PAGOSA SPRINGS, ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO 81147

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VOLUME 117 — NO. 28, THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 2025

Investigation underway into in-custody death

By Randi Pierce Staff Writer

An inmate from the Archuleta County detention center was pronounced deceased Thursday, April 3, at Mercy Regional Medical Center.

According to an April 6 press release from the Archuleta County Sheriff's Office (ACSO), on Monday, March 31, at approximately 2:10 p.m., ACSO detention center staff were made aware that inmate Wyatt Kelm, 26, was found unconscious and unresponsive within the facility.

The press release explains ACSO staff began lifesaving efforts immediately, and Kelm was transported via ambulance to Pagosa Springs Medical Center for advanced medical treatment.

On Thursday, April 3, at 5:06 p.m., Kelm was pronounced deceased at Mercy Regional Medical Center, it

The incident is under investigation by the Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

According to Rob Low, strategic communications director for CBI, Kelm was arrested at 10:35 p.m. on March 28 and arrived at the jail at 11:11 p.m.

According to Low, Kelm was arrested on charges of:

- Unlawful possession of a controlled substance (fentanyl).
- Unlawful possession of a controlled substance (heroin, meth and cocaine).
- Unlawful Possession of a controlled substance (clonazepam).
- Six counts of possession of drug paraphernalia (six glass pipes with
- Open alcoholic beverage con-
- Open marijuana container.
- Two counts of violation of a protection order.

No other information was released, with Low citing the investi-

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Two days, three fires

SUN photos/Clayton Chaney and Shari Pierce

Local officials tended to three fires in two days earlier this week on Monday and Tuesday, including two structure fires and a wildland/grass fire. Additional information on the structure fires was not available from the Pagosa Fire Protection District (PFPD) by press time Wednesday. According to the Archuleta County Sheriff's Office (ACSO), the wildland/grass fire was called in at about 3:30 p.m. on Monday, April 7. It was located along County Road 551. The fire was approximately two acres in size and was a controlled burn that was not properly extinguished and left unattended by the landowner. The fire was 100 percent contained the same day. Units from multiple agencies responded, including the ACSO, Archuleta County Road and Bridge, the PFPD, Bureau of Indian Affairs and Los Pinos Fire Protection District.

Measles case confirmed in Archuleta County history has not been disclosed. By Randi Pierce

Staff Writer

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), the Archuleta County Public Health Department (ACPHD) and the Silver Thread Public Health District announced Tuesday, April 8, that they have confirmed a case of measles in an Archuleta County adult resident.

The person's age and vaccination ■ See Measles A8

According to Archuleta County Communications Specialist Ashley Springer, the individual is home resting and recovering.

According to a Tuesday press release, "The current evidence shows that the case is likely not linked to the cases in Pueblo or Denver. The person sought care at a medical clinic in their community on Monday, March 31, and

Town moving ahead on river access park

By Derek Kutzer Staff Writer

On April 1, the Pagosa Springs Town Council received an update on the riverfront property located at 1040 East U.S. 160 that it approved the purchase of in November 2024.

The four-acre parcel, which formerly housed Bob's L.P., is currently being leased by Basin Coop.

The main reason for the town's acquisition of the property is to expand boater and recreational access to the San Juan River near downtown Pagosa

The purchase will also facilitate the development of the East Gateway River Park Project.

Mayor Shari Pierce called the acquisition "the best land purchase that we have made" during her time on council, "because we secured this using grants and Conservation Trust Fund money, so none of our tax money went to this. So, I just think that is wonderful."

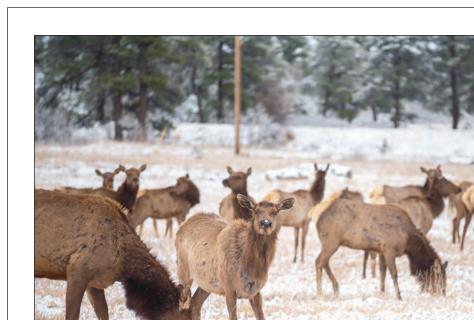
The town was awarded a state-level Great Outdoors Colorado grant, as well as a federal-level Land, Water, Conservation Fund grant, for a total sum of \$882,098 in grant award money going toward the property.

In addition, the town and Archuleta County's Conservation Trust funds, in the total combined amount of \$80,000, will also go toward the property and property improvements.

Development Director James Dickhoff explained that the town and county's Conservation Trust funds "are funds that come to us from the state, and they are truly meant to be spent on recreation and park facilities," adding that the river park being proposed on the property is the "perfect use of

The purchase price of the property

■ See Town A8



A herd of elk take to a meadow near town Saturday morning. The elk were spotted in the meadow several times over the snowy weekend.

Commissioners meet with LPEA CEO

By Clayton Chaney Staff Writer

The Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) met with La Plata Electric Association (LPEA) CEO Chris Hansen during a work session on Tuesday, April 8, in which service reliability concerns were addressed along with the availability of three-phase power in the Cloman Industrial Park.

Hansen informed the BoCC that three-phase power is available in the Cloman Park area.

"We confirmed that we have three-

phase there," he said, explaining that anyone who wants three-phase in Cloman can "tell us the spot and we will figure out how to get it there."

He indicated that the three-phase power is currently about 100 yards away from where one business owner is needing it.

Hansen mentioned that it should be "relatively easy" to get that done, adding, "Great news; we've got three-phase at Cloman."

Commissioner Veronica Medina explained that the county was aware that three-phase power was available in the area, but that the questions were

"really about the capacity," explaining there is a large enough need in the county, especially if the power is going to be extended past the industrial park and all the way to Cloman Park.

Hansen replied that LPEA's maps indicate that power is available approximately 100 yards from the spot it is potentially needed at.

"I don't think there's anything holding us up there," he said.

Hansen was joined by LPEA Systems Engineer Jake Wills, who explained that quantifying the capacity needed for the area is the next step. ■ See LPEA A8

PAWSD board votes to hire hydrant testing contractor

By Josh Pike

Staff Writer

At an April 4 special meeting, the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD) Board of Directors voted to approve a proposal from Distribution System Resources Ltd. to inspect and service fire hydrants in the community.

PAWSD District Engineer/Manager Justin Ramsey opened the discussion of the proposal, explaining that the fire hydrant issue is a "big deal" and that the hydrants have not been tested in at least a decade.

He then outlined five options the district could pursue, including taking no action, which he commented is "probably not a good option based on what the public wants."

"But, it is an option," PAWSD board member Bill Hudson said.

Ramsey explained that the cons of this approach included that it would not alleviate the public's "valid" concerns, but that it would have the benefit of not incurring any costs on the district.

The next option he presented was using existing PAWSD employees to test the hydrants, with the pros of this approach being that it would not cost the district any money and the cons being that "our guys are busy" and work would likely proceed slowly due to staff having large amounts of other tasks, like completing new connections or repairing previously frozen meters.

Ramsey then presented a third option of hiring two employees specifically to test hydrants, which he stated could likely accomplish the task of testing all hydrants in about 15 weeks, although they could not repair all nonfunctional hydrants in that time.

He explained that this would likely cost about \$70,000 for salaries, a vehicle and other equipment.

Ramsey stated that he was concerned about if PAWSD could find staff to do this and mentioned a proposal from PAWSD board member Glenn Walsh to hire school teachers looking for summer work to ■ See Hydrants A16

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Opinion



The Pagosa Springs

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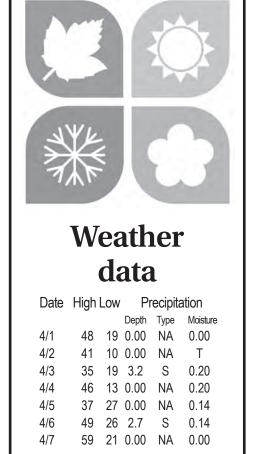
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Our View

Giving back to the community

This week's paper features a number of wonderful volunteer opportunities to give back to the community in a variety of ways.

There are outdoor citizen science projects, outdoor educational opportunities, chances to help visitors to the community learn about Pagosa Country's past and introduce them to aspects of the present, chances to help elementary kiddos succeed academically, opportunities to help raise funds for community organizations and awareness of topics such as sexual assault, chances to help coordinate other volunteers and help with the community's food network, and more.

And what's in this week's SUN and PRE-VIEW only scratch the surface of the countless volunteer opportunities this community offers.

When people say this community runs on volunteers they're certainly not exaggerating — the opportunities here are robust.

If you've been considering ways to give back to the community but have been on the fence, or if you're looking for ways for you and your family to volunteer over the summer, now might be a great chance to jump in and learn more.

Volunteering also comes with a number of benefits both for you and the organization you choose to help.

We personally love what we get out of volunteering and can vouch for the benefits we can easily name off: meeting fascinating people we might not have otherwise crossed paths with, learning new information and skills, stepping outside of our comfort zone, and so much more.

And research backs that up.

According to the Mayo Clinic, research "has shown that volunteering offers significant health benefits."

Some of those benefits, it outlines, in-

- Improved physical and mental health. The organization notes volunteer activities "keep people moving and thinking at the same time."
- It adds, "Research has found that volunteering among adults, age 60 and over, provided benefits to physical and mental health. Volunteers report better physical health than nonvolunteers. Research also has shown that volunteering leads to lower rates of depression and anxiety, especially for people 65 and older."
- It can also reduce stress and increase positive, relaxed feelings, as well as helping to feel a sense of meaning and appreciation (both given and received), which can help

reduce stress. We all know reduced stress is good for our health.

- Providing a sense of purpose and teaching valuable skills. The Mayo Clinic notes, "The work that volunteers provide is essential to everyday activities, giving volunteers a sense of purpose, especially when giving their time and talent in the areas they find meaningful. Older volunteers experience greater increases in life satisfaction and self-esteem."
- Nurturing new and existing relationships. Volunteering can increase social interaction and help build a support system based on common interests, the Mayo Clinic notes, and one of the best ways to make new friendships and strengthen existing relationships is to participate in a shared activity. The opportunities can also help you expand your social networks.

And everyone who steps in to help volunteer, even in a small way or for a short amount of time, makes a huge difference for our community.

If you volunteer, thank you. No matter how insignificant you think your contribution may be, it is helping to enrich the community for everybody who calls this slice of beauty home and all those who visit here.

Randi Pierce

LOOKING BACK



From the April 9, 1987, Pagosa SUN — THANK YOU — On behalf of the people of Archuleta County, library director Lenore Bright, left, and Herman Riggs, right, extend a heart-felt thanks to Bob and Betty Lindner, center, for their generous donation to the Archuleta County Library building fund. Due to unselfish gifts by Jake and Terry Hershey, not pictured, and the Lindners, the library fund raising campaign is off to a strong start.

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Gary Williams



LEGACIES

By Shari Pierce

100 years ago Taken from SUN files of

April 10, 1925

The board of county commissioners were in regular session Monday and Tuesday. In addition to routine affairs, the board ordered that the entire poor list of the county be revised and that no funds be paid for that purpose after May 1st until a new list has been approved by the board.

Homer McKinley and family this week moved into the Pomeroy residence on Pagosa street from the rear of the Manhat-

With the Farmington refinery in operation and the new Conoco gasoline on the local markets, Farmington and Aztec are reveling in 6-1/2 and 6¢ per gallon reduction in former prices. It is said that Pagosa motorists can expect corresponding reductions when the new product reaches this city.

The annual high school carnival given Saturday was a decided success financially was much enjoyed by the large number present. About seventy dollars was cleared and will be used in equipping the new gymnasium.

75 years ago Taken from SUN files of

April 7, 1950

According to word received this past week by Postmaster Tommy Chambers from the postal department, a new post office building has been authorized for Pagosa Springs. The department will lease the building, which is to be constructed by Mr. Albert Petry. The building will be located just north of the telephone office and will be of fire proof construction. It will be much larger than the present quarters and will enable more local residents to obtain boxes.

Mr. Petry stated that as soon as the plans are completed the work on the building will start and it is hoped that it can be ready for occupancy early in the summer. The present location of the post office will be taken over by Mr. Melvin Hazelwood who plans an expansion of his present business facilities. Mr. Hazelwood stated that his stock would be considerably enlarged as would other facilities of the business.

At a meeting of the board of directors of the Red Ryder Round-Up held last Thursday evening, the directors announced that local bucking horses are wanted for the 4th of July celebration. They also announced that local stock will be used in all events of this year's show.

50 years ago Taken from SUN files of

April 10, 1975

County Commissioners were asked Monday by a delegation from the Archuleta County Builders Association to consider adopting the Uniform Building Code and a permit system for construction.

Representatives of the association also asked that licensing of contractors of various kinds be considered. Commissioners indicated that they were very interested in the proposal for a building code and not much interested in licensing contractors.

Under the proposal the uniform building code requirements would have to be met on any structure constructed in the county. A building permit would also be required, and an inspection made before occupancy. The proposal would necessitate the hiring of a building inspector. The town of Pagosa Springs already has the uniform building code and permits are required for buildings in town.

25 years ago Taken from SUN files of

April 6, 2000

Pagosa Springs voters went to the polls on April 4 and approved a ballot proposal that would allow the town to control a portion of the sales tax revenues collected within town boundaries should the current sales tax situation change.

It was a light turnout at the polls, with 80 votes cast. The 80 voters comprise 10 percent of the registered voters living within town limits.

The sales tax measure passed by a margin of 69-11. The measure does not entail an increase above the current 7 percent sales tax levied in town but could, given certain conditions, allow the town to retain a higher percentage of the tax revenues than it now does.

Currently 3 percent sales tax goes to the state of Colorado. Revenues from the remaining 4 percent sales tax are now split evenly between the town and Archuleta County.

Of that 4 percent sales tax, 2 percent is perpetual, with the revenues split evenly between the two entities. The other 2 percent sales tax was approved by the voters of Archuleta County in 1994, with the revenues split evenly between the town and county, with provisions dealing with joint town and county service issues.



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 ac-

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

'Mt. Hushmore'

Dear Editor:

In the spirit of Mt Rushmore I have devised an alternative. Call it Mt Hushmore. It will contain the most despicable presidents in our history. It will be located on Driscoll Mtn the tallest point in Louisiana at 450 feet above the sea. Don Trump Warren G Harding Dick Nixon. Names that will forever live in infamy. From Atlantic City to Teapot Dome to Watergate they al share the same sad trail.

Charles Craig

Natural medicine

Dear Editor:

In February 2025 was an introductory bit of someone looking to bring to this Bible belt community 'a natural medicine' shop that will allow for the here-in-be-fore illegal, highly dangerous menace of cooking for sale and consumption of mescaline and psilocybin doused mushrooms.

OMG People! That's extremely grievous stuff that has no health benefit whatsoever, now being considered for this community's permitting by building department Pamela

For Flowers to singlehandedly Permit authorize this like was alluded to in last week's paper in legalese references made by her in disconcerting language of amendment approval and endorsement and of permitting Acid cooking here as business as usual is irresponsible!

Take this letter as my O Hell NO!in-put to Acid LSD hallucinogen 'natural medicine shop' being per-

No matter that it is being touted as 'natural medicine' LSD ACID is heinous! It is a damaging harmful product hard to monitor that will quickly grow out of control with no one in permitting power able to nor willing to do a thing about it even if the highly unlikely parameters were set to monitor it like were initially set for the early MJ shops that still nonetheless disregard those Parameters today, that were rightly set in place by previous BoCC board but which nobody now on board recalls nor care to recall or look into nor take action against about what these shops could not do. No placement close to or that might attract and lure our young to it like to a candy shop, nor to promote enticing displays of reckless behavior consumption in their advertising. One shop in-particular here, still nonetheless promoting their pot sales by posting current newspaper advertising trumpeting MJ as Cookies! Cake! Candy! Gummies! Presenting red-light aproned Sirens, a mom figure enticingly holding munchies on a plate, even posting a male hunter presumably on pot sighting in a rifle in its advertising!

Privilege parameters should be self-governing which they obviously aren't, nor being adhered to and are being blatantly ignored. Learning from this; Perhaps imbuing that parameters-process with teeth for non-compliance, resembling fines, that after three strikes (warnings) they're out might be the ticket.

Understand that this is not against the sale of PREVAILING MJ here nor am I comparing MJ to the highly dangerous Acid LSD a hallucinogen shop that is looking to get permitted here, nor of likewise monitoring future ACID and LSD hallucinogens shops here. Simply don't let LSD take hold here! There is no room here for that unwanted rubbish ever or around our children and do you want that exposure for them? I don't.

Is it for the tax revenue it will bring here that it is being considered here? Is our government that desperate to make a buck they'll risk our children's and our community's health to it?? And for there to be talk like our community building department singlehandedly approving this putrefaction of permitting an LSD shop here is highly alarming to me and should be to you all too.

Carmen Ferguson Editor's note: While Pam Flowers is the county's development director, it was a decision of the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners to approve the amendment to the county's land use regulations concerning natural medicines. A 2022 natural medicines measure on the Colorado

ballot, which was approved by voters, decriminalized mushrooms and allowed for healing centers.

LPEA response

Dear Editor:

I'm writing in response to a letter published last week that included several inaccuracies regarding LPEA's Board's decision to exit our contract with Tri-State. It's important to clarify these points, not only to correct the record but to reassure our members that this decision was made with careful planning and long-term benefits in mind.

First and foremost: the \$209.7 million Contract Termination Payment (CTP) is not a buyout. This figure represents a settlement of debt LPEA was already responsible for, whether or not we exited the Tri-State contract. Tri-State incurred this debt under the assumption that LPEA would remain a member for 50 years. Our decision to leave doesn't create new debt—it simply accelerates the timeline for settling our share. The final CTP amount will be determined in March 2026, but we want to be clear - this is not an additional expense. It's a restructured obligation that we would have paid over time through our monthly bills to Tri-State.

To manage this payment responsibly, LPEA is actively securing financing. We intend to take out a loan to make the one-time settlement payment. Just as we've been paying Tri-State monthly to cover this debt, we'll repay the loan over time. This strategic approach gives us the flexibility to manage the cost without putting undue burden on our members. Interest rates for the loan will be locked in by Fall 2025, and we're confident this financing method will serve our cooperative well.

LPEA has a bridge agreement with Mercuria beginning April, 2026. This agreement gives our co-op a diversified and flexible power portfolio and, when combined with LPEA's other power purchase agreements, will lower the blended cost of power by more than 10 percent starting in 2026—compared to current wholesale rates. All agreements include a fixed price for electricity, providing our co-op with cost certainty and price stability. In tandem, LPEA will be implementing a new risk policy to guide our engagement with the energy market—ensuring reliability and competitiveness, while managing market volatility.

To be clear: we are still working with Tri-State as a customer. LPEA will continue to purchase about 30% of its power from two Tri-State PPAs from April 2026 through December 2033, including one from the Dolores Canyon Solar Project, a key part of our sustainability goals and commitment to local, renewable energy.

We are forging an exciting, flexible, and more local energy future-together. I invite you to join the conversation. Come to our next board meeting on April 16 at 9 a.m. in Pagosa Springs at the Ross Aragon Community Center. We'll also be hosting a Current Conversation the same day from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at Ramon's in Pagosa Springs. I'd love

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

up due to a holiday)

- · 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

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 to meet you, answer your questions and share more about where we're headed.

Chris Hansen CEO, La Plata Electric Association

LPEA

Dear Editor:

The LPEA Board of Directors, on its own, decided to break a contract with Tri-State G&T that included proven reliable power supply and a voting membership in that coop of

The board did not consult member/owners.

That board sold our subsidiary company, FastTrack, potentially breaking LPEA's own bylaws by not bringing that action to a membership vote.

The board hired a CEO from outside the industry for a strikingly high salary. That \$500,000+/- amount has been mentioned in public; no director has disputed it.

When the board and the new CEO, Chris Hanson, are questioned about these decisions and the resulting rate increase, they change the topic, deny the premise of the challenge and change their vocabulary. They say the cost to leave Tri-State is not a buy-out, and they divide the cost into different categories. They natter about inflation and tariffs. The bottom line remains.

Remember, the directors are not playing at this high stakes table with their own money.

They are relying on us as their deep pocket, their sugar daddy.

It is time for the board to treat LPEA member/owners with respect. Ann McCoy Harold

Support for Carl Young

Dear Editor:

I am writing to encourage members of Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District to vote for Carl Young in the upcoming board election. Carl offers a fresh approach to the issues facing water users in Archuleta County with a particular focus on data transparency and public engagement. Additionally, I will vote for Carl because he supports keeping the land and water rights on the Running Iron Ranch rather than selling to a developer. It seems likely that this

Sincerely,

Work activity

• Potholing (small, drilled holes through the roadway surface to identify where utilities are located) continues as the project team determines the location of utilities. The project team is working closely with the Town of Pagosa Springs to determine where utilities are located.

• The WW Clyde team is working to fill potholes in the travel lanes through town.

- In the next two weeks, the team will begin water utility work as the old service line needs to be retired; this is a joint effort between the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) and the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District.
- · Roadway grading will begin this week and continue as excavation to the utility lines begins.
- Night work may be needed as the team plans for installation of new water service lines (scheduling this will limit daytime business disruptions).
- 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 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
- Mountain Express Transit shared 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 Street 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.

Important safety reminder

For the safety of the traveling public, unauthorized drone flights are prohibited over state highway property. Operating a drone over a highway right of way requires a Colorado Department of Transportation permit. Additionally, the Federal Aviation Administration has strict regulations for pilots operating drones over people and moving vehicles: www.faa.gov/uas/commercial_operators/operations_over_people.

Week of April 14-19

U.S. 160 reconstruction

information

Safety tips for pedestrians • Watch where you are going. Do not enter the work zone or climb over work zone safety barriers. Construction work may be fascinating, but always prioritize navigating the work zone as safely as you

• Pay attention to posted signs in the project area and follow all workers' instructions. Cross streets at open crosswalks or intersections; walk on sidewalks whenever they are available.

• Be alert for moving construction vehicles and other unexpected hazards, which often move suddenly and quickly. Stay off your phone when crossing the street or walking near the work zone.

• Look out for traffic before crossing the street make eye contact with drivers so you know they

Safety tips for drivers

- Look out for pedestrians and bicyclists everywhere, at all times, and especially in areas near schools, parks, shopping areas and transit stops.
- Slow down as you approach the work zone. Give vorkers extra room and be prepared to stop.
- Stop before a crosswalk, not in it.
- The traffic signals are operational and must be

• Put your cellphone down. Never drive impaired.

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.
- A 10-foot width restriction 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

• Call the project information line: (970) 335-9230.

• Email the project team: Pagosa160reconstruction@gmail.com. • Visit the project website: www.codot.gov/proj-

ects/us160pagosasprings. • Subscribe to project updates: subscription. cotrip.org.

Information provided by Colorado Department of Transportation





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■ Continued from A3

water and potential storage capacity will be needed in the future, even if that future is 20 years away. Any observer can see that winters are shorter and drier, and Carl supports planning now for that likelihood. The election is May 6, with mail-in ballots available soon.

Bob Lynch

Diversity, equity and inclusion

Dear Editor:

I'll admit, I'm still baffled by the backlash against Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Of course, I'm being deliberately naive—DEI has become an ideologically charged term—but at its core, these principles align with everything the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution stand for: "We the People," "General Welfare," freedom of speech and religion, and so on. The ability to twist these values into something "dangerous" or "anti-American" is nothing short of Orwellian and by that I mean in the novel 1984 where the fictitious, dystopian regime eliminates or redefines actual words in a society in order to control thought.

Let's take a fair look at both the successes and shortcomings of what's been called the DEI shift. At its heart, the goal has always been to create more equitable systems that reflect diverse experiences and contributions from all people. Research consistently shows that diverse perspectives improve innovation and efficiency compared to closed, homogeneous systems. These aren't just feel-good, left-leaning ideals—innovation is good for business, and good for government.

Of course, not all DEI programs were implemented well. Some relied too heavily on quotas or restricted benefits to specific groups—an approach that is, ironically, not equitable. The solution should be to refine the method while preserving the goal—because the world is complex, and we need as many good ideas as possible. Instead of abandoning the mission, why not work toward a shared vision of how to achieve it?

Alas, that is not what is happening today. Instead of thoughtful improvements, current federal policy seems focused on eliminating funding for anything labeled DEI: management by word search. Apparently, that's a new leadership strategy I wasn't trained in. If DEI was sometimes implemented poorly due to lazy management, how does solving it with equally lazy leadership help?

There's also this notion that we need to "re-establish" meritocracy as the sole method for hiring and promotion. Let's be clear—merit never went away. DEI didn't replace it. Merit has always been, and will always be, a core principle of running organizations. What DEI initiatives enable are the resources to make jobs and opportunities available to a more diverse section of the population - to get the word out beyond earshot of the usual suspects - so that companies can hire a more diverse, qualified workforce that reflects the community they serve. Diverse experiences and ideas are part of a strategy that has coexisted with merit-based systems successfully for decades, if not longer.

I remain hopeful that, once we strip away the rhetoric and the daily deluge of propaganda, we can find our way back to reason. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion are foundational elements of our society. Rather than abandoning them, let's re-commit to them—and make them better.

etter. Ed Matlack

'Hands-Off' protest

Dear Editor:

On Saturday, April 5th, more than 300 Pagosa Springs residents gathered in Centennial Park to participate in the nationwide "Hands-Off" protest. This demonstration was held in response to what many of us view as Donald Trump's and Elon Musk's hostile attack on American rights and freedoms.

Despite the cold and dreary day, protestors arrived ready to march, carrying creative and powerful signs such as, "I'm a registered and voting Republican, and I'm outraged!" And "How is your 401k?" One participant led the group in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, a patriotic verse promising to be loyal and to do our best for our country.

The nationwide "Hands-Off" rallies protested a wide range of administration policies, including newly imposed global tariffs, significant cuts to government agencies and the federal workforce, and immigration raids. Over 1,200 protests drew an estimated 5.2 million participants

Letters

who gathered at state capitols, city halls, and public parks to advocate for the America we believe in. In Pagosa Springs, we raised our voices to show that we are not going to let America fall to a fascist oligarchy. And we did it peacefully, lawfully, and with joy in our hearts.

Together, we invoked our First Amendment rights for freedom of speech. We chose not to be silent and hope for the best. Instead, we showed up, spoke out against injustice, and celebrated love for our country.

"I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

Paula Jo Miller

Tariffs

Dear Editor:

Back in 2008, the stock market took a dive because of the mortgage policies of the banking industry. A few investors took the risk of anticipating significant drop in the value of stocks. They bet that the market would fall during this crisis. In doing so, some investors made in excess of a billion dollars profit that year alone. If one investor could predict that the market would fall significantly in value, why would that investor not provide significant moneys to "short sell" stocks.

Enter Donald J Trump and his extremely wealthy cabinet.

Certainly, every advisor available to this group of individuals has stated to them, and to the public, that the imposition of tariffs would significantly impact the value of stocks. International investors would pull out of the market and 401k and retirement funds would take a big hit.

Do you think, for even a moment, that Trump and his cabinet, given the knowledge and impact available only to them, that they would become honorable persons and forgo "selling short" with the millions of dollars available to them? Would they abandon the opportunity for huge profits with little risk?

Trump has bankrupted businesses 7 times, and made money personally on most of them. His executive decisions have caused the market to fall nearly 20% at the time of this letter. Regardless of the reasons he has stated for these tariffs (and he may genuinely believe them), these tariffs will cost the average person, you and I, a lot of money. Take for example your morning cup of coffee. Since coffee does not naturally grow in the United States (except for Kona coffee from Hawaii) all of your future coffee purchases will cost at least 10% more...the tariff.

Only the Donald can be expected to make a profit from these tariffs.

nese tarıns. James Miner

'No, Donald'

Dear Editor:

No Donald, your tariff wars aren't going to work. Our economy is teetering on the brink of recession. The United States can't just declare bankruptcy and stiff its creditors. Try to work on a real economic plan.

No Donald, the rest of the world isn't intimidated. World leaders are rolling their eyes. Europe is turning away and forming new alliances. Greenland isn't interested in being annexed. Canada isn't a state-inwaiting. Putin is not your friend. Try to get in touch with reality.

No Donald, you're not building a great future. Farmers are hurting. Americans are paying more. Analysts think the Trump economy is insane and hopelessly outdated. Try to get a grip on your responsibilities.

No, Donald, turns out you can't pretend that women and minorities have made no significant accomplishments by removing web pages. Miriam Webster has a fine definition of Democracy. Please read it.

No Donald, telling Americans to take their medicine while you golf, and, oh yes, golf, won't win any arguments. Stop firing people and stop trying to kick the poor off food subsidies. Leave Medicaid alone.

And, Donald, picking on most vulnerable is bully behavior. Try to remember that "I really don't give a d***" was Rhett Butler's line.

Finally, Donald, April 2 nd wasn't any sort of Liberation Day. The only things liberated were record returns on 401k accounts. Please consult with and listen to financial experts. These are serious times.

Kathy Muth

After-prom event

Dear Editor:

We are proud to announce that "Midnight in the Mountains", our After Prom event, will be taking place on Saturday April 26th from 11:30 - 4:00 am at Pagosa Springs Middle School! Prom night is one of

the most anticipated events of high school, but unfortunately, it can also present risks associated with unsafe celebrations. Our FREE After-Prom event provides students with a fun, safe, and sober alternative where they can continue the celebration in a supervised environment with exciting activities, entertainment, and prizes. We have been working hard to ensure that there will be something for everyone!

An After-Prom event has been done locally, from 2004-2015, by a group of community partners. We are very excited to be bringing this back to our community and are hoping this will be something that our students can look forward to for years to come! We rely on the generosity of local businesses, community leaders, and individuals like you to bring this event to life. Any contribution will help us provide food, entertainment, games, and prizes to keep students engaged throughout the night.

We are proud to be sponsored by Archuleta School District, which means that all donations are tax-deductible as a charitable contribution. Upon request, we are happy to provide any necessary documentation for tax purposes. To ensure the longevity of this event, any funds remaining after this year's celebration will be rolled over to help support next year's After-Prom, ensuring future seniors can continue to enjoy a safe and fun experience.

As a token of our appreciation, we would love to recognize your generosity in our event promotions, on social media, and in our thank-you announcements. Your support will not only help create lasting memories for our seniors, but also reinforce the importance of community involvement in keeping students safe!

If you would like to contribute, there are several ways to do this. We have a Venmo set up for monetary donations. Venmo username (@ Pagosaafterprom - our logo is the profile picture), check donations can be made to Archuleta School District, write After Prom on the memo line, and sent to:

PSHS After Prom
PO Box 4462
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
Please contact us at midnightinthemtns@gmail.com for any further questions.

Thank you in advance for your support and for investing in the safety and happiness of our students. Please feel free to reach out with any questions. We truly appreciate your generosity in helping us establish this tradition for years to come!

Caitlin Snarr

Archuleta County Democratic Club

Dear Editor:

We attended a meeting of the Archuleta County Democratic Club held at Coyote Moon on Monday. The event was open to the public. The greeters and most club members were quite warm and inviting. The guest speaker and subject matter, Tracks Across Borders, were both interesting and informative. From the view of an outsider, it was obvious that these people did not represent the far-left liberal protesters that garner the bulk of attention on world news outlets these days. These were the kind of people that when exercising free speech rights, do so peacefully, respectfully, and with tolerance for the views of others. From the group's demeanor it was obvious that they would never condone the type of destructive and malicious behavior we witness almost daily by masked rioters in larger cities across our nation and even worldwide. Those criminals may not be getting a check directly from Soros, but many of the organizations that orchestrate the protests and print the signs and slogans seen uniformly worldwide, do. Our own government funds politically slanted NGO's through grants that are not voted on nor approved by congress. Destroying property and livelihoods does not constitute tolerance or civility. Nor do threats of assassination against our leaders.

The ACDC folks remind us of the old Democratic Party. The party of Clinton and Obama that spoke against fraud, waste, and abuse. The party that vowed to close our borders. The party that campaigned against violence. This party, even Pelosi, campaigned against tariffs imposed on us by our foreign competitors. Certainly, never condoned female athletes being injured competing against biological males.

A recent quote from former Clinton pollster, Doug Schoen, that "the Democratic Party exists only to oppose Republicans" and was "out of step with Americans" describes what seems to be the new Democratic Party. A party that doesn't have new

ideas. The new leaders appear to be "squad members" AOC and her ilk, who encourage violence and use profanity as if this portrays some sort of toughness or is appealing to the left's base.

The people we met at Monday's meeting certainly did not seem the type to oppose closing our borders or deporting those here illegally, that break our laws, rape, torture and murder innocents, and flood our country with dangerous drugs. Condone taxpayer millions, billions, even trillions of dollars being wasted on insane expenditures that are totally unaccounted for.

Government agencies that cannot or will not even attempt to pass an audit. As well as public servants quickly becoming multi-millionaires while making roughly \$200K/yr., how do they do that? We know that a business operating in this manner soon goes bankrupt, and our country was headed straight for that outcome. And, that our social security system cannot survive if we continue to pay out benefits to millions who are noncitizens, over the age of 120, or have never even existed.

Sustainability and tolerance are great concepts, let's practice!

Tom and Jeanine Springer

Noticeable shift

Dear Editor:

I have been a loyal reader of this newspaper for years, appreciating its role as a fair and neutral voice in our community. Under the previous ownership, the paper managed to reflect a balance of perspectives - letters to the editor from all sides of the political spectrum were printed, and any editorial leanings were subtle enough that the readers couldn't easily pin down the owner's personal views. That is no longer the case.

Since the new owners took over, there has been a noticeable shift. The letters to the editor now overwhelming favor left leaning viewpoints, often with a clear disdain for Trump and his policies, including the "In Our Opinion Pieces" which have become weekly vent sessions. This isn't just a change in tone, it's a departure from balanced journalism our town once relied on.

I am not asking for the paper to align with my views or anyone else's...I am asking it to return to what it used to be: a platform that respects and represents the diversity of thought in our community. When one side dominates the conversation, it alienates readers and undermines the paper's credibility. Pagosa Springs deserves a newspaper that listens to all of us.

Christy Suttles Editor's note: The SUN strives to present diverse views and be a community forum. We do not solicit letters to the editor from any viewpoint and print every letter that meets the guidelines stated, making them a reflection of what SUN readers choose to express, which can shift based on what's going on in our community and world. All but one of The SUN's current employees worked under the previous owner, and The SUN has made no changes to editorial policies or procedures since the change in ownership in September

■ See Letters A5

PAGOSA

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www.PagosaSUN.com





■ Continued from A4

'Hands-Off' protest

Dear Editor:

This past Saturday, 300 locals participated in one of over 1400 "Hands Off" protests held around the country. An estimated 5.2 million people participated. As one of the many older protesters, let me explain why we protested. We remember reciting in school a pledge of allegiance that promised liberty and justice for all. We learned that our government has three equal branches with built-in checks and balances and that the democratically elected Congress is empowered to legislate based on what the majority of citizens want. Government "by the people and for the people" built a strong middle class, a social safety net to protect children, the elderly and disabled, an education system accessible for everyone, equal rights for women and minorities, beautiful public lands, transportation systems, laws to keep our water and air clean, workplace safety laws, rules to protect our financial systems, improved healthcare access, etc. all financed through taxes. A minority of Americans who did not like these policies or programs have fought for the past 50 years to give the minority voice more power. They worked hard to redistribute the wealth, making the middle class less secure. Corporations and the wealthy were allowed to pour more money into our elections, the result being that our representatives listen more to the money than to their constituents.

Today we are witnessing the culmination of their efforts to radically change the America we grew up in and supported faithfully. We see leaders ignoring the rule of law. We see a President issuing record numbers of executive orders and empowering a billionaire to make cuts that will undermine the foundations and financial well-being of our country. Congress has relinquished their power of the purse so that a team of unvetted, inexperienced people who lack respect and knowledge of government operations can deconstruct the administrative state in the name of "efficiency." We are experiencing a huge brain drain from the government as we lose scientists and scholars. Our public services and lands will likely be privatized and made for-profit. Private owners will be freed from regulations that protect workers, consumers and the environment. Our voices will be silenced as our democracy is destroyed.

Large cuts are being made to programs that Americans depend on. Our local hospital will be affected by those cuts since 70% of their patients are on Medicare or Medicaid. Our schools could lose funding for programs that benefit poor or disabled children, our forests will be affected by Forest Service cuts, and our seniors will be affected by cuts to programs like Meals on Wheels and potentially Social Security. These cuts are not "savings."

We are upset that a well-functioning U.S. economy is now on the verge of recession driven by Trump's illplanned tariffs. We are upset that in the name of efficiency public services are not being improved but are being dismantled. If you are determined to use a chainsaw to trim government waste then we demand that you keep your Hands Off our country!

Lisa Tedder

Pagosa West development

The proposed 100 acre, Pagosa West development is a misguided venture. The master plan belongs in a major city. It will not work economically nor be a fit for the demographics of Pagosa (seniors & millennials). Much of our population is part time so revenues rely heavily on tourists. This plan follows a long parade of rumored developments over the decades: American Express, Disney, Piano Creek, David Brown (a generous offer to remodel downtown, missed), & Red McCombs' development of Wolf Creek (pressurized racket ball courts!). Money will buy beautiful plans on paper & get everyone focused on the micro details like set backs, trees, drainage, building heights, etc. All for naught. Development is a risky business. Apartments are the most risky because no pre-leasing can be done as with commercial properties. The cost to build any income property here (apartments or commercial) does not come close to matching local rents. Set aside the poor aesthetics proposed of a high density apartment and a gas station as the "grand entry" off S. Pagosa. According to Janover

Letters

Lending, rural apartment costs are approaching \$220,000 / unit (750 sf avg). Doing the math, 88 rooms are a \$17 million project cost. But the end value (assuming \$2,000 a month rents & a 7.5 cap rate) is only \$12.6 million. A catastrophic loser. It would breakeven at \$143,181 a unit - not doable. Subsidized housing? Government overseen Section 8 housing would be a bad choice. Aspen is the gold standard for subsidized, work force housing: but a wealthy population there pays the difference in additional taxes. Aspen's population of appx 6,000 residents has been flat for 25 years. We're not Aspen.

The developers have not consider 3 simultaneous changes: 1. Artificial intelligence 2. Robotics, 3. A major wealth transfer as boomer business owners sell out. Factory homes are in the first inning. Affordable factory built homes (and components) are already being delivered (even from Amazon. See "factory built homes"). For a tour, see Youtube "The Top 10 Prefab Homes of 2024" with Kerry Tarnow. 3D printed homes are being perfected: see www.IconBuild. com. In short, the future is changing everything and this development cannot begin to address these changing options. It's far too premature to do anything. Tourism is the only constant, this past non-winter aside.

See how the apartments by Walmart work out before the town leaders commitment to anything by anyone. As to Pagosa, big growth is not a must. We'd do well to adapt what we have to a growing volume of tourists with plenty to spend. Building on existing lots with new tech

can help with affordability. Existing businesses here should seek to be "remarkable". It pays better. A low density home project might pencil out, but even Timber Ridge has lots. The current land owners should contact a conservation a group.

There is no financially viable demand for any part this project.

F. Scott Tonges In support of

Dear Editor:

libraries

I am a long time library user in big cities and small towns, I've met all kinds of interesting people and developed long time friendships with librarians. The help they provide people in understanding the constitution and the assistance they give people who need housing and healthcare is fairly amazing. Todays libraries are not disposable, and provide critical resources for people Thump hates. It's time to fully fund and support local libriaries instead of the US war machine.

Christa Turnell

Immigration

The next question before us as we attempt to craft a working system of immigration laws is, How shall we deal with immigrants who commit crimes?

I submit that the best way is the same as the means of justice for citizens, at least on the "front end" of criminal justice. That is, the law should generally assume innocence without proof of guilt. But evidence of a crime begins the normal process of investigation, prosecution and defense, no matter whether the accused is a citizen or not. From the perspective of the law, the same burden of proof and due process rights apply to those with or without citizenship.

Enacting this model implies having a strong law enforcement presence (local and federal) and a wellfunctioning justice system. How many police officers, investigators, litigators, and judges will be necessary? The answer to this question depends only on total population of a region in the United States; it will have nothing to do with the citizenship status of residents. A robust law enforcement system will respond efficiently to crime in all cases—which is what we would expect even in a community made up entirely of citizens.

On the "back end," after conviction, the consequences for citizens might be very different than those for non-citizens. A felony conviction of a citizen may result in prison time; a felony conviction for a non-citizen may result in deportation (and the revocation of the right to return). One of the benefits of citizenship might be the right to be corrected through incarceration and return to society in the US.

(Hold for the moment the question of the financial burden on our justice system for these expanded services. We'll get there.)

Something to be worked out is how the United States takes cognizance of criminal activity perpetrated in an immigrant's home country. It would seem wise to limit





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Davian Coss earns Eagle Scout rank

By Jennifer Walterscheid

Davian Coss. 18, achieved the rank of Eagle Scout on April 1.

Davian is the son of Jaime and Eliza Coss and has two sisters, Kyleah and Harmony.

Achieving the rank of Eagle Scout is a lifelong honor, showcasing his unwavering dedication and perseverance. He selflessly shares his knowledge and skills to support those around him, embodying the Scout Law and Scout Oath in every facet of his life. Always seeking the next challenge and embracing every opportunity with optimism, he stands as a true role model to his peers.

He is a member of Troop 807 of the Great Southwest Council, located in Pagosa Springs. Troop 807 is chartered with Grace in Pagosa and is supported by the Community United Methodist Church.

To earn the rank of Eagle Scout, a Scout must complete requirements for six prior ranks and earn at least 21 merit badges. Of those, 14 are required to achieve Eagle Scout rank, then the Scout must earn an addition-

al seven (or more) badges of his or her choosing. Learning leadership skills and performing acts of community service prepares the Scout to conduct a community service project, known as the Eagle Project.

Davian earned 26 merit badges and completed his Eagle Project in November 2024.

Multiple donation days were held at Chow Down to support the Humane Society. In addition to the donations received, Davian built and placed a donation box within Chow Down so donations can continue to be collected as community members purchase items for their own pets.

Davian is planning to attend Colorado State University Pueblo in fall, majoring in kinesiology and pursuing his love for football.

Applying leadership and teamwork skills he has cultivated through sports and Scouts, he intends to pursue a career as a physical education teacher and sports coach.

Through the support of his family, friends, community members, his fellow Scouts, along with his own dedication, Davian joins an elite group of Scouts.



Davian Coss

Letters



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■ Continued from A5

the entry of people who have committed felonies and not served their time. But I am unsure how feasible or reliable the channels of communication are with the justice systems of other countries. There is also a problem of trust for other political regimes: A nefarious regime could effectively condemn an opposition leader by telling the US that they had committed a felony, when in fact they emigrated to flee persecution. Folks with more experience in this realm will need to address this realm of inquiry.

It does seem certain to me that due process and record-keeping are more feasible and efficient when the justice agencies are working on US soil, inside the bounds of US law, than when they are trying to work in several foreign countries. Remember: Life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness under our rule of law guide how we treat everyone, citizen and non-citizen. A cost we will need to bear is the ambiguity of an immigrant's life lived outside the reach of US law. We must be mindful not to attempt to control what is outside US sovereignty.

Obituary

Support for Dusty Mars

Dear Editor: As LPEA members prepare to vote for the District 1 Director, I urge you to support Dusty Mars—a candidate who embodies intelligence, pragmatism, and a deep commitment to our community. A long-time resident and 4th-generation farmer, Dusty has a vested interest in the responsible stewardship of Southwest Colorado's land and resources. Unlike others, he holds no financial stake in power generation technologies, ensuring his

Emrys Tyler

decisions will prioritize ratepayers over special interests.

Dusty's qualifications are impressive. With a technical background from Colorado School of Mines, he's built a career spanning nuclear engineering, petroleum engineering, and power supply project management. His seven years optimizing production and four years supervising energy projects equip him to tackle LPEA's evolving challenges—like coal plant closures and rising electric vehicle use—with practical solutions. As a leader, he's managed teams and delivered results, while his five years teaching math and science and 19 years coaching wrestling reflect his dedication to our community.

In person, Dusty's clear, informed presentations stand in stark contrast to the incumbent's quiet presence. We need a director who speaks up for us, the member-owners, with a focus on reliable, affordable power and transparency—not ideology. Encouraged by local business owners and members, Dusty is ready to serve. Watch for your ballot in the mail. Vote for Dusty Mars to ensure LPEA's future benefits us all.

Sincerely,



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Richard Walker

Jay Bradley Krause

April 29, 1960-Jan. 22, 2025. He is survived by Barbara Candelaria, of Pagosa Springs, Colo. Mother:

Jean Helmuth, of Littleton, Colo. Brother: Kent Krause, of Highlands Ranch, Colo. Brother: Lance Krause, of Littieton, Coio. Best friend: Scott Cochran. A service will be held Saturday,



April 12, 2025, at the Pagosa Baptist Church, 10533 U.S. 160, Pagosa Springs, Colo. Pastor Adam Albach will be officiating.

John Orva Peck

John Orva Peck, 94, of Lubbock, passed away on Sunday, April 6, 2025. A graveside service will be held on Saturday, April

12, 2025, at 1 p.m. at Plainview Memorial Park with Terry Groves officiating. Arrangements are under the care of Kornerstone Funeral Directors of Plain-



A visitation will be held on Friday, April 11, 2025, from 5 to 7 p.m. at Kornerstone Funeral Directors in Plainview.

John was born on June 16, 1930, to Daye and Vernada Peck in Duncan, Okla. John married the love of his life, Nida Peck, in Plainview on July 21, 1952. John devoted more than 35 years of his life to the education

system, where he managed the business affairs of the school district with passion and commitment. John invested 11 years as an educator in Fritch, then went on to serve as the principal at Hillcrest Elementary and Coronado Junior High in Plainview, Texas, before taking on the role of superintendent for Lockney Independent School District. He retired from the education system as an assistant superintendent of Plainview ISD. His commitment to fostering a nurturing and successful educational environment left a lasting mark on the communities he served. His career not only impacted the lives of countless students and educators, but also set a standard for fiscal responsibility in educational institutions.

After serving in the education system, he became involved with selling Aflac policies and advice to all that he served. He took great pleasure in helping those who needed life insurance or cancer policies. John found great joy in his passions, which included golfing, hunting and fishing. He loved to spend quality time with his grandchildren, creating cherished memories that they will hold dear forever. His love for adventure took him to beautiful destinations including Scotland and New York, where he delighted in trying new restaurants

and attending musicals. John also had a fondness for Dr. Pepper. One memorable occasion even saw him receiving a truck full of his favorite beverage at home, a testament to his joyful spirit and love for life's little pleasures. He cherished the moments spent at his cabin in Colorado, finding peace in nature and the beauty it holds.

John was preceded in death by his wife, Nida Peck; two daughters, Susan Peck, who died shortly after birth, and Karol Peck, who was killed by a drunk driver: one brother-in-law. Curtis. and his wife, Helen Parker; and his parents, Daye and Vernada Peck. John is survived by his daughter,

Debra Peck, of Lubbock; son Kyle Peck and wife Sharon, of Lubbock; three grandchildren: Keegan Peck, Kelsey Peck and Kensly Peck, all of Lubbock; two nieces, Vivian Smith and husband Tom, of Florida, Patricia Grice and husband Greg, of Florida, and one nephew, Don Parker and wife Becky, of Kansas.

The family would also like to thank the staff of The Isle of Raider Ranch and Grayce Hospice of Lubbock for taking great care of our father.

Memorials can be made to Northwest Church of Christ in Plainview and the Children's Home of Lubbock.

Our Savior Lutheran Church, School, and Mercy Care Ministry invite you to join us for **Easter Worship Services.**

56 Meadows Drive



Palm Sunday, 9 am Holy Thursday, 6:30 pm Good Friday Chief Service, 12 noon Good Friday Tenebrae Vespers, 6:30 pm Saturday Easter Vigil, 6:30 pm Easter Sunrise, 7 am Easter Day, 10 am

Sundays, a Divine Worship Service at 9 am

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Obituaries

Obituaries up to 500 words are printed free in The Pagosa Springs SUN and can be submitted to:

PO Box 9 Pagosa Springs, CO 81147 e-mail:

editor@pagosasun.com fax: (970) 264-2103

Deadline is 1 p.m. Tuesday for the following Thursday's edition. The SUN reserves the right to edit all submissions.



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Business

Hanging baskets and **Building Business** Excellence tickets available

By Mary Jo Coulehan Pagosa Springs Area Chamber of Commerce

The annual Chamber Hanging Basket program is off to a robust start this

After a small setback, the ordering glitch has been fixed and hanging basket sales are up and running.

As in previous years, the basket sizes are 12 inches and 16 inches. We only have a few of the 16-inch baskets; therefore, if you are interested in obtaining that size, please order quickly. There are a good number of 12-inch baskets still available.

All baskets may be ordered through the Chamber's website, www.pagosachamber.com. Scroll down to Community and Chamber News and click on the hanging basket graphic. Access the ordering system by clicking on "Register as Guest" and entering the #1. Do not enter the number of baskets you want at this time. You will then be able to order either the 12-inch or 16inch baskets.

Should you have any concerns, please contact the Chamber and we will be happy to assist you with your

Building Business Excellence forum

Tickets for the upcoming Building Business Excellence forum on April 29 are also on sale through the Chamber's website

The graphic for ordering these tickets is on the Chamber's website homepage under Community and

Chamber news. The keynote speaker for the conference, Dale Wilsher, identifies the graphic. Click on that graphic and purchase your tickets, which are \$35 for Chamber members and \$45 for nonmembers.

The ticket price includes the keynote address by Wilsher, four breakout sessions, breaks and a networking reception with a drink ticket included in your price.

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The conference will be held at the Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Association Clubhouse and will begin at 1 p.m. Questions concerning the conference can be answered by calling the Chamber at (970) 264-2360.

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Biz Beat



Jon Mills, an Edward Jones financial advisor in Pagosa Springs, recently received the firm's exclusive Century Award for outstanding performance during his first five years as a financial advisor with the firm. He was one of only 930 financial advisors firm-wide to receive this award.

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El Pomar Foundation approves \$275,000 to organizations in Southwest region

By Erin Hannan El Pomar Foundation

El Pomar Trustees approved \$275,000 allocated to 20 nonprofit organizations and government entities in the Southwest region at the foundation's February trustees meeting.

Through the foundation's grantmaking process:

- A Safe Place in Pagosa Inc. received \$5,000 for general operating support; competitive.
- · Aspire Medical Services and Education (Pagosa Springs) received \$10,000 for counseling program; regional council.
- The Boys and Girls Club of La Plata County, Inc. (Durango) received \$10,000 for youth programming; regional council.
- Build Pagosa Inc. received \$50,000 for Regional Workforce Center; competitive.
- The Community Foundation serving Southwest Colorado (Durango) received \$10,000 for CAUSE Internship; regional council.
- The Cortez Fire Protection District received \$7,500 for radios, personal protective equipment and accessories; Wildland Fire Fund.
- Healthy Archuleta Inc. (Pagosa Springs) received \$10,000 for youth mental health programming; regional
- Manna-The Durango Soup Kitchen received \$5,000 for food security programs; regional council.
- Montezuma County Historical Society Inc. (Cortez) received \$7,500 for youth programming; regional council
- The Montezuma School to Farm Project (Cortez) received \$20,000 for youth programming; regional

- The Pagosa Community Initiative received \$25,000 for youth programming; regional council.
- · Pagosa Peak Open School received \$10,000 for after-school programming; regional council.
- Pine River Shares (Bayfield) received \$10,000 for food security initiatives; regional council.
- RezDawg Rescue Inc. (Lafavette) received \$15,000 for Ute Mountain Ute Reservation mobile veterinary clinic; Hambrick Fund.
- San Juan County Public Health Service (Silverton) received \$15,000 for the Silverton Food Collective; regional council.
- Silverton Family Learning Center Inc. received \$20,000 for general operating support; regional council.
- The Southern Ute Indian Tribe (Ignacio) received \$15,000 for the Boys and Girls Club of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe; regional council.
- The Good Samaritan Center (Cortez) received \$5.000 for food security programs; regional council.
- The Powerhouse (Durango) received \$15,000 for a new child care center; regional council.
- United Way of Southwest Colorado (Durango) received \$10,000 for Montezuma County Team UP; regional council.

Founded by Spencer and Julie Penrose in 1937, El Pomar Foundation has an established legacy of general-purpose grant making. The competitive process remains the foundation's primary vehicle for organizations to receive funding.

Additionally, over the last 87 years, El Pomar has either developed or been entrusted with the stewardship of a number of other funds, as well as presenting merit grants in each region recommended by trustees and

regional council members. Competitive applications are accepted on a rolling basis.

In an effort to increase impact and establish connections across the entire state, the Regional Partnerships program was established in 2003. Each of the foundation's 11 regional councils advises El Pomar trustees and recommends grants to help support its communities.

The Southwest Regional Council recommends grants in Archuleta, Dolores, La Plata, Montezuma and San Juan counties. Council members are regional leaders in the business, nonprofit and public sectors, and provide firsthand information about current needs in their own communities.

The Freda Hambrick Fund supports nonprofit organizations that prevent cruelty to animals, provide direct care and medical assistance, and offer educational programs for the proper care of and attention to animals within the state of

The Wildland Fire Fund assists with immediate emergency needs of volunteer firefighting agencies and first responders throughout the state of Colorado.

To view a full listing of El Pomar's funds and grant-making areas, please visit https://www.elpomar.org/grantmaking/.

El Pomar Foundation is one of the largest and oldest private foundations in Colorado. El Pomar contributes approximately \$25 million annually through grants in the areas of arts and culture, civic and community initiatives, education, health, and human services, as well as community stewardship and leadership development programs to support Colorado nonprofit organizations.

Informative.

The Pagosa Springs SUN 970-264-2100

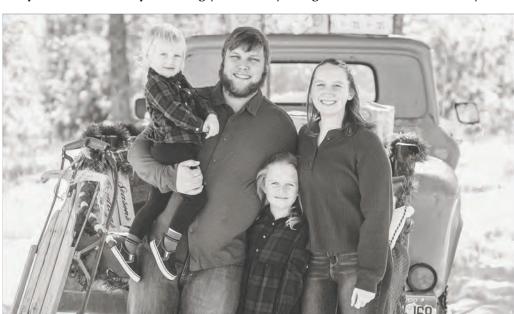
I'm Alex Boehmer, currently serving on the PAWSD **Board of Directors and running for re-election.**

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I'm a 2012 Pagosa Springs High School graduate, husband, father, and former volunteer firefighter.

I'm passionate about protecting your family budget and our water security.



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Every dollar of rate hikes must be challenged and justified. This year, as a new Board member, elected to be Board Treasurer, I opposed a planned 30% sewer rate increase and we lowered it to 10%. Not low enough, but a good start.

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STEP ONE: Test every fire hydrant in the district — in cooperation with the County and Fire District if possible — or by PAWSD alone, if necessary. No excuses. Starting

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Water losses are threatening to get worse as our water infrastructure ages — and repairing and replacing pipes is expensive. It's time to sell the \$10 million Dry Gulch property and invest that money to fix the leaks. Any other approach to water loss will hike rates higher.

Ballots will be mailed in mid-April. If re-elected, I promise to protect your family budget... and our water future.

> Learn more at: www.AlexForPAWSD.com Paid for by Alex Boehmer

Archuleta County Department of Human Services, others to receive grant for disability application assistance

Colorado Department of Labor and **Employment**

The Colorado Disability Funding Committee (CDFC), now housed in the recently established Colorado Disability Opportunity Office (CDOO) within the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE), will be awarding \$2 million in grant funding for disability application assistance.

Twenty-three nonprofit organizations and county human services agencies from all corners of the state, including the Archuleta County Department of Human Services and Community Connections Inc., have been selected to receive funds.

Grantees across the state were selected for their work in helping individuals and families complete their applications for Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), longterm Medicaid, appeals, tax filing assistance, property tax rebates, rent and heat assistance, earned income, state tax credits, and other benefit

applications. The committee received requests for more than \$8.4 million in grant

funding from a widely diverse group of 61 organizations that specialize in services for individuals with specific disabilities, underserved demographic communities and diverse geographical areas across Colorado.

The governor-appointed members of the CDFC report that this assessment and award-granting process was the most competitive and difficult one to date.

"Every Coloradan deserves access to the resources and opportunities they need to thrive and are eligible to receive, but applying for these benefits ■ See Assistance A9

Measles.

■ Continued from front was contagious from March 26 through April 3."

"This case does not appear to be linked to the other cases reported in Colorado and the individual did not travel outside of Colorado, which leaves open the possibility of community transmission," said Dr. Rachel Herlihy, state epidemiologist and deputy chief medical officer at the CDPHE. "We urge Coloradans to monitor for symptoms if they may have been exposed, and to make sure they are up to date on their MMR vaccinations."

Colorado has a total of three confirmed measles cases in 2025, according to the press release. The confirmed cases have been in Pueblo, Denver and Archuleta counties.

It further notes, "Measles is highly contagious and often severe, but it is a preventable disease."

The MMR vaccine remains the best protection against measles, it states. Two doses of MMR vaccine are about 97 percent effective in preventing

"Vaccination is the best way to protect yourself, your family and your community," it notes.

Known exposure locations

■ Continued from front

levels for the area.

the cost of that."

According to the press release, based on available information, anyone who was in the following locations

Commissioner Warren Brown indi-

Commissioner John Ranson noted

Ford explained that he owns a saw-

cated that he wanted to know capacity

that two business owners, JR Ford and

Andre Redstone, were in attendance

and invited them to join the conversa-

mill in the area and his business is in

need of .6 megawatts, adding that he

understands business needs to "pay

its own way," but encouraged LPEA to

consider "some kind of joint venture"

to front-load the cost of expanding

services, "because one little business

in Pagosa is not gonna be able to cover

rural co-op was started, LPEA was

bringing power out to small ranches

and business, which was subsidized

in the Cloman area would also lead to

"economic growth" by having a place

where higher-paying industrial jobs

can locate, as the county has identified

"And, again, I think we're very

happy to supply that power," Hansen

replied, explaining that providing .6

megawatts is manageable and that

LPEA is just asking for new businesses

"That is the process we've had in

Ford responded stating that for the

past 20 years LPEA has taken the stance

of businesses paying their own way,

but suggested that "there needs to be

to pay for the line extension hookup.

place for many decades," he said.

this area for light industrial activity.

Ford added having sufficient power

through government programs.

Ford also explained that when a

during the dates and times listed may have been exposed to measles and should monitor for symptoms for 21 days after exposure and consider avoiding public gatherings or high-risk

Monitoring for symptoms is especially critical for people who have not been vaccinated with the MMR

Known exposure locations include: • Wolf Creek Ski Area, U.S. 160 East: Friday, March 28, all day. Saturday, March 29, all day. Sunday, March 30, all day.

According to Springer, officials are not able to say what buildings the person may have been in at the ski area.

• Pagosa Medical Group, 27B Talisman Drive, Unit 3: Monday, March 31, 9:05 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Wednesday, April 2, 3:45 to 6 p.m.

• City Market, 165 Country Center Drive: Monday, March 31, 10 a.m. to

Springer explained contact tracing us underway, with the Silver Thread district helping on the other side of Wolf Creek Pass, and is expected to be done Friday.

What to do if you may have been exposed and aren't feeling well

People exposed to measles typically develop symptoms seven to 21 days after exposure, according to the press

businesses wanting to move into the

Redstone agreed that more than .6

area, the power needed will be more

megawatts will be needed for addi-

tional businesses, suggesting that local

governments may be able to help share

"We do believe this will be a good

Hansen explained that LPEA is

committed to giving quick turnaround

on applications for additional service,

adding that joint applications are pos-

all at once and save money, that would

Inter-Mountain Propane and the two

business owners may be able to submit

a joint application, noting it "would

committed to responding quickly

to those applications, adding, "this

doesn't seem like a huge project, what

you're describing," while noting a new

the power availability for the proposed

Pagosa West development, stating

that the existing capacity in that area

is 760 kilowatts, and once the Trujillo

substation is completed the capacity

to bring the capacity up to 15 mega-

To go above that, additional substation capacity would need to be added

Hansen also explained that recent

tariffs are significantly impacting costs

of projects, particularly in the Archuleta

will double to 1.5 megawatts.

Hansen then provided an update on

substation would not be needed.

Hansen reiterated that LPEA is

be beneficial to all entities involved.

He noted if there is a way to do this

Medina suggested that the county,

than just .6 megawatts.

project," Ranson said.

make a hearty packet."

that cost.

release. Symptoms include fever, cough, runny nose, red eyes and a characteristic rash that usually starts several days later on the face and spreads.

Springer noted that initial symptoms could be similar to allergies, but to look for bumps, which will start on the face.

She added someone with measles is infectious four days before and four days after the rash occurs.

"If you were at one of these locations during the exposure window and develop symptoms, immediately contact your health care provider by phone. If you do not have a provider, call an urgent care center or emergency department and explain that you may have been exposed to measles. Calling ahead helps prevent additional exposures," the press release notes.

Springer added that the ACPHD does not do testing.

Protecting yourself and

If you are unvaccinated or not fully vaccinated, it is especially important to closely monitor for symptoms during the 21 days after a possible exposure, the press release notes.

It adds that, for future cases, the MMR vaccine, given within 72 hours after exposure, can prevent infection. Unvaccinated individuals or those unsure of their immunity should talk to their health care provider about

County area. Steel and aluminum

tariffs placed on Canada are adding

25 percent to costs on an "already con-

larly rosy picture for additional substa-

tions," explaining that LPEA received notice from its suppliers that tariff

increases would be passed through

development is planned to occur in

Ranson noted that the Pagosa West

"As I understand the project, we

Hansen then provided some information related to outages in Archuleta

County and specifically in the Town of

there were 101 outages reported in

town limits, which dropped to 57 in

2024, noting that is a 43 percent de-

county in 2021 and 300 outages in 2024,

a 28 percent decrease, Hansen noted.

ments in the paper about how reliabili-

ty has decreased, I think our data would

indicate that it's actually improved,"

Hansen stated, adding that significant

second transmission corridor project

will provide two lines in and out of the

we're heavily investing in the county

... and that reliability has improved

over the last several years in Archuleta,"

He explained that the \$20 million

"I want to ensure everyone that

upgrades have also taken place.

county once completed.

■ See LPEA A12

There were 419 outages in the

"I know there's been some state-

Pagosa Springs from 2021 to 2024. Hansen mentioned that in 2021,

have enough for phase one and part

of phase two," Wills said.

crease in outages

immediately.

Hansen added, "it's not a particu-

strained supply situation," he noted.

receiving the MMR vaccine.

"We strongly recommend that all Coloradans ensure they and their children are up to date on MMR vaccinations," it states The first dose of MMR vaccine is routinely given at age 12 months. Families with infants too young to be vaccinated against measles should reconsider travel to areas in the U.S. and abroad with ongoing measles outbreaks. If travel cannot be avoided, infants 6-11 months should receive an early dose of MMR before traveling to outbreak areas."

Adults should have received one or two doses (depending on risk factors), unless they have other presumptive evidence of immunity to measles, such as those born before 1957 who are generally considered immune, it notes. There are also a small number of adults who received the inactivated measles vaccine during childhood from 1963 through 1967 who are considered unvaccinated and should receive at least one dose of MMR vaccine. More information about MMR vaccines for children and adults can be found on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's website: https://www.cdc. gov/measles/hcp/vaccine-considerations/index.html.

"Vaccines are right here in the community," Springer explained, including the booster vaccine for those who received the inactivated vaccine.

Coloradans can check their or their child's immunization records through the Colorado Immunization Information System Public Portal, available at https://ciis.state.co.us/ciis/Login.aspx.

The press release notes that records may be incomplete if all vaccines have not been reported by providers.

Call the ACPHD at (970) 264-2409 with any questions, concerns, or for more information about measles symptoms, vaccines or necessary ac-

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a different model," and that with other Town

■ Continued from front

stands at \$740,000, and the town's total funding secured for the property amounts to \$962,098, with the closing date currently expected on or before April 21.

Pierce asked, since the town "received more grants than the cost of the property," if the extra \$222,000 would go toward the "completion of some of the amenities" of the river park, including bathrooms, a boater ramp and parking.

Dickhoff explained that the extra money would be applied to "the design," or "finding a consultant to work with us on the design of the property, and we'll finish the environmental work and some of the other items and try to get all of that done by this year."

He noted that the town would also need an access parking permit from the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), but that the cost of this would be "minimal."

He added the main costs would really come from "the means of designing that [parking] lot to ensure we have functionality with boats, with trailers coming in and dropping off and a functional exit," adding that some of this would stem from CDOT's feedback.

An agenda document states, "The remaining \$222,098 will be expensed on the completion of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process and all applicable permitting, including a CDOT access permit and an Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) Nationwide Permit, as well as phase one site improvements that include site cleanup, refinement of park improvement designs, parking area enhancements, and the installation of a boat ramp for public river access."

Even if the project is not all the way completed, the town still might open it up for public boater access by the 2026 boater season, Dickhoff noted, but that it would depend on when the town gets "reimbursed for those grants."

With future funding (from other grants), future phases of park construction could include "an expansion of the Riverwalk" that could "interface" with the existing town Riverwalk and the portion of river walkway constructed by the "river domes to the east," Dickhoff said.

This river property has been on the town's radar for at least 15 years and was part of the town-adopted River Corridor Master Plan, which included it as part of its vision for river access from this particular property site to Yamaguchi Park, Dickhoff explained.

"In that plan, we had identified this very property as a future boater access point to the river, so it's been in our long-range mind for a while," he said.

Council member Gary Williams added, "I'm really happy that this is going forward, and I appreciate all of the staff's work who have been involved with this."

Council member Brooks Lindner suggested that the land purchase is a "great acquisition" for the town and that he is excited to see the river park.

Town Manager David Harris added, "A lot of TLC" went into gathering the resources to acquire this property, with Harris thanking Dickhoff for all of his

work on the project. Council member Leonard Martinez said that "using other people's money to create assets for the community — I've always felt really good about that."

Dickhoff explained the town would be flexible with the current leaseholder on the property, Basin Coop, and would work out an arrangement for it to stay and operate on the property until the town is ready to break ground on the project.

So far, the town has conducted a phase one environmental site assessment, which turned up "no glaring concerns contained within the report," the agenda document states.

The town has also conducted an inspection of the existing buildings on the property, and the report from this inspection shows that the office building, a D-log structure, shows "typical rotting on the lower portions of the exterior walls."

The report also states, "The interior would require substantial remodeling for code compliance associated with a change of use to a public restroom/ changing facility."

Dickhