez finished 25th in 13.16 seconds. Jerry Su notched 30th with a time of 13.25 seconds.

Lucero took second in the 200, logging a time of 23.31 seconds. Carter took sixth with a time of 24.98 seconds. Pacheco finished ninth with a time of 25.31 seconds, with Haynie following in 10th in 25.34 seconds. Dean finished 15th in 25.96 seconds, with Gage Sams notching 16th with a time of 26.02. Baker finished 20th in 26.36 seconds. Rodriguez tied for 24th with a time of 27.09 seconds, with Trevor Faber finishing in 26th with a time of 27.28 seconds. Su took 28th in 27.56 seconds, and Connor Kirkham finished 35th with a time of 30.36 seconds.

Nigro ran the 400 in 59.15 seconds to finish third, with Faber taking fifth with a time of 1:01.31.

Merrick Tudor finished fourth in the 800 in 2:38.45. Weston Sweet finished seventh in 2:43.65, and Eli Nehring followed in eighth in 2:50.23.

Connor Thomas earned second in the 1,600 with a time of 5:22.28, with Hawkin Kofke following in third in 5:31.23. Weston Sweet finished sixth, logging a time of 5:53.80. Oliver Samu took 10th with a time of 6:44.07.

All four competitors in the 3,200 were Pirates, with Thomas taking first in 11:57.26, Eli Nehring taking second in 13:05.84, Tudor finishing third in 13:06.17 and Samu finishing fourth in 13:11.05.

“Connor Thomas ran great opening times in the 1600 and 3200,” O’Donnell wrote. “He improved so much during the season last year that it is exciting to see him starting off so well.”

Jeremiah Jones took first in the 110-meter hurdles with a time of 18.12 seconds and first in the 300 hurdles with a time of 46.70, with O’Donnell noting Jones is “improving on his hurdle times and is starting off much faster than last year.”

Tristan Frame finished fourth in the 300 hurdles with a time of 55.26 seconds.

The 4x100 relay team of Carter, Lucero, Creede Dozier and Pacheco finished first with a time of 44.67.

Dozier took first in the long jump with a distance of 20-11.00. Lucero followed in second with a jump of 19-6.00, and Dean finished third with a distance of 18-3.25. Haynie followed in fifth with a distance of 17 feet, and Kirkham finished 15th with a jump

of 14-5.50.

Dozier also took first in the triple jump, logging a distance of 42-4.25. Jones took second with a distance of 36-4.25.

Dozier tied for first with one other in the high jump with a height of 6-4.00.

“Creede Dozier is taller and stronger this year as a junior. His early season ranking is 2nd in class 3A in all three jumps,” O’Donnell wrote, adding that perhaps the most exciting thing is that Dozier earned a spot on the podium at last year’s state meet

with a height of 6-3.00, but debuted this season with a higher jump. “We are so excited to see where this takes him this year. If you have ever seen him play basketball, you know the kid [has] hops.”

Jones followed in third with a height of 6-2.00, with O’Donnell noting he set a personal record of 5-11.00 at the state meet last year and “casually” jumped a 6-2.00 to start this season.

Sams finished fifth with a height of 5-4.00.

Aiden Vega led the Pirates in shot

put, finishing second overall with a distance of 31-7.50. Emile Schneider followed in third with a distance of 31-3.50. Lincoln Butler took sixth with a throw of 28-5.00, with Davian Coss following in seventh with a distance of 27-11.00.

Schneider took second in the discus with a throw of 108-4.00 — well above his mark of 75 feet last year.

“Emile Schneider is making a strong showing in the throws,” O’Donnell wrote, adding, “We really feel like there is so much more for him to gain in the throwing events.”

Vega took sixth with a throw of 90-8.00. Coss finished eighth with a distance of 78-10.00. Butler threw a distance of 72-3.00 to finish 11th, and James Beaudry finished 15th with a throw of 59-1.00.

“While there is a lot of track left in the season, it is encouraging to see some great marks so early,” O’Donnell wrote.

The Pirate squads will be back in action in Bayfield on Saturday, March 29, for the Bayfield Invite 2, which is slated to begin at 9 a.m.

randi@pagosasun.com

BASKETBALL



Photo courtesy Joel Priest

Lady Pirate Elizabeth Currier navigates the baseline while being defended by Morgan Ortega, of Alamosa, during the Colorado Coaches of Girls’ Sports All-State Games’ Class 4A game on March 23. Currier, part of the red team, scored three points in a 64-47 loss to the blue team.



Photo courtesy Joel Priest

Lady Pirate Karsyn Shahan rips the ball away from opposing players during the Colorado Coaches of Girls’ Sports All-State Games’ Class 4A game on March 23. Part of the 4A red team at the event, held in Thornton, Shahan totaled a game-high 13 points in a 64-47 loss to 4A blue team.

Public Notices



FOR BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS HEARING ON APRIL 15, 2025

Travis and Sarah Troxell have applied for a GENERAL VARIANCE on the Parcel in RURAL Sec: 9 Twn: 34 Rng: 1W A TRACT OF LAND IN THE SW4 TRACT DESC 170/368 IN SW4; 9-34-1W 187/340-341 TRACT DESC, at 5503 US HWY 64, Pagosa Springs, CO (PL-RE-ZONE-25-017). The property is zoned AGRICULTURAL RANCHING (AR). Comments regarding this case may be submitted to Archuleta County Development Services-Planning Department, P.O. Box 1507, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147-1507, telephone: (970) 264-1390 or to Planning@archuletacounty.org prior to the public hearing by the Archuleta County Planning Commission on April 15, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. in the County Commissioners Meeting Room, 398 Lewis Street, Pagosa Springs and via Zoom Link. Published March 27 and April 10, 2025 *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (260766)

FOR BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HEARING ON APRIL 15, 2025

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

FOR BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HEARING ON APRIL 15, 2025

Travis and Sarah Troxell have applied for a RE-ZONE on the Parcel in RURAL Sec: 9 Twn: 34 Rng: 1W A TRACT OF LAND IN THE SW4 TRACT DESC 170/368 IN SW4; 9-34-1W 187/340-341 TRACT DESC, at 5503 US HWY 64, Pagosa Springs, CO (PL-RE-ZONE-25-017). The property is zoned AGRICULTURAL RANCHING (AR). Comments regarding this case may be submitted to Archuleta County Development Services-Planning Department, P.O. Box 1507, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147-1507, telephone: (970) 264-1390 or to Planning@archuletacounty.org prior to the public hearing by the Archuleta County Planning Commission on April 15, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. in the County Commissioners Meeting Room, 398 Lewis Street, Pagosa Springs and via Zoom Link. Published March 27 and April 10, 2025 *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (260632)

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 Suellen Loher, Deputy Clerk. Published March 13, 20, and 27, 2025 in *The Pagosa Springs Sun*. (259807)

INVITATION TO BID

Separate sealed BIDS for the **2025 Pagosa Trails Gravel Roads** project will be received by **Archuleta County, Colorado** at the office of Davis Engineering Service, Inc. located at 188 South 8th Street, P.O. Box 1208, Pagosa Springs, Colorado 81147, until 2:00 P.M. local time on **April 24, 2025**, and then at said office publicly opened and read aloud. The project consists of constructing new gravel roadways in the Pagosa Trails subdivision, being Travelers Circle (1,816 l.f.), Arroyo Court (243 l.f.), and Landau Drive (991 l.f.), totaling approximately 3,050 linear feet. The project will be pursued as the construction of an Archuleta County Standard Local Access gravel road for Travelers Circle, and as Low Volume gravel roads for Arroyo Court and Landau Drive. The roadways will be constructed in the center of 60-foot-wide rights-of-way indicated on the Pagosa Trails subdivision plat. Project work includes, but is not limited to erosion control, clearing and grubbing, topsoil removal and replacement, excavation, embankment, drainage structures, gravel placement, shouldering, ditching, signage, traffic control, seeding and mulching, and other items typically associated with road construction. Copies of the CONTRACT DOCUMENTS and PLANS may be obtained on or after **March 27, 2025**, at the office of Davis Engineering Service, Inc. located at the address mentioned above, upon payment of \$75.00 for each set. No refund will be made for returned copies. A **mandatory** pre-bid conference and inspection trip for prospective Bidders will be held at the office of Davis Engineering Service, Inc. (phone number (970) 264-5055), located at the address mentioned above, at 2:00 P.M. local time on **April 15, 2025**. Date: **March 27, 2025** Published March 27 and April 10, 2025 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (260761)

NOTICE OF CANCELLATION AND CERTIFIED STATEMENT OF RESULTS

\$1-13.5-513(6), 32-1-104, 1-11-103(3) C.R.S. **NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** by the Piedra Park Metropolitan Improvement District, Archuleta County, Colorado, that at the close of business on the sixty-third day before the election, (Feb 28), there were not more candidates filing affidavits of intent to be write-in candidates; therefore, the election to be held on May 6, 2025, is hereby canceled pursuant to section 1-13.5-513(6) C.R.S. The following candidates are hereby declared elected: Molly Risinger: 2-year term May 6 until May 2027 Kristeen Reeve: 4-year term May 6 until May 2029 Jay Holliday: 4-year term May 6 until May 2029 RC Caveness: 2-year term May 3 until May 2027 Published March 27, 2025 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (260836)

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 publication. A copy of the complaint may be obtained from the clerk of the court. If you fail to file your answer or other response to the complaint in writing within 35 days after the date of the last publication, judgment by default may be rendered against you by the court for the relief demanded in the

complaint without further notice.

This is an action in which Plaintiff is seeking to establish an access 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)

Notice of Cancellation of Regular Election by the Designated Election Official Notice is hereby given by the Aspen Springs Metropolitan District, Archuleta County, Colorado, that at the close of business on the sixty-third day before elections, there were not more candidates for director positions than offices to be filled, including candidates filing affidavits of intent to be write-in candidates; therefore, the election to be held on May 6, 2025 is hereby canceled pursuant to Section 1-13.5-513(6) C.R.S. The following candidates are hereby declared elected: Chris deVries 4-year term until May 2025 Eric Freudenberger 4-year term until May 2029 By Chelsea Windscheffel Designated Election Official For Aspen Springs Metropolitan District P.O. Box 488 Pagosa Springs, Colorado, 81147 PH: 970-731-5656 Published March 27, 2025 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (260637)

NOTICE OF ELECTION CANCELLATION AND CERTIFIED STATEMENT OF RESULTS FOR THE LOMA LINDA METROPOLITAN DISTRICT NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN by the Loma Linda Metropolitan District, Archuleta County, Colorado, that at the close of business on the sixty-third day before the election, (Feb 28), there were not more candidates for director than offices to be filled, including candidates filing affidavits of intent to be write-in candidates; therefore, the election to be held on May 6, 2025 is hereby canceled pursuant to section 1-13.5-513(6) C.R.S. The following candidates are hereby declared elected to 4-year terms ending May, 2029. Al Myatt, Rick Sautel, and Matt Fischer Published March 27, 2025 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (260933)

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*. (259617)

PUBLIC NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME

Public Notice is given on March 20, 2025 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 Eric Carl Winter-Tamkin be changed to Eric Carl Winter. By Nancy McBroom, Deputy Clerk. Published March 27 and April 3, 10, 2025 in *The Pagosa Springs Sun*. (260873)

PUBLIC NOTICES: YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW

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

Legal advertising

Deadline: Friday 4 p.m.*

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

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

Colorado State Patrol sees more speeding beginning in April

Colorado State Patrol

Warmer weather often increases traffic as people spend more time away from home and road trips become more frequent.

Clear roads with nicer weather coupled with traffic congestion can contribute to feelings of impatience and aggression.

“The temptation to speed is a real issue for some drivers, whether it is time pressure, an adrenaline rush or a lack of awareness of the risks toward others,” explained Col. Mathew C.

Packard, chief of the Colorado State Patrol (CSP). “Yet, controlling this urge is the responsibility of every license holder.”

Last year, according to CSP citation data, speeding citations peaked in April (4,341 citations) and remained high through the end of October.

Troopers issued more than 47,000 speeding citations in 2024.

Speed limits are set based on road design and how much traffic there is, to keep everyone safe. Going over these limits puts everyone at risk, including the driver and others on the road.

By understanding the dangers associated with speeding, we can all work toward creating safer roadways and preventing unnecessary accidents.

Speeding raises the risk of accidents and their severity. Here's how:

- Increased rollover accidents: Higher speeds make vehicles, especially tall ones, more prone to rollovers.
- Reduced control: Speeding reduces your ability to control the vehicle, particularly in unexpected situations.
- Extended stopping distances: The faster you drive, the longer it takes to stop, increasing the likelihood of col-

lisions.

- Compromised safety features: Safety features are less effective at higher speeds, leading to more serious injuries.
- Decreased reaction time: Speeding reduces the time you have to react to hazards, making it harder to avoid accidents.
- Greater impact force: Higher speeds result in more forceful impacts, causing more severe damage and injuries.

In Colorado, points and penalties for traffic violations increase based on the severity of the violation.

Water conservancy recommends appointment of new board member

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

At its March 17 meeting, the San Juan Water Conservancy District voted to recommend the reappointment of board members Charles Riehm and Robert Hagberg, and to recommend the appointment of new board member John Kappelman.

SJWCD board members are appointed by Sixth Judicial District Chief Judge Jeffrey Wilson.

In his letter requesting appointment to the board, Kappelman explains that he grew up on a family farm in Idaho that depended on water de-

livered from reservoirs for irrigation.

He states that he received a B.S. in geology and geophysics from Yale University in 1979 and for several years after graduation worked as a consulting hydrologist and as a paralegal litigating water issues.

He notes that he considered pursuing a law degree focusing on water law, but decided to pursue his interest in human evolution.

He explains that he studied for and received an M.A. in anthropology and a Ph.D. in anthropology and earth and planetary sciences from Harvard University.

Following some time spent teach-

ing at the University of Nevada-Reno and a Fulbright Fellowship in Pakistan, Kappelman states that he took a position as a professor at the University of Texas at Austin, where he held joint positions in the departments of anthropology and earth and planetary sciences for 35 years.

He states that he retired in 2023 and moved to Pagosa Springs that year, although he has been a part-time resident of the area since 2003.

During this career, he explains that he conducted research in a wide variety of locations, including Pakistan, Egypt, Kenya and Tanzania.

He notes that he worked coopera-

tively with a wide range of people over his career, including other faculty and researchers, and government officials in countries where he conducted research.

“I consider myself experienced at working with others and have learned the importance of listening as the group works towards consensus and achieving its goals,” his letter states.

He adds that he is applying to serve on the SJWCD board since it would give him an opportunity to apply his knowledge of water resources, science and quantitative skills and “give something back to this new community I now call home.”

Public Meetings

The following meetings are subject to change.

Thursday, March 27

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

Tuesday, April 1

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

Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners meeting. 1:30 p.m., Archuleta County administration building, commissioners' meeting room, 398 Lewis St. View

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

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

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

Wednesday, April 2

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

Thursday, April 3
Combined Parks and Recreation Ad-

visory Board meeting. 5:30 p.m., Town Hall, 551 Hot Springs Blvd. See town website for participation information: <https://pagosasprings.civicweb.net/portal/>.

Tuesday, April 8

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

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

Wednesday, April 9

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

Monday, April 14

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

Tuesday, April 15

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

Mount Allison Grange to host presentation by 4-H youth

By Peggy Duggan
Mount Allison Grange

On April 19 from 10 a.m. to noon, the Mount Allison Grange will host a presentation by local youth about their 4-H projects.

The grange is located at 2622 County Road 229 in Allison (off of Highway 151, next to the Alison Com-

munity Presbyterian Church).

Come support and encourage our youth, find out about what they have been doing, and learn about opportunities with 4-H if you are interested in participating.

This is a free event for all ages open to the public.

Light refreshments will be served.



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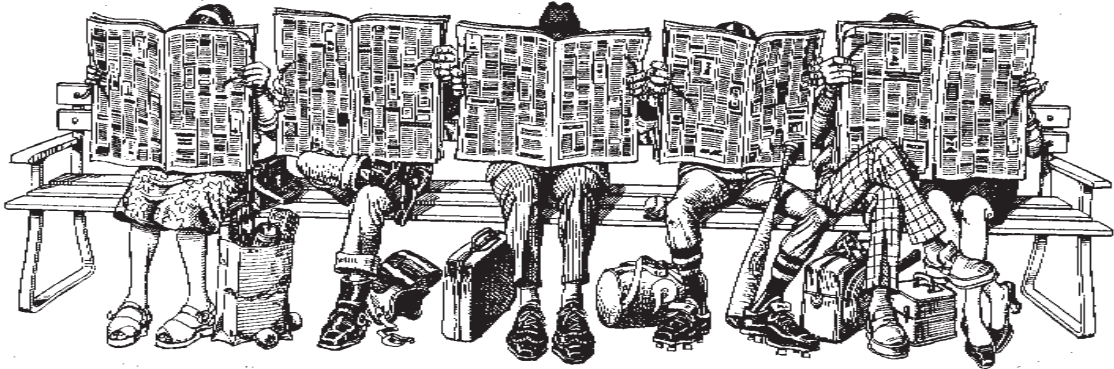
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ARTS & LIFE



March 27, 2025



Photo courtesy Gene Tautges

The kitchen crew of the Pagosa Springs Knights of Columbus’ 29th Annual Lenten Fish Fry show off the food. There are only three Fridays left of the fry this year.

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: Rock N Rebels, 5 p.m.
- Saturday**
Coyote Moon Lounge: MAGI and The One Heart Orchestra, 7 p.m.
The Springs Resort lodge atrium: Maxwell Miller, 5 p.m.
- Sunday**
Coyote Moon Lounge: Ron and Susan, 5 p.m.
- Monday**
Coyote Moon Lounge: Michael Dea Hanlon, 5 p.m.
- Tuesday**
The Springs Resort lodge atrium: Rock N Rebels, 5 p.m.

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Only three Fridays left for 29th Annual Lenten Fish Fry

By Shanna Robb
Pagosa Springs Catholic Community

If your stomach is growling and you love a great deal, then put the Pagosa Springs Knights of Columbus' 29th Annual Lenten Fish Fry on your radar.

Do not delay, however, as there are only three remaining Fridays left for this popular fundraiser. The final Friday will be April 11.

Your \$15 meal will include two fish fillets (featuring Pete Dach's secret seasoning recipe), homemade

coleslaw, french fries, tartar sauce and cocktail sauce. Both dine-in and drive-through options are available, with dine-in guests also receiving a beverage with their meal.

As you satisfy your stomach and pocketbook, you will be supporting a fundraiser that provides college scholarships for graduating seniors

along with supporting veterans, new mothers and those in need. You don't need a fishing license to eat great fish and support a great cause.

Meals are served from 4 to 6 p.m. at Pope John Paul II Catholic Church located at 353 S. Pagosa Blvd. Cash, credit cards and local checks are accepted.

Veterans for Veterans announces annual golf tournament

By Ted Eckerson
Veterans for Veterans of Archuleta County

Veterans for Veterans of Archuleta County would like to announce our 13th annual golf tournament this year to be held at the Rio Grande Club in South Fork on May 24.

The cost will be \$125, which includes a lunch at the turn.

Get your group together; we are selling out fast. Individuals and pairs are also welcome.

This is a memorial tournament, and we are accepting donations if you would like to honor a family member by helping a needy veteran. All donations are appreciated, as are all prayers. Donations may be sent to Vets 4 Vets, P.O. Box 5331, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147.

For more information, please contact Ted Eckerson at tedeckerson@gmail.com or (970) 238-6323.

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Healthy Archuleta announces gardening education classes, community garden opportunities

Healthy Archuleta

Healthy Archuleta is working to help educate the community of Archuleta County about growing and eating healthy food.

For the past few years, Healthy Archuleta has held a series of gardening education classes that focus on growing different types of fruits and vegetables.

These classes, offered in both English and Spanish, have been led by expert local instructors with years of gardening and farming experience who want to share their knowledge with anyone who wants to learn about growing food in a high mountain climate.

By offering these classes and partnering with two local community gardens and other types of gardening activities, Healthy Archuleta hopes to engage the community individually and as a whole in supporting local agriculture.

To kick off the garden education series this year, the classes will be held at both community gardens: two classes at the Vista Lake Community Garden and two classes at the Pagosa Springs Community Garden.

Please visit Healthy Archuleta's website or Facebook page for more information on dates and times.

Community gardens are for the community

There are two community gardens in Archuleta County: the Pagosa Springs Community Garden, located downtown along the Riverwalk, and the Vista Lake Community Garden, located uptown at the Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Association (PLPOA) office and Vista Lake outdoor recreation area. These two gardens operate independently but in partnership with Healthy Archuleta.

Community gardens provide more than just a space to grow vegetables and flowers. They offer an area where community members can gather and share their experiences in gardening, seek out advice from more experienced growers, and spend time with their neighbors.

Growing the vegetables that they love to eat, flowers that brighten their moods and herbs that flavor their dishes all bring these gardeners together as a group wanting to expand their knowledge and improve their health.

Pagosa Springs Community Garden

The Pagosa Springs Community Garden, located in the downtown area off 5th Street, has been an ongoing part of Pagosa Springs for a number of years. Situated along the Riverwalk, just west of the Geothermal Greenhouse Partnership domes, this community garden is a space that is made available by the Town of Pagosa Springs and offers free garden beds to anyone wishing to hone their

gardening skills.

The garden is in a fenced area to dissuade most wildlife from accessing the raised garden beds, with a nicely trimmed shade tree in the center, an area for composting (and soon a newly installed composting system), and a few benches and chairs for relaxing.

The current management team of the garden is enthusiastic about gardening and looking for ways to involve the community by holding various events to attract visitors.

Some of the activities planned for the 2025 growing season include building a three-bin composting system, seed starting, amending and planning the beds, and improving the layout to allow for more space for gathering.

The team has plans to host several open houses throughout the growing season where you can meet the gardeners, ask questions and participate in a fun activity.

To learn more about the Pagosa Springs Community Garden, contact PagosaSpringsCommunityGardenCo@gmail.com. There is also an Instagram page: @Pagosagardens or <https://www.instagram.com/pagosagardens/>.

This year, again, Healthy Archuleta will have a presence at the Pagosa Springs Community Garden. Beginning in May, "Conversations in the Garden" will be held twice a month on Saturday mornings, from 9 to 10 a.m.

Discussions will include weed management, watering, composting practices, fertilizing, harvesting and cooking lessons.

These events are free to the public, and signing up is not necessary. Just bring a chair, a favorite beverage and enjoy the sparkling conversations. Dates scheduled are May 17 and 24, June 14 and 28, July 12 and 26, Aug. 9 and 23, and Sept. 13 and 27.

Vista Lake Community Garden

The Vista Lake Community Garden is located in the PLPOA and Vista Lake recreation area, just off Port Avenue.

Healthy Archuleta, in partnership with community members and PLPOA and with funding support from the Colorado Health Foundation, helped develop the Vista Lake Community Garden in 2019.

Today, this garden is an environment where the community comes together to grow food and to advance connections and relationships. The efforts of this garden are led by the Vista Lake Community Garden, now a subcommittee of the PLPOA Board of Directors.

There are two separate gardens at the Vista Lake Community Garden.

The upper, or older garden beds, are being used by the Vista Lake Community Garden to grow food for the community via the local food pantries. Fruits and vegetables are

grown in the beds, harvested and taken to the Food Distribution Center, operated by Healthy Archuleta, and then distributed to the pantries. The beds are maintained by the members of the Vista Lake Community Garden.

However, they are looking for volunteers to assist with gardening activities such as weeding, planting and harvesting. To volunteer for this project, please contact Toni at toniagallegos21@gmail.com. It is not necessary to be a PLPOA resident to volunteer.

The new garden is located near Vista Lake and the outdoor recreation area and pergola. In 2020, raised beds were constructed and offered to residents of the PLPOA for a small fee. The garden area is fenced to keep out wildlife; the beds are 3 feet by 6.5 feet and have access to a drip irrigation system, a tool shed and a greenhouse. During the growing season, special events are held for PLPOA residents and youth, which include potlucks, children's activities, summer holiday events and harvest activities.

There are currently 26 beds for
■ See Classes on next page

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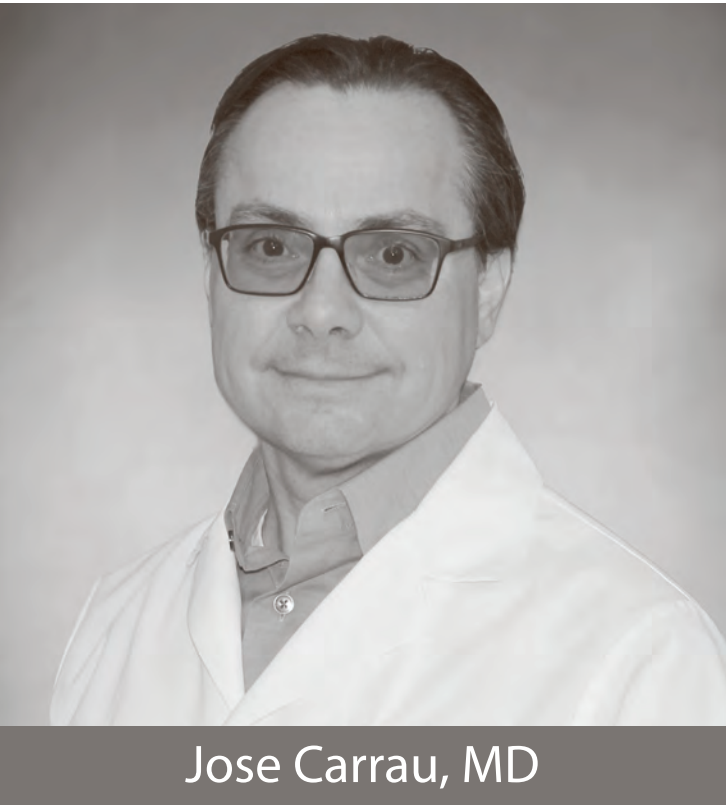


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Healthy Archuleta invites youth to learn about becoming a health professional

Healthy Archuleta

Healthy Archuleta invites any youth in the community with an interest in pursuing a career in health care to hear from Dr. Rita Guevara on March 27 in the Archuleta County Department of Human Services conference room from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Youth are encouraged to show up at the event to participate; preregistration is not required.

Rita Guevara, MD, is an associate professor of pediatrics and dean of inclusive excellence at Drexel University's College of Medicine, in addition to her full-time role as an attending pediatrician and director of health

equity at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children in Philadelphia, Penn.

She will be joining us virtually to talk about her journey toward becoming a health professional as an immigrant youth.

Guevara will discuss her experience toward getting an education and the support that her family gave her throughout her medical career journey.

In addition to sharing her story, Guevara will also be listening to the stories of the youth present to hear their challenges in earning higher education and joining the medical field. She will share information on medical field opportunities available

for them

Healthy Archuleta and Drexel University have partnered to create opportunities for local youth interested in pursuing a career in health care to learn more.

This conversation with Guevara is one of several sessions in partnership with Drexel University that Healthy Archuleta will host this spring for youth and young adults to learn more about careers in health care.

To learn more about the efforts of Healthy Archuleta and our upcoming events, visit our website at www.foodcoalition4archuleta.org or send us an email at fsfearchuleta@gmail.com.

San Juan Stargazers to see demonstration of star lab April 3

By Joan Mieritz
San Juan Stargazers

The monthly meeting of the San Juan Stargazers will be on Thursday, April 3.

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

We will meet at our regular loca-

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

At 7 p.m. we will walk together to Pagosa Springs Middle School for a demonstration of the star lab.

We need to arrive together because the door will not be left open after we are inside and you can't get in if you are late.

The Stargazers contributed money as a club, and several individual contributions were made by club members. It should be a super educational program, as well as being a lot of fun.

SpiritFire Inspirational Living Center announces upcoming events

By Shayla McClure
SpiritFire Inspirational Living Center

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

- April 5, 11 a.m.: "Soul Medicine, Spring Awakening" Himalayan singing bowl meditation and healing session with Scott Maki, Finnish shaman and artist. The cost is a \$25 donation.

- April 12: Full moon pink paschal moon drumming circle. A love donation of \$10 will be accepted.

- April 20, 11 a.m.: Easter celebration and potluck.

- April 26: Playshop with Candace Isenberg on "Creating Your Magic with the Elements of Nature."

- May 7, 14 and 21, 6 p.m.: Tarot classes. Sign up by calling (970) 264-7474.

About us

The SpiritFire Inspirational Living Center is a 501(c)(3). We are an all-inclusive community honoring all lifestyles, cultures and religious paths to the Divine. We are the "Good Vibe Tribe" who practices Science of Mind principles of positive thinking.

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

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

SpiritFire Inspirational Living Center events are held at 3505 W. U.S. 160, on the second floor of the Pagosa Lodge (elevator available). Obtain

information by joining us; emailing pagosacommunitynewthought@gmail.com; mailing P.O. Box 1052, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147; or calling (970) 510-0309.

Classes

■ continued from previous page
rent, and demand is usually high, with most of the beds being spoken for quickly.

However, the Vista Lake Community Garden committee plans to build more raised beds within the garden to accommodate more gardeners. A handful will be built this year, with additional ones constructed in the future. To learn more about renting a bed in the Vista Lake Community

Garden, contact PLPOA's Jen Pitcher at jenp@plpoa.com.

To learn more about the Vista Lake Community Garden activities in the PLPOA community, visit the Vista Lake Community Garden Facebook page.

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

29TH ANNUAL KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

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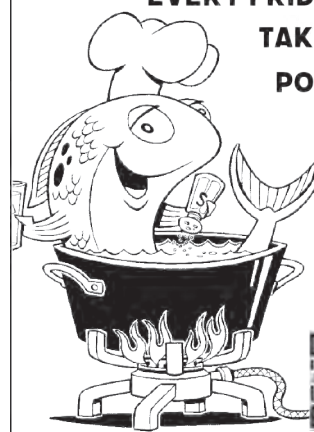
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Notice of Planning Commission Vacancy

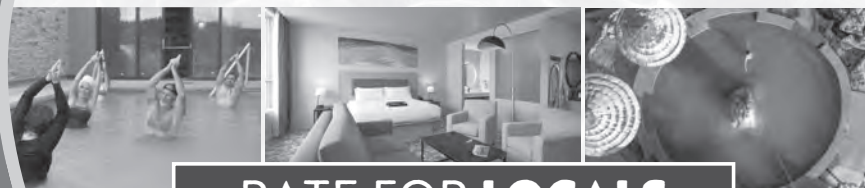
The Town of Pagosa Springs is seeking applications from individuals interested in volunteering to serve as an alternate member for the Planning Commission. This position will be appointed by the Town Council.

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



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

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Back by popular demand: More free expert tax help and wildfire prep advice

By Carole Howard
PREVIEW Columnist, and the library staff

Her free personalized tax help sessions were such a success in March that Katherine from VITA Tax Help will return to your library next Friday, April 7, from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. to help more patrons with face-to-face sessions.

But, you need to do some homework before you come if you want to take advantage of her generous offer.

Katherine has left tax packets that must be filled out fully before you make your appointment. Then, once you have completed that important step, appointments must be made in advance by calling her at (970) 553-9150.

We are very grateful to Katherine for generously donating her time and sharing her tax experience and expertise with our patrons free of charge.

Save the date for wildfire preparedness

Next Thursday, April 3, at 5:30 p.m. County sheriff and emergency management personnel will be at your library to help you get ready for the wildfire season. They will discuss emergency preparation, fuel mitigation and how their efforts help us all stay alive.

Lifelong Learning moves to afternoons

Mark your calendars for the new spring Lifelong Learning lectures beginning April 16 and running through May 21 — and note that they are now happening on Wednesday afternoons from 1 p.m. to 2:15 p.m.

The time change was made from evenings because many patrons said they preferred not to have to drive at night to attend.

As always, the informative and interesting talks will cover a wide variety of topics from astronomy to weather, arborglyphs art to estate planning, and more.

Watch for more details in future “Library News” columns and pick up

Library News

a brochure at your library with details of all the talks.

Online author talks

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

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

Wednesday, April 2, at 5 p.m. will showcase “Wordsmith and Wonder” with Jodi Picoult.

Tuesday, April 8 at noon will focus on “Stories, Science and the History of Trees” with the Smithsonian Institute.

Thursday, April 24, at 5 p.m. will feature “The Thrill of Writing Action, Adventure and Suspense” with Gregg Hurwitz.

Dungeons and Dragons

A community-library 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) every Thursday in April from 4 to 5:30 p.m. for a free afterschool adventure.

Registration is required. Participants must be in middle school and registered with the PCI afterschool programs.

This Dungeon and Dragons program will continue until the end of the school year.

Friday Flix tomorrow

Enjoy a PG movie chosen by participants plus free popcorn Friday, March 28, from 2 to 3:30 p.m.

Music fun Monday

Pagosa Unplugged is free from 4 to 6 p.m. Monday, March 31, for

amateur musicians who would like a safe, supportive, non-bar setting to play, sing or both with other people. For information, contact Susan at (970) 946-3396.

Ageless Grace exercise Monday

In a special community partnership program, Judy, adult services librarian, is leading an Ageless Grace exercise program at the Pagosa Senior Center every Monday in March from 10 to 10:45 a.m.

It is a brain fitness program consisting of 21 simple exercises designed for all ages and abilities, performed while sitting in a chair. The Senior Center location was chosen so participants have more privacy as they exercise.

■ See Library on next page



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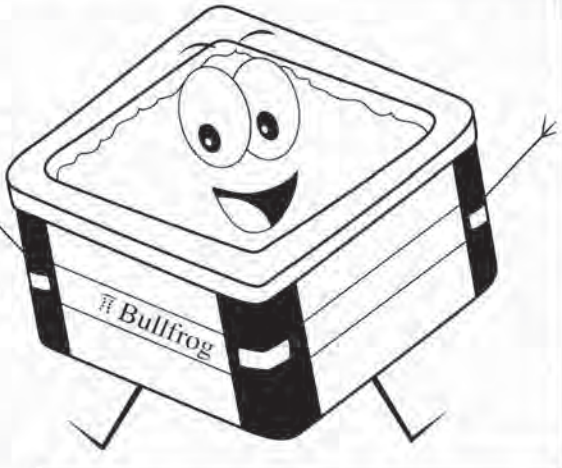
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Library

■ continued from previous page

High school math tutoring

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

Spanish conversation

Practice your Spanish in a free group setting on Tuesday, April 1, from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. There is no minimum skill level needed.

Note this group now meets twice a month, on the first and third Tuesdays.

Family storytimes

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

Elementary tutoring sessions — more tutors needed

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

Special note: This program is so popular that we have need for more tutors. If you have teaching experience in early grades and are interested, please contact Barb Brattin, library director.

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.

Activities calendars

Pick up monthly events calendars at the library so you don't miss any of the free activities available to you and your family.

Downloadable books

CloudLibrary has a wide variety of downloadable e-books and audiobooks for all ages. To access this free digital collection, download the cloudLibrary app, answer a few simple questions, select AspenCat Union Catalog for the name of your library, then enter your library card number and four-digit PIN. Library staff are happy to help you set up your device if you need assistance.

Two short story collections

"Wednesday's Child" by Chinese writer Yiyun Li is a collection of 11 short stories about people dealing with death, violence, estrangement, aging and other issues of everyday contemporary life. The pieces originally appeared in The New Yorker, Esquire and other publications over the span of 14 years. The author was a finalist for a Pulitzer Prize.

"The Best American Short Stories 2024" edited by bestselling author Lauren Groff is a collection of 23 stories written by top U.S. authors, including Jamel Brinkley, Laurie Colwin, Molly Dektar and Daniel Mason. Their varied themes include a man becoming a tourist in his own hometown, an unemployed jeweler sailing on an antique slave ship and a therapist deciding to phone a former patient years after their last session.

DVDs

"The Last Rifleman" stars Pierce Brosnan, who escapes from his care home to return to France with memories of D-Day. "Den of Thieves" is a gritty Los Angeles crime saga. "Outlander" is season seven. "Victoria" is seasons one, two and three.

Mysteries, suspense and thrillers

"Lie for a Million" by Janet Dailey follows the wife in a prestigious Texas family dealing with scandal and multiple crises after her husband was murdered. "Everyone Knows But You" by Thomas E. Ricks features an FBI agent starting a new life in Maine. "The Boxcar Librarian" by Brianna

■ See Library on next page

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Saturday, March 29th
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CSU Extension holding annual seed potato sale

By Cindi Galabota
PREVIEW Columnist

Your Colorado State University (CSU) Extension team is excited to announce that we have seed potatoes for sale.

We are taking pre-orders now for Colorado certified and non-GMO potatoes. All potatoes are \$2 per pound. Cash or check will be accepted at the time of pickup at the CSU Extension Office on May 13 between 1 and 6 p.m., and May 14 and 15 between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. CSU Extension staff and Master Gardeners will be on-site to answer your questions.

All potatoes were developed by CSU at the San Luis Valley Research Center, where staff work collaboratively, conducting unparalleled work developing potato varieties and enhancing disease and pest control strategies for Colorado growers.

This year your Archuleta County Extension Office is offering five varieties of potatoes for your growing

Extension Viewpoints

and eating enjoyment:

1. High-yielding yellow potato. The plant of this potato is medium-sized and semi-erect with white flowers. The potato tubers are oval with white (light) skin and yellow flesh. They are resistant to internal defects. They have a very high yield potential and long-term storage potential.

2. Jelly Bean fingerling potato. The plant is medium-sized and semi-erect with red/purple flowers. The attractive tuber looks like a jelly bean with red skin and yellow flesh and some red in the vascular ring. Tubers are resistant to blackspot bruise, growth crack, second growth and hollow heart.

3. Midnight Moon potato. The

plant of this potato is medium-sized and semi-erect with blue flowers. The round tubers are attractive with purple skin and yellow flesh. They are resistant to hollow heart, blackspot bruise and second growth. The plant has a high yield potential.

4. Jerry Garcia potato. The plant is large and semi-erect with purple flowers. The attractive tubers are small and oblong with purple skin and purple and yellow flesh (almost like it is tie-dyed). Tubers are resistant to second growth and hollow heart.

5. Masquerade potato. The large plant is semi-erect with dark purple flowers. The round attractive tubers are purple with white bicolor skin and yellow flesh, and are considered to have good flavor attributes. They have a high yield potential and are moderately resistant to hollow heart, blackspot bruise and shatter bruise.

Potatoes are in the plant family Solanaceae. They are related to pep-
■ See Viewpoints on next page

Library

■ continued from previous page
Labuskes, inspired by true events, explores the mystery surrounding a local librarian.

“Ambush” by Colleen Coble is a romantic suspense story in the Sanctuary series. “I Might Be in Trouble” by Daniel Aleman tells of a has-been writer who wakes up to find his date dead in his bed. “Shattering Dawn” by Jayne Ann Krentz is the second novel in the Lost Night Files trilogy.

Other novels

“Until August” by Gabriel Garcia Marquez is the famed author’s final novel about a happily married woman who travels every August to take a new lover. “The Paradise Problem” by Christina Lauren features a buttoned-up heir to a fortune and a free-spirited artist who fake their marriage in order to receive a massive inheritance. “The Trial of Anna Thalberg” by Eduardo Sangarcia is a tale of religious persecution and superstition during the Protestant Reformation.

“The Jackal’s Mistress” by Chris Bohjalian is about a Civil War friendship across enemy lines, inspired by a piece of American history. “The First Druids of Shannara: Galaphile” by Terry Brooks explores the origin story of the Druid order. “The Unbecoming of Margaret Wolf” by Isa Arsen features two Shakespearean actors in an unconventional marriage who get caught up in a director’s scheme.

Nonfiction

“Peterson Field Guide to Weather” was written by Jay Anderson, Jay M. Pasachoff and John A. Day. “Dare I Say It” by Naomi Watts blends funny and poignant stories with advice on menopause from doctors, hormone experts and nutritionists. “To Save the Man” by John Sayles is the true

story of the Wounded Knee Massacre, one of America’s greatest tragedies.

Thanks to our donors

We are grateful to Holly Langford for her donation of books to help build our classic books section.

Quotable quote

“When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, ‘Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.’” — Fred Rogers (1928-2003), also known as Mister Rogers.

He was a Presbyterian minister, TV host, author and composer who was a pioneer in children’s programming, having created, hosted and written the preschool show “Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood” from 1968 to 2001. He also composed the show’s music.

Website

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



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Habitat for Humanity construction manager earns certification

By Leah Ballard
Habitat for Humanity of Archuleta County

Habitat for Humanity of Archuleta County announces that Construction Project Manager Madeline Bergon has passed the national residential building contractor examination, after months of preparation and a day of testing in Albuquerque, N.M.

Viewpoints

■ continued from previous page
pers, tomatoes and eggplants, but are adapted to higher elevations and therefore harsher growing conditions. Potatoes are a good source of vitamin C, potassium, vitamin B6 and fiber, and are naturally fat free.

Plant your potatoes in an area of the garden with well-drained soil and no low spots where standing water can pool. Potatoes grow best in sandy loam soil. Soils that are high in clay should be tilled to break up large clumps prior to planting.

Potatoes can be planted up to two weeks before the last killing frost. The soil temperature should be at least 55 degrees F during the day and 45 degrees F at night. Seed potatoes should be planted about 4 inches deep and 8-12 inches apart (depending on the type/size of potato). The sprouts, or eyes, should be planted facing up. If you grow potatoes every year, they should be grown in different areas of the garden each year to help control pests and disease, and maintain plant health. Potatoes grow best in a slightly acidic soil with a pH between 5.0 and 6.0. If you do not know the pH of your soil, you can apply a fertilizer with a balanced ratio of nitrogen, phosphorous, and potassium (N:P:K) such as a 10-10-10.

Potatoes require consistent soil moisture and need about 2 inches of water per week.

Too much variability can cause growth cracks, irregular shapes and hollow heart.

Typically the highest water need is in late June to early August, when the potato foliage is fully developed.

Potatoes should be harvested before the first severe frost. Indicators of mature potato plants include vine yellowing, vine death and skin set, in which the potato skin does not peel off when rubbed. After harvest, if the potatoes are not eaten immediately, they can be stored in a dark place with high humidity at 50 to 60 degrees F for about two weeks to cure.

Then they are ready for long-term storage in burlap bags in the dark at 40 degrees F.

Enjoy your potatoes in a variety of ways all year long. To learn more and place your potato order, visit <https://archuleta.extension.colostate.edu/seed-potatoes/>.

Executive Director Leah Ballard stated, "This just adds to the many ways that Maddy is a vital team member at Habitat."

Bergon explained, "After two years in the construction industry, this was the obvious next step for me. I'm proud of the success of Habitat Archuleta on behalf of work force families and employers in Pagosa

Springs."

Bergon is a graduate of Pagosa Springs High School and an elected member of the Pagosa Springs Town Council.

The organization is building three homes this year, bringing the local total number since founding in 1994 to 39.

To volunteer or donate construction materials, email volunteer@habitatarchuleta.org. Contribute financial support or ask questions on our affordable homeownership program by emailing director@habitatarchuleta.org.

Email list

Do you want to be added to our email distribution list to learn about upcoming programs and the latest resources? Email cindi.galabota@colostate.edu to be added to our list.

Or, 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 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.

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/owfhB5R8PTpYYHGGA> to register.

There are limited spots available. Applications are due by May 9.


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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 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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The Pagosa Springs SUN
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The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

- 1 Root beer brand
5 Rose oil
10 Email folder
14 On the safe side
15 Feudal lord
16 Forum attire
17 Turn suddenly
18 All-consuming?
20 Hard to brush off
22 Electrician's concern
23 Parking sticker
24 Make rise, as dough
26 Menu phrase
28 U.S.-owned island
32 Close friend
34 Record keeper
35 Gist
37 Fill with affection

- 39 Viking Age slave
40 Give it a go
42 Word before pool or seat
43 Strong joe
44 Appear (to be)
45 Put out of action
48 Belt clip-on of old
50 Actress Sophia
53 Coconut meat
56 Two-bit
58 Shout to an unruly group
60 Tops with frosting
61 Green-blue hue
62 Varnish ingredient
63 "___ or won't?"
64 Wheel connector
65 One way to stand
66 They may be loose or split

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2 Coeur d'___, ID
3 Ease a conflict
4 Type of number
5 Very much
6 Delay
7 Two fivers
8 Rabble-rouse
9 Ministerial nickname
10 Part-time reporter
11 Like a church mouse
12 Malarial fever
13 Part of an Einstein equation
19 Need to pay
21 Zigzag on skis
25 Chaste
27 Murder mystery staple
29 Part of HUAC

- 30 Org. co-founded by Helen Keller
31 Pinochle combo
32 Pot pie tidbits
33 Initial stake
36 High-pitched
38 Thin lining
41 Bettor's adviser
42 Like many cookie jars
46 Tragic end

- 47 Bullock's "Two Weeks ____"
49 Get into a stew?
51 Polish
52 Comfy spots
53 Half a soft drink?
54 Quartz variety
55 Ring
57 Time to give up?
59 Verb for you

Answers to Previous Crossword:

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

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Over the top, but worth it

By Angel Westen
Special to The PREVIEW

Editor's note: Angel Westen is an eighth-grader at Pagosa Peak Open School (PPOS). According to PPOS's middle school English language arts advisor, Alison Beach, for the first half of the school year, seventh- and eighth-grade students studied identity in the Medieval Times. Westen's narrative, the advisor explained, is an exploded moment that she created to take place after the events of "The Midwife's Apprentice" by Karen Cushman where the protagonist Alyce grows in her identity. Westen references a chapter called "The Devil." In this chapter, Alyce uses woodworked "shoes" to make tracks that convince the villagers that the devil has come to town in retaliation for the poor treatment she endures.

Alyce was near the town, sitting in the grass and leaning against a tree, thinking about how the midwife and herself were competing over a job. Two whispering villagers walked by the tree Alyce was sitting in. They said that the midwife didn't want to compete with Alyce for jobs, so the midwife had decided to get rid of Alyce. Alyce tried to come up with a plan. After an hour or two, she finally got it.

Later that evening, she went to a blacksmith and asked if he could make

The Writers' Circle

iron shoes in exchange for a hand-sewn coat, since it was getting cold out. The blacksmith gladly accepted the offer and once Alyce shook his hand, she walked out and the blacksmith started forging. Alyce could hear the clinking of the metal as she was walking away.

As the blacksmith did that, Alyce tried finding a way to make a needle. She decided to carve a stick into a needle. She'd never really seen one before but she tried her best nonetheless. She used thin fabric since the needle wasn't stable to go through thick fabric. It wasn't ideal, but the blacksmith will be warmer, at least. She started working tirelessly sewing the coat and, the next morning, she went to visit the blacksmith. He was finished with the shoes and they were flawless. Alyce gave the blacksmith the coat she made and walked away.

Alyce took the shoes to the midwife's home and set up a campfire outside with excess wood and set the shoes hanging from a stick above the campfire with some sticks and a string

she found. Once the shoes were hot, she carefully placed tree sap into the shoes to make her plan effective. There was quite a bit of it, so the adherence was strong. She used sturdy sticks to grab the shoes and place them on the doorstep. Alyce then knocked on the door and ran behind a tree to watch. When the midwife opened the door, she wasn't paying attention and stepped right into the shoes. The hot metal burned her feet thoroughly and when she tried stepping out of them, the tree sap kept her in place. Her feet were very thoroughly damaged.

Since the midwife was no longer competing and being cared for, Alyce got the job and worked hard to keep a roof over her head, and the midwife was very upset. She didn't want to compete with Alyce, but also didn't want her to steal the job from right under her nose. Alyce didn't care what the midwife thought and continued to work happily with no problem.

"She could find another job, I'm sure," Alyce thought. "I'm not sure she even needs one. I mean I'm not educated on higher ranks, but I assume she can keep the home she has."

What Alyce did was cruel and likely over the top, but it was worth it.

Views expressed do not necessarily represent those of The SUN.



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Gratitude for six years of service to Archuleta Seniors Inc.

By Rose Chavez
PREVIEW Columnist

Last Sunday, the Archuleta Seniors Inc. (ASI) board of directors, full-time staff, and a few friends and family gathered on the beautiful grounds of Keyah Grande to celebrate and honor ASI board chair Al Northrop over brunch.

At the end of March, Northrop will have completed two terms on the board of directors, for a total of six years of volunteer service on behalf of the older adults, caregivers and families of Archuleta County.

He has also been a key champion of improving staff well-being, supporting increases to livable wages and a modest health benefit stipend.

As a new executive director, Northrop has been supportive and a compassionate mentor, and I want to express my sincere gratitude for his service and friendship. Board service is one of the toughest volunteer roles, and he took on his board duties with dedication, grace and seriousness (but not without a few jokes sprinkled in to help us keep our perspectives).

I am most grateful for his active leadership as a judicious steward of our organization. I know he always carefully deliberated on matters before the board, even when the decisions were difficult.

A famous peace activist once said, "Wisdom is knowing what to do next; virtue is doing it."

Al is both wise and virtuous, and I am grateful he shared those qualities with ASI as a board member and ambassador in the community.

We extend our profound gratitude to you, Al, from all of us here at ASI. A special thanks also goes out to his loving wife, Karen Northrop.

Al Northrop is a retired circuit court judge. After serving on three levels of the Maryland judiciary for 31 years, he retired to southwest Colorado, where he continues to enjoy the open spaces and the mountain views. He enjoys skiing, golfing and horseback riding. He also enjoys writing as a hobby and, while he won't be on our board after March, we look forward to seeing him enjoy lunch, social activities and are so grateful he still wants to pick up and take our recycling for us.

Spring Fling Wine Pairing Soirée

Join us for ASI's Spring Fling Wine Pairing Soiree on April 11 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Ross Aragon Community Center, 451 Hot Springs Blvd.

Enjoy a selection of exceptional curated wines, savory appetizers from and delicious chocolates, all crafted by local artisans. Live music from the gifted Gus Palma will enhance the evening's ambiance. The soiree will also feature a silent auction with unique items and fantastic door prizes. This event invites everyone — singles, couples and groups — to enjoy an unforgettable evening while supporting ASI.

Senior News

Tickets are limited, so don't miss out. Purchase tickets at <https://givebutter.com/SpringFlingWinePairing>, by calling (970) 264-2167 or visiting our office.

Why fundraise?

Poverty rates for individuals aged 65 and older in Archuleta County have risen from 5.2 percent to 9.0 percent, impacting approximately 1,300 individuals. The soiree is crucial for raising funds to support essential health and social services for vulnerable older adults and family caregivers in our community.

Poverty in rural America presents barriers to vital resources for all age groups, but older adults are especially vulnerable, including experiencing barriers to: health care, healthy food and affordable housing, among other critical supports.

ASI operates independently as a nonprofit, relying on public and private funding, donations and more than 70 community volunteers. Unfortunately, funding sources have been unstable, making your support vital for our efforts to serve the community effectively.

Impact of ASI

Since 2023, more than 1,000 unduplicated older adults and caregivers in Archuleta County have benefited annually from our signature nutrition program, which offers nutritious meals served in a welcoming environment. In 2024 alone, we provided approximately 20,000 meals, including deliveries to homebound older adults, a convenient grab-n-go service and dine-in/socialize options.

Annually, we also serve more than 600 unduplicated older adults and caregivers via facilitating quality referrals to local organizations/agencies, providing social connection and support through various activities, including community clinics, fun games, educational classes, discussion groups, and creative and empowering community events.

Caregiver support group

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
■ See Senior on next page

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SUDOKU

		2			1	4		7
							5	
	5				9			
				7			8	6
		4			5			
			2					
5			8	6		9		4
	8			9			3	
	7	3	1			8		

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!

5	9	8	2	4	1	3	7	6
2	3	1	7	9	5	6	8	4
4	7	6	3	9	8	1	2	5
3	4	5	9	1	2	8	6	7
6	1	9	7	5	8	3	4	2
8	6	2	4	7	9	5	1	3
8	2	9	6	3	4	7	5	1
1	3	5	8	2	7	9	6	4
7	9	4	1	5	6	2	3	8

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!

Senior

■ continued from previous page

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.

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.

Upcoming bingo dates include April 4, April 18, May 9, May 23, June 13 and June 27.

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

■ See Senior on next page



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Photo courtesy Archuleta Seniors Inc.

The Archuleta Seniors Inc. board of directors, full-time staff, and a few friends and family gather to celebrate and honor board chair Al Northrop. At the end of March, Northrop will have completed two terms on the board of directors, for a total of six years.

Senior

■ continued from previous page
or phone call to (970) 264-2167 by 9 a.m. weekdays.

Community Cafe menu

Thursday, March 27 — Greek chicken pita with tzatziki sauce, lemon greek potatoes, garden salad, fruit, baklava and milk.

Friday, March 28 — Vegetarian stuffed bell peppers, squash casserole, spinach salad, fruit, muffin and milk.

Monday, March 31 — Chicken potpie, roasted cauliflower, garden salad, cherry crisp and milk.

Tuesday, April 1 — Shrimp scampi over linguine, wilted spinach, garlic toast, garden salad, fruit and milk.

Wednesday, April 2 — Home-made grass-fed beef meatballs and marinara with Parmesan, warm bean and bacon salad, garden salad, fruit, and milk.

Thursday, April 3 — Pork ribs with ginger plum sauce, lavender-apricot rice pilaf, garden salad, fruit and milk.

Friday, April 4 — Black bean veggie burger with chipotle aioli, skillet mushrooms and zucchini, garden salad, fruit and milk.

Grab-N-Go meals

Dine-in and Grab-N-Go meal reservations and cancellations are required. Please call or text by 9 a.m. the morning of the day you want to pick up a meal. A suggested donation of \$6 helps to sustain our program. For ages 59 and younger, the cost is \$10.50. No one will be turned away for their inability to donate. Please 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.

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Bird of the Week



Photo courtesy Byron Greco

This week's Bird of the Week, compliments of the Weminuche Audubon Society and Audubon Rockies, is the pied-billed grebe.

The word pied describes something with two or more different colors. In the case of this bird, in breeding season it describes its unusually thick bill which changes color from yellowish to bluish-white with a prominent black band. These small waterfowl have compact bodies, large blockish heads and almost no tail. In summer they have dark brown upperparts and gray sides.

The Latin name of its genus, *podylimbus*, which translates as "feet at buttocks," describes another physical characteristic of this bird. Having feet far back on the body is a design common to this and many other diving birds. This trait, combined with lobed toes, makes these grebes expert divers but awkward on land, and they are rarely seen out of water.

The ability to squeeze air out of the spaces between feathers and body and to expel air from internal air sacs allows these birds to change their buoyancy. They may quietly sink out of sight like a submarine. To avoid danger, they may stay afloat for a long time like a crocodile, with only their eyes and nostrils exposed above the water line.

Pied-billed grebes dive for most of their food. They are opportunistic feeders that use their strong bills to crush crayfish and small fish. Crabs, shrimp, snails, and aquatic insects and their larvae are among the food items taken. They eat quantities of their own feathers and even feed feathers to the chicks. The feathers act like a strainer to prevent hard, indigestible parts from entering the intestines, which are regurgitated as pellets.

In dense stands of aquatic vegetation, pairs gather decaying plant matter from the bottom and pile it up to construct a floating nest. They continue to add material throughout the incubation period to keep the nests afloat and the eggs out of water. On their second day, chicks leave the nest and for the first week spend time riding on the backs of their parents.

With zebra-striped heads and a flash of orange on the back, pied-billed chicks are cute. Look for the young with mom and dad on area lakes and ponds as early as mid-May.

For information on events, visit www.weminucheaudubon.org and www.facebook.com/weminucheaudubon/.



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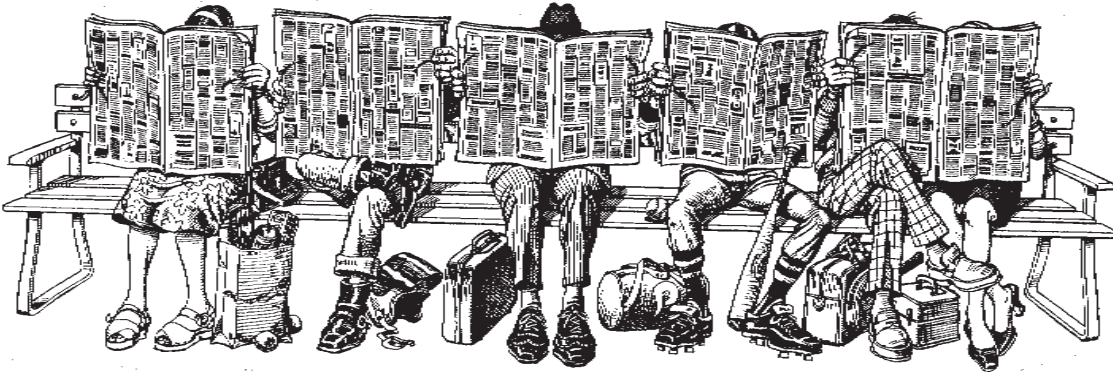
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Wolves need federal protection to survive

By Ted Williams
PREVIEW Columnist

On Jan. 31, the 30th anniversary of wolves getting reintroduced to Yellowstone National Park, congressional representatives Lauren Boebert (R-CO) and Tom Tiffany (R-WI) and introduced their “Pet and Livestock Protection Act.”

It would abolish Endangered Species Act protections for wolves in California, Arizona, New Mexico, Washington, Oregon, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Colorado and Michigan, among other states.

“Protective listings,” wrote Boebert, are the work of “leftists (who) cower to radical environmentalists.”

As Boebert notes, populations of wolves have rebounded. But the constant slaughter of the animals in the Northern Rockies makes it likely that at some point, federal recovery actions will once more be necessary. That can’t happen if Boebert’s bill succeeds because it contains a provision that blocks courts from again ordering protection under the Endangered Species Act.

Wolf recovery in the West — the biggest success in wildlife management history — took decades to achieve. I served on the advisory board of the Wolf Fund, which pushed for wolves coming back to Yellowstone, helped get grants for wolf recovery and urged recovery in national publications. As a lifelong hunter, I confronted wolf-haters publicly.

But what does recovery look like?

In Montana, wolf quotas are increasingly liberal. In 2023 alone, a quarter of the state’s wolves were killed. The population is declining by about 100 animals per year, but that’s not fast enough for wolf-haters. Montana’s legislature is considering a bill for nonstop hunting until a 600-wolf quota is reached.

The sponsor, 19-year-old Rep. Lukas Schubert, Republican from Kalispell, says it’s needed “to drive the wolf population down faster.”

In Idaho and Wyoming, one may collect bounties by choking wolves to death with neck snares, gunning them down from helicopters, shooting them at night, attacking them with dogs, burning pups and nursing mothers in their dens, and trapping. In Wyoming, it is still legal to chase wolves from snowmobiles — a sport known as “wolf

Opinion: Writers on the Range

whacking.”

Wayne Pacelle, president and founder of Animal Wellness Action and Center for a Humane Economy, said, “It’s astonishing to me that, last year, House Republican leaders brought up a bill to remove all federal protections for wolves on the heels of the gut-wrenching revelations about cruelty to wolves in Wyoming. In that state, a man ran down a wolf with a snowmobile and crushed the animal ... Then he paraded her around a bar before finally killing her.”

That is why states can’t be trusted when they allow such practices and when they jeopardize wolf recovery.

Wolves also get unfairly blamed for fewer animals to hunt. Elk are being depleted by wolves, proclaim the Sportsmen’s Alliance, Safari Club International and Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, all of which sued to block Endangered Species Act protections.

But in most of their range, elk are dangerously above population objectives. The real issue for these litigants is that with wolves back in the ecosystem, elk are acting like wild animals again, becoming more wary and harder for hunters to kill.

Wolves do occasionally kill livestock, especially livestock unprotected by fences and guard dogs. Much of that loss is compensated, and sometimes wolves need to be moved out of an area.

But wolves can be useful on the land, killing deer and elk that have contracted chronic wasting disease (CWD).

Dan Ashe, former U.S. Fish and Wildlife director, said wolves and other predators cleanse CWD from the environment by removing infected ungulates.

In a column for Writers on the Range, Ashe noted that the CWD pathogen is a self-replicating protein called a “prion” that is not alive. Humans can’t kill it by inoculating animals or even by cooking infected flesh. Wolves, however, are immune to the prions, deactivating them through digestion.

Here’s the irony, as Princeton University biologist Andrew Dobson and University of Calgary biologist Valerius Geist said in a Denver Post opinion: “Killing off the wolf allowed chronic wasting disease to take hold in the first place.”

Because CWD may infect humans, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention warns people not to handle or eat infected game. In 2022, two hunters died who ate venison from a CWD-ravaged deer herd. CWD seems the likely culprit in their deaths.

“We are quite unprepared,” warned Michael Osterholm, Center for Infectious Disease director at the University of Minnesota. “If we saw a spillover (to humans) right now, we would be in free fall.”

In the words of Ashe about wolves, “Emerging science tells us that these apex predators aren’t the enemy, they’re allies.”

Ted Williams is a contributor to Writers on the Range, writersontherange.org, an independent non-profit dedicated to spurring lively conversation about the West. He is a longtime environmental writer and author. Views expressed do not necessarily represent those of The SUN.

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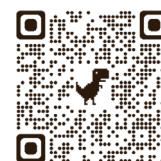
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.68 acre, 1440 square foot commercial building. There is enough property to build another building or make a large wrap around parking lot. There is a 3000 BTU gas heater and a 40 gallon hot water heater. The doors and walls have a 90 minute fireproof rating. Walls are removable so the floor plan could be opened up. There is a kitchen sink, stove and dishwasher, half bath and the overhead door is 8' x 10'.



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Preview Calendar

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

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.

Healthy Archuleta Present Dr. Rita Guevara. 9:30-11:30 a.m., Archuleta County Department of Human Services. Youth interested in pursuing a career in health care are invited to hear from Dr. Rita Guevara.

Caregiver Support Group. 10:30 a.m.-noon, Community Center.

WHIPS (Women Helping in Pagosa Springs). 11:30 a.m., Boss Hogg's Restaurant. The cost is \$20. All women are welcome. An RSVP to (970) 946-1895 by March 23 is required.

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.

Creation Care. 5:30 p.m., Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St. The evening will begin with a potluck dinner and be followed by a discussion on determining the best native plants to plant for the area.

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 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.

Friday Flix. 2-3:30 p.m., Sisson Library. Choose from a selection of family-friendly G-rated movies and enjoy some popcorn.

Pagosa Springs Knights of Columbus Lenten Fish Fry. 4-6 p.m., Pope 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.

Monday, March 31

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

Women's Fellowship. 9 a.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church classrooms.

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 County Democratic Club. 5:30 p.m., Pagosa Peak Open School, 3133 Cornerstone Drive. Pagosa Springs Medical Center CEO Rhonda Webband Chief Financial Officer Chelle Keplinger will speak on how proposed cust to Medicaid and other programs at the federal level will affect the medical center.

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.

The Alpha Course. 6:30-8:30 p.m., Pagosa Bible Church. A series of video talks with discussion breaks about questions of life. Dessert, coffee and child care will be provided. Register at pagosabiblechurch.org.

Tuesday, April 1

Veterans for Veterans of Archuleta County. 9 a.m., Pagosa Bible Church, 209 Harman Park Drive. Veterans and family members are invited to share experiences with vets of all ages. Find out about the latest in vets benefits, vets news and community-focused events. Contact (970) 880-8387 for more details.

Pagosa Springs Stitchers. 10 a.m.-noon, Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St. Bring your current stitching project and a snack/drink if you wish, and enjoy the fellowship of other stitchers. All

■ See Calendar on next page



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Preview Calendar

■ **continued from previous page**
are welcome.

Tech Time. 10 a.m.- noon, Sisson Library. Basic questions related to computers, smartphones, tablets, etc. Bring your device charger. We provide assistance with accessing any of the library's online resources. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information.

Bridge. 1:15 p.m., Senior Center.

Hand and Foot Card Game. 1:15 p.m., Senior Center. No experience is necessary, so come willing to learn.

Mahjong. 1:15 p.m., Senior Center.

English as a Second Language. 4-7 p.m., Sisson Library. Your library offers English as a second language classes. These classes are free. Call (970) 264-2209 or email for more information. Beginning students are encouraged to attend from 4-5 p.m., intermediate students from 5-6 p.m. and advanced students from 6-7 p.m.

Conversational Spanish. 4:30-5:30 p.m., Sisson Library. Practice your Spanish conversation skills in a group setting. No minimum skill level required.

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, April 2

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

Introduction to Pickleball. 8:30-11 a.m., Ross Aragon Community Center. Register on the Pagosa Springs Parks and Recreation page at <https://secure.rec1.com/CO/>

pagosa-springs-co/catalog.

Kids Kare. 9:30-11:30 a.m., Pagosa Bible Church, 209 Harman Park Drive. A weekly club for 3- to 5-year-olds where the Bible is taught with songs, stories, object lessons, games and more. For more information, email Frank and Connie Porter at ceflittlekids@gmail.com.

Family Storytime. 10-11 a.m., Sisson Library. Join us for great stories, fun songs, and plenty of reasons to get up and move. It's a great way for kids to have fun while building the skills they need to become independent readers. For all ages. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information.

Bridge. 1:15 p.m., Senior Center.

Mindful Drawing. 1:15 p.m., Senior Center.

Elementary Tutoring. 3:30-4:30 p.m., Sisson Library. After-school tutoring in reading and math for grades 1-3. Registration required. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information or to sign up.

Online Author Talk: Jodi Picoult. 5 p.m., virtual. "Wordsmith and Wonder" with Jodi Picoult. For details and to register, go to <https://libraryc.org/pagosalibrary/upcoming>.

Thursday, April 3

Ruby's Writers Guild. 9-11 a.m., Sisson Library. Ruby's Writers Guild welcomes writers who are looking for opportunities, support and camaraderie with other writers. Members will provide support, resources and guidance for each other.

Tech Time. 2-4 p.m., Sisson Library. Basic questions related to computers, smartphones, tablets, etc. Bring your device charger. We provide assistance with accessing any of the library's online resources. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information.

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

better.

English as a Second Language. 4-7 p.m., Sisson Library. Your library offers English as a second language classes. These classes are free. Call (970) 264-2209 or email for more information. Beginning

■ **See Calendar on page 21**

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THREE REASONS SODA IS SO BAD FOR YOU

Here's another reason you need to get that sweet tooth under control: it's slowly killing you.

Fructose consumption (table sugar and high fructose corn syrup as opposed to what naturally occurs in fruit) is on the rise.

What is interesting to researchers is that this rise mirrors the rise in chronic degenerative diseases and accelerated aging as today's excerpt explains. Sugar-sweetened soda consumption might promote disease independently from its role in obesity, according to UC San Francisco researchers who found in a new study that drinking sugary drinks was associated with cell aging.

The study revealed that telomeres – the protective units of DNA that cap the ends of chromosomes in cells – were shorter in the white blood cells of survey participants who reported drinking more soda. The findings were reported online Oct. 16 in the American Journal of Public Health.

The length of telomeres within white blood cells – where it can most easily be measured – has previously been associated with human lifespan. Short telomeres also have been associated with the development of chronic diseases of aging, including heart disease, diabetes and some types of cancer.

"Regular consumption of sugar-sweetened sodas might influence disease development, not only by straining the body's metabolic control of sugars, but also through accelerated cellular aging of tissues," said Elissa Epel, PhD, professor of psychiatry at UCSF and senior author of the study.

"This is the first demonstration that soda is associated with telomere shortness," Epel said. "This finding held regardless of age, race, income and education level. Telomere shortening starts long before disease onset. Further, although we only studied adults here, it is possible that soda consumption is associated with telomere shortening in children, as well."

Source: "Sugared Soda Consumption, Cell Aging Associated in New Study." By Jeffrey Norris. <https://www.ucsf.edu>

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

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Book **FACT:**

This famous author is celebrated each March for his many contributions to children’s literature.

Answer: Dr. Seuss

“How they say that in...”

- English: Word
- Spanish: Palabra
- Italian: Parola
- French: Mot
- German: Wort

What’s the Difference?
Find the four difference between the two pictures.

A



B



Answers: 1. Painting is a television on wall. 2. Missing image in newspaper. 3. Orange juice is larger. 4. Plant on shelf back left

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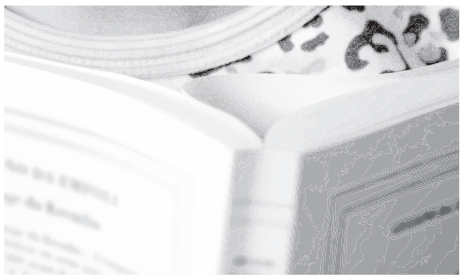


- 1513: Juan Ponce de León reaches the northern tip of The Bahamas on his first voyage to Florida.
- 1886: The Apache warrior, Geronimo, surrenders to the U.S. Army.
- 1964: The Good Friday earthquake hits Alaska with a magnitude of 9.2.

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Get the PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Child reading book

Did You KNOW?

The average adult will read between 200 and 400 words per minute. Older adults (over age 65) tend to read more than young people.



Preview Calendar

■ continued from page 19

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.

Emergency Preparedness: Are You Ready? 5:30-6:30 p.m., Sisson Library. Local emergency management personnel will discuss emergency preparation, fuel mitigation and how their efforts help us stay safe.

PALS Adult Education. 5:30-8 p.m., Sisson Library. Pagosa Adult Learning Services, or PALS, can help you with high school equivalency, GED, college prep, financial aid, tutoring and more. Mark can help you develop a plan to achieve your education goals. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information.

San Juan Stargazers. 6 p.m., Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St. Meet for social time at 6 p.m. At 7 p.m., the group will walk to the middle school for a demonstration of the star lab.

Friday, April 4

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.

Tween/Teen Takeover. 2-4 p.m., Sisson Library. The large meeting room and some of the computers will be set aside for tweens/teens to use and spend time with friends.

Pagosa Springs Knights of Columbus Lenten Fish Fry. 4-6 p.m., Pope 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, April 5

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.

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.

Submit your calendar items to editor@pagosasun.com; mail them to The Pagosa Springs SUN, P.O. Box 9, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147; or deliver them to The SUN office by noon Monday.

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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).

SERVICES

ASPEN SPRINGS HANDYMAN SERVICES for Archuleta County. Brett at (970)570-9403. Services include but are not limited to: Home repairs, Brush mitigation, Spring cleaning, Landscape maintenance, Greenhouse Kit Assembly, Gardens/ trimming. Hourly: First hr \$100, then \$35 an hour there after. Odd jobs/ to-do list are my specialty and I'll even clean your garage.

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BAT PREVENTION. Meticulously seal dwelling to protect from annual bat invasion. Service offered until May 1st. Free quotes. Call Arlies Chimney Sweep (970)731-2543.

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EZ CRITTER RIDDERS- We are a new pest removal service located here in Pagosa. We are looking to help get rid of any unwanted garbage bandits, egg or chicken thieves, ferrel cats, etc. We also build bat houses as another option for dealing with bats. Give us a call at (970)585-4578.



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KITCHEN DEEP CLEANS now offered by Pagosa Sparkles. Group of high standard cleaners. Window cleaning also available. Text/ call KIM. (970)946-6446.

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BRANCH OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR. Edward Jones is a financial services firm focused on meeting the needs of individual investors. Our Pagosa Springs branch office has an opening for an entry-level administrative assistant. Excellent organization, communication skills, and the ability to work independently are required to perform. Administrative, marketing, and client service responsibilities. We offer competitive benefits and a comprehensive on-line training program. To be considered for this position apply online at careers.edwardjones.com. Edward Jones does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, gender, religion, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, pregnancy, veteran status, genetic information or any other basis prohibited by applicable law.

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HELP WANTED



We're Hiring: Digital Marketing Consultant

Are you passionate about driving results through innovative marketing strategies? Do you thrive on helping businesses grow their online presence? Join our team as a **Digital Marketing Consultant** and make an impact!

What You'll Do:

- Develop, implement, and optimize digital marketing campaigns across multiple platforms-Search Engine Marketing, SEO, Facebook, Video and much more. Plus, have a competitive advantage by including our own Pagosa Springs SUN digital and print audience.
- Bring cost-effective, website development opportunities to local businesses to help build long-term, win-win partnerships.
- Analyze campaign performance and generate actionable insights to maximize ROI.
- Collaborate with clients to understand their business goals and create tailored marketing strategies.
- Stay ahead of industry trends and identify new opportunities for growth.

What We're Looking For:

- 2+ years of experience in digital marketing, preferably in a consultancy or agency role.
- Proven expertise selling digital advertising solutions.
- Strong analytical skills with proficiency in tools like Google Analytics, Ads Manager, and SEMrush.
- Exceptional communication skills and a client-first mindset.
- A passion for creativity, strategy, and measurable results.

Why Join Us?

- Competitive salary + performance-based incentives.
- Access to professional development and growth opportunities.
- Be part of a collaborative, innovative, and supportive team.

O'Rourke Media Group is a family-owned, diversified media company that was formed in 2018. Originally just a holding company that owned a few newspapers, O'Rourke Media Group (OMG) has established itself as an industry-leading, digital media company comprising a cutting edge digital agency and an impressive group of award-winning, hyper-local print newspapers and niche magazines. OMG now operates in eight states, 36 markets with over 50 publications and hyper-local websites. In Pagosa Springs, we publish The SUN, Preview and a number of niche publications.

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Email us at classads@pagosasun.com to submit your classified.
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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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New Restaurant at the The Springs Resort

Friday, March 28th 10 a.m. -1 p.m.
The Ross Aragon Community Center
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Special Request: Please bring a current resume.

Hiring for the following positions:

FRONT OF HOUSE:	BACK OF HOUSE:
Host	Prep/Line Cook
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Elementary Teachers

We are hiring elementary school teachers for the 2025-26 school year. If designing curriculum and engaging students in Project-based Learning excites you, don't hesitate to apply.

Apply now!

Send your resume to:
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ELI STEPHENS LANDSCAPING LLC. is looking to hire. We are looking for someone willing to learn. Pay will be based off of experience. Looking for labor and equipment operators. Call Eli (970)946-0268.

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FINANCE/ HR DIRECTOR -Mineral County Colorado. Mineral County is seeking a dynamic and experienced professional to serve as our Finance/ HR Director. This key leadership role will oversee financial operations/ human resource functions for the county government, ensuring fiscal responsibility and a positive, productive work environment. Qualities of a successful applicant include: Bachelor's degree in accounting, finance, business administration, human resources, or a related field or equivalent experience considered; minimum 3 years experience in financial management and/ or human resources, preferably in a government or public sector; strong knowledge of generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP), budgeting processes, financial reporting; experience in developing/ implementing HR policies and procedures; Excellent communication, interpersonal, leadership skills and ability to work independently and as part of a team; proficiency in financial/ HR software systems and basic office software; strong analytical/ problem-solving/ multi-tasking skills; knowledge of federal/ state employment laws/ regulations. Competitive salary commensurate with experience, minimum \$22 /hour. Comprehensive benefits package, including health, dental, and vision insurance, retirement plan, and paid time off. Additional benefits options negotiable. Mineral County residency preferred. Application and job description can be downloaded from the Mineral County website, www.mineralcountycolorado.com/employment-opportunities or picked up at the HR Office in the Mineral County Courthouse, 1201 N Main, Creede, CO. Applications will be taken until EOB, March 31, 2025 and can be dropped at the HR Office during business hours or mailed to Mineral County HR, PO Box 70, Creede, CO 81130. For more information call (719)658-2331.

GENERAL LABORER NEEDED Full time. Assorted Duties. Please send resume or work history to frontdesk@pagosalandcompany.com. Phone (970)264-5000.

GOODMAN'S DEPARTMENT STORE is looking for a sales associate, Saturdays required. Sales associates must be friendly and self-motivated. Ask about our benefits and employee discounts. Come pick up an application at 402 Pagosa Street.

IMMEDIATE OPENING for CDL Driver / Equipment Operator. Experience with forestry equipment helpful. Must pass drug test. Local driving only. Please send your resume to frontdesk@pagosalandcompany.com.

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In-person hiring event

Friday, March 27 and Saturday, March 28

Walk ins welcome from 10am-2pm

Full Time and Part Time positions available
Starting pay \$18-\$25 *position and qualifications dependent

Start the application process at
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Weekly hours are CONSISTENT. (M-Th 745am-4pm with an hour lunch break.

Requirements for employment include:

- Colorado Dental Hygiene License anesthesia permit a plus but not a requirement
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MOUNTAIN SPIRITS IS SEEKING customer service associates. Must be available nights and weekends. We offer accrued vacation/personal time, performance-based bonuses twice a year, and employee discounts. Please apply in person.

NEWSPAPER REPORTER — We are searching for a talented reporter to fill a full-time position in Pagosa Springs, Colorado, at The Pagosa Springs SUN. Our journalists are driven to find stories that matter to our community and are dedicated to fairness, accuracy, and ethics. The successful candidate for this position is someone who knows how to cover hard news but also loves to write about people and their passions. They know that a good interview is often a good conversation and know when to ask the tough questions, but also when to listen. The ideal candidate has exceptional writing skills and is willing to put in the extra effort and research to deliver an engaging story. Preferred qualifications for this position include: Degree or diploma in journalism, or a related field; At least 1-3 years of experience as a reporter with experience covering hard news and feature stories or experience at a college newspaper; The ability to meet tight deadlines and report the news as it happens; Superior language, writing and editing skills; Strong photography skills; Able to work a variety of schedules, including evenings, nights and weekends; Excellent critical thinking and problem-solving skills; Ability to work in a fast-paced environment; A valid driver's license and a reliable vehicle; Willingness to live in or near Pagosa Springs, Colorado. If this sounds like the perfect position for you, we would love to hear from you! To apply, please send your resume, letter of interest and relevant samples of your work to Chad Richardson, Vice President of News, crichardson@orourkemediagroup.com. Company Benefits: We offer competitive compensation plans and employees are eligible for medical, dental, vision, life insurance benefits, paid time off and our 401 (k) savings plan. This is an excellent opportunity for career development and growth within the company O'Rourke Media Group is a fast-growing company that owns and operates hyper-local, community newspapers, websites, niche publications and a full-service digital agency. We are family-owned and mission-driven to save newspapers and local media companies by investing in the people, resources and technology needed to thrive for many years to come. We believe that every community can benefit from a well-run, properly resourced, local newspaper and website. Our News teams produce hyper-local, high interest local news and accurate and trustworthy reporting. Our Sales and Digital Fulfillment teams bring omnichannel advertising solutions to local businesses in the communities we serve. O'Rourke Media Group now operates in nine states and 38 markets with 51 publications and hyper-local websites. We started from ground zero in December 2018, totally bootstrapped, confident and with an entrepreneurial mindset.

NO DEGREE REQUIRED, My work matters? Help others? Earn great wages through hard work and showing up on time every day? We can train you to be a dental assistant. No experience needed! We are blessed to have weekends and holidays off. Beautiful facility, modern equipment, 401K, excellent pay. E-mail resume to office@pagosasmls.com.

NORTH PAGOSA MARATHON is hiring a full-time cashier nights and weekends. Competitive wages. Please apply in person at 30 N. Pagosa Blvd.

OWNERS, THERE IS A LONG TERM RENTAL SHORTAGE IN PAGOSA SPRINGS. We have a waiting list for approved tenants. Need all types of rentals. Call us today for lowest commission and highest customer service. All you have to do is wait for your rent check to come in. We do the rest! Rocky Mountain Realty & Rentals (970)507-1192.

PAGOSA LIQUOR IS HIRING a full-time cashier. Please come and apply in person at 30 N. Pagosa Blvd.

PINE VALLEY RENTAL, busy equipment rental yard is seeking a reliable, self starting shop/yard person. Must have experience in mechanics, diesels, hydraulics, electrical work, and be knowledgeable of heavy equipment plus small engines. CDL is a plus but not required. Must have own transportation. Full time, Monday -Friday 8-5. Please call (970)731-4410 Or Email ppine000@century-tel.net. 391 Bastille Drive.

ROOF LABORER NEEDED with some construction experience. Will train. \$20-\$25/ hour to start. (970)749-0830.

THE HUMANE SOCIETY SHELTER animals need you. Do you dream of a career working with animals who need you? The Humane Society of Pagosa Springs has an opening for a full-time Animal Care Specialist. Must love to work with animals AND people, spend time outdoors in all kinds of weather, and get a lot of exercise throughout the day. Previous dog and cat handling experience is a plus. A positive attitude is a must. PTO, additional sick time, and great shelter and thrift store discounts as benefits. Hourly rate \$15.50- 16.50 DOE. Apply online <https://pagosahumane.org/> or stop in the Shelter and complete an application. Come join our team caring for the homeless pets of Pagosa Springs.

THE KEYAH GRANDE GUEST HOUSE is hiring a line cook (\$20/ hour) for our new fine dining restaurant, "Beyond the Gates". Experience preferred. Email your resume and references to theguesthouse@keyahgrande.com

THE PAGOSA SPRINGS CHAMBER of Commerce is accepting applications for an Executive Director. Key responsibilities include strategic planning, member services, financial management, event management, business advocacy, and community engagement. Ideal candidates should possess strong business acumen, excellent communication skills, the ability to build community partnerships, event planning expertise, and a passion for economic development. The role reports to the Chamber Board of Directors. For more information on the position, visit www.pagosachamber.com. Resumes accepted until March 28, 2025 and may be sent to director@pagosachamber.com.

(970) 264-2100

Classifieds

(970) 264-2100

Office Hours: Monday — Friday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Classified Deadline: Tuesday 10 a.m.

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

ARCHULETA SCHOOL DISTRICT IS NOW HIRING!

We're looking for Outstanding Employees to join our team!



Archuleta School District

strives to achieve

"Success for Every Student — Every Class — Every Day."

Currently accepting applications for the following positions:

Lead Mechanic

Full-time position with a starting salary of \$59,496-\$65,456 for a 250-day work schedule.

Elementary School PE Teacher 2025-26 SY

Full-time position with a starting salary \$51,645-\$67,469 for 175 days paid over a 12-month period.

Middle School 8th Grade Science Teacher 2025-26 SY

Full-time position with a starting salary \$51,645-\$67,469 for 175 days paid over a 12-month period.

High School Significant Support Needs Teacher

Full-time position with a starting salary \$51,645-\$67,469 for 175 days paid over a 12-month period.

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.

You belong on the Archuleta School District Team!



For more details and to apply for these positions click on "Job Postings" on the following web-site: www.mypagosaschools.com

EOE

BWD Construction is NOW HIRING!



Project Manager and Supers. Take your career to the NEXT level.

PagosaSUN.com

HELP WANTED

CONTRACTOR SALES

Ponderosa Lumber is seeking a customer service oriented individual to assist contractors with purchasing building materials. Knowledge of building materials is necessary.

Responsibilities include:

- Providing excellent customer service
- Completing required paperwork
- Providing product information
- Data Entry

Please apply in person at

Ponderosa Lumber

2435 Eagle Drive or call (970) 731-4111

THE TOWN OF PAGOSA SPRINGS is seeking to hire a Facilities & Fleet Maintenance Techn in the Facilities Division. The individual selected for this position performs a variety of entry-level unskilled and semi-skilled industrial maintenance duties as needed to ensure proper cleaning and routine maintenance of town facilities. May also perform vehicle maintenance including changing oil, checking fluids, and other light vehicle maintenance tasks. 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.

THE TOWN OF PAGOSA SPRINGS is seeking to hire a Parks Maintenance lin the Parks Division. The individual selected for this position performs a variety of entry-level semi-skilled duties related to the construction, installation, maintenance, upkeep, and repair of town buildings, recreation facilities, parks, grounds, and general environment. This is a full-time position with benefits. For more information on the position and to apply, go to the Town's website at www.pagosasprings.co.gov and select Employment.

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OWN YOUR OWN BUSINESS IN 2025! Four year-old profitable Side-by-Side rental business with extremely high reviews on Google. 1 to 8 Polaris Rzrs, LLC, website, reservation site, customer list, insured, bonded, licensed, maintenance and safety gear included. Better location than any of our competition. Operates May- Nov. Call or text Ryan (970)946-2409.

SMALL CRANE BUSINESS FOR SALE. National Crane truck, business, client list, and all attachments come with business. Inquire at (970)903-2381.

FOR SALE

DRY FIREWOOD- PINE. Pick up \$255 a cord. Delivery available. Call for prices. Bayfield. Gabe (970)403-2784.

FIREWOOD FOR SALE. Pine and aspen. Cut about 16" long, split. Delivered by longbed truckload. Call (970)946-4450.

FOR SALE

FIREWOOD SALE! The end of the season dump truck special is back. Get a HUGE load split and delivered for \$500! This will be the cheapest price of the year. Pine/ Fir mix. Start getting stocked back up now! Contact FIRE&ICE (970)582-0006.

NEW 20' CONTAINERS FOR SALE or rent. We deliver to homes or businesses. Pagosa Springs Storage (970)731-0007.

ONE GREAT LOCALLY BREED Blue Heeler male puppy left. Would make a great working dog or pet. Call Craig (765)730-9960.

OUTDOOR VEHICLE STORAGE SPACES available. 16', 20', 25', plus indoor 12'x20'. Winter specials starting at \$60. Pagosa Springs Storage. Gated with security cameras. (970)749-1500.

PRO SHED 12x12 fully wired insulated, wired, windows, paned, lights, with heater and air conditioner. Call (970)946-1015, Charlie.

SCHWINN 7 SPEED women's bike. Vizio 50" TV never used in box. Charbroil grill with propane tank brand new. Sentry Safe floor safe. (941)716-1021. Linda.

SELL OR TRADE YOUR GUNS. We buy for cash or trade it. No hassle. Licensed, bonded, insured. San Juan Trading Post, 635 San Juan St. (970)731-PAWN (7296).

LIVESTOCK

GRASS HAY, NO SPRAY. Hefty small bales for only \$9/ bale. Call (970)264-1365. Leave a message.

PETS

ADOPT FROM THE Humane Society. Stop by or call (970)731-4771. You'll be amazed at what we have to offer, www.PagosaHumane.org.

AKC FRENCH BULLDOG PUPPIES Blue with tan points, 1 male and 1 female. Ready 3/21. Health tested parents, chipped, wormed, shots, lifetime support. \$3,500. www.DuneV-iewFrenchies.com, (719)640-6404.

DOGGY DAY CARE 81147.COM. Open 365 days of the year! Full day and half day doggy day care and overnight boarding. Conveniently located just 1 mile from downtown Pagosa. Call (970)264-9111.

Email classads @pagosasun.com to submit your classified. PagosaSUN.com

RECREATIONAL VEHICLES



Ready to go

2012 Forest River Pop-Up camper

Dry inside, even in rain and snow. Heated. Sleeps 4-6, queen, full and twin beds. Three burner stove and outdoor gas grill. Indoor toilet and shower. Refrigerator. Good battery and back up system. Full propane bottle. Winterized.

\$5000. Serious inquiries only.

Call (970)585-9084

WANTED

BLUEGRASS MUSICIANS interested in joining an intermediate/ advanced level regular bluegrass jam, contact Melinda at malutz@centurytel.net.

AUTOS

1995 JEEP CHEROKEE. 150,000 miles. \$4000. Good overall condition, Have maintenance records. (970)331-3338.

2019 RX350 LEXUS. Gold, loaded, runs great, looks great. \$29,900 OBO. Call Lee Riley (970)946-3856.

CAMPER AND TRUCK 2007 Sun-Lite Eagle Short, \$7300. 2012 Silverado, 132k miles, \$19,500. Together or separate. See Craigslist Western slope. (303)257-1553.

FORD F-350 2003 Super Duty Lariat crew cab. Great condition, low mileage. 4WD, 7.3L 6-speed turbo diesel. 6-3/4ft bed and liner. Tow package. A/C, excellent tires, leather seats, power front seat heated, power windows and side mirrors, running boards and more. Always garage kept, original owner. \$13,000. (970)731-3938.

GUARANTEED CREDIT APPROVAL! 4X4 Auto Sales, 21698 Hwy. 160 West, Durango. (970)385-7940.

MOTORCYCLE FOR SALE. KTM 350 Duke 2020 with 3,430 miles. \$4500 OBO. (970)946-3720.

YARD SALES

BE SURE TO CHECK for more yard sales in the Too Late To Classify section.

MOVING SALE. March 28 -29 from 0900 to 1500 each day. Everything must go. 51 La Costa Ct.

PAGOSA TRADING COMPANY 1501 W. Hwy 160 (on Put Hill). All inventory liquidation. Closing business and prices negotiable. All March.

PagosaSUN.com

(970) 264-2100

Classifieds

(970) 264-2100

Office Hours: Monday — Friday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Classified Deadline: Tuesday 10 a.m.

HOMES FOR SALE

HOMES FOR SALE

HOMES FOR SALE

HOMES FOR SALE

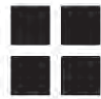
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COMMERCIAL FOR RENT

260 SF OFFICE at the Metro Hotel downtown on Main Street. \$469 monthly, utilities included. Jacque (970)946-7636.

4 OFFICE SPACES. Freshly remodeled, \$400-\$525. Well suited for spa services, 140-270 sq. ft. Beautiful spacious restrooms. (970)946-3232.

COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS FOR LEASE. 1501 W. Hwy 160 #1 and #2. (970)398-5290.

DOWNTOWN OFFICE Upstairs with skylight. Month-to-month, \$325/ month including utilities, internet and shared kitchen. No smokers. No pets. (970)946-2728.

FLEXIBLE COMMERCIAL/ INDUSTRIAL SPACE on the western side of Pagosa Springs. 2 spaces available. One is 1,000 sf and one is 2,000 sf with 2 14' Overhead garage doors. Both units come with bathrooms. Will be delivered as a shell space ready to be customized with credits for Tenant Improvements. Tenants in compound include building trades, UPS, light manufacturing, and artists. Available May 1st. \$1/sf per month. raswheeler@gmail.com.

LIGHT INDUSTRIAL SPACE/ STORAGE. Cloman Park. New Build. 2700 sq. feet, \$3250 a month. Opportunity Zoned. (720)470-2653. More info at Rowfmanagement.com

PAGOSA VALLEY PROPERTIES: Offering "Aspen Plaza ProSuites" These are Professional Office Suites available for Long Term rental from 135 SF to 205 SF, priced from \$465-\$669/ month. Also, Large Conference/ Event Room Available. Call (970)889-2022 for more information.

THREE UNITS IN UPTOWN 419, 364, and 1477 sq. ft. Available now. \$900 - \$2400. Utilities included. Call Gina (970)880-0910 for more info.

VACATION RENTALS

OWNERS, WE ARE BOOKED UP AND NEED MORE VACATION RENTAL PROPERTIES! Call us today for lowest commission and highest customer service. All you have to do is wait for your rent check to come in. We do the rest! Rocky Mountain Realty & Rentals (970)507-1192.

RESIDENTIAL RENTALS

1, 2 AND 3 BEDROOMS. Call (720)869-8877. Hickory Ridge Apartments.

3 BEDROOM, 2 BATH manufactured home in Vista. Fenced yard on corner lot with two sheds. \$1750/ month. (970)946-3983.

BASEMENT STUDIO APARTMENT. Downtown, river view, furnished. \$1000 rent, \$1000 deposit. Utilities included. No smokers. No pets. (970)264-6797.

DOWNTOWN UNITS FOR RENT. New 3 bedroom, 2 bath unit. Granite countertops, all appliances and utilities included. Porch and patio. \$2000/ month. (318)347-6100.

LONG TERM RENTALS AVAILABLE. Call Team Pagosa (970)731-8599, 117 Navajo Trail Dr., pagosaspringsrealty.com.

COMMERCIAL

GAS STATION, CONVENIENCE STORE comes with nine long-term leases, high producing. \$1,650,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

PRIME BUSINESS LOCATION Large building and land. \$1,250,000. Motivated seller. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

HOMES FOR SALE

REAL ESTATE SERVICES

*Whether
Buying or Selling*



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(970) 759-8672



MarcieLewis.com

3 BED 2 BATH 2 car garage. 3.9 acres. 5 shares of water. Detached 1 bedroom, 1 bath, 1 car garage apartment. Great views. \$585,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

3 BEDROOM 2 BATH. Workshop. 20 acres. Great views of the La Plata. Ignacio. \$475,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

64 ACRES, 46 SHARES OF IRRIGATION. 3 bedroom, 2 bath home. 2 garages and shed, 3-3 phase electric outlets. Brand new Generac Generator, Pastures with beautiful views, too many extras to name them all. \$928,000. AP-10. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

BRAND NEW ROOF with 5 year warranty. Located across the street from National Forest access. 10 minutes from grocery store and other amenities. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 1 car garage family home. \$550,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

HOME FOR SALE. 3200 square feet on 3 acres. 181 River Forest Drive. See on Zillow. Agents welcome. \$730K (970)585-9181.

RANCHES

64 ACRES, 46 SHARES OF IRRIGATION. 3 bedroom, 2 bath home. 2 garages and shed, 3-3 phase electric outlets. Brand new Generac Generator, Pastures with beautiful views, too many extras to name them all. \$928,000. AP-10. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

LAND/ BUILDING SITES

1.1 ACRE WITH RV GENERATOR and system tank, circular drive in, tall cool pines. NO HOA! \$75k. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

1.19 ACRES WITH VIEWS OF NAVAJO LAKE. All utilities nearby. \$99,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

.27 ACRES. Views of Navajo. Electricity near, well installed. \$40,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

.28 ACRE LAND County Road 982 frontage \$55,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

3 FLAT BUILDABLE ACRES. Great mountain views, water cap and driveway in. Power to the property, fully fenced, corners marked. \$300k. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

3.7 ACRES. Great views of Navajo lake. Power near, water available. \$400,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

.35 ACRE LAND County Road 982 frontage \$55,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

MOUNTAIN VIEWS, MEADOWS. Unique high elevation and complete privacy. 5.6 acres bordering national forest, (970)769-3588 blancoretreat@gmail.com. \$450K.

LAND/ BUILDING SITES

NATIONAL FOREST ACCESS. .21 acres, buildable lot, tap available, motivated seller. \$40,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

VERY MOTIVATED SELLER. 4 acres. Great views, access to river. Electric near. \$175,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

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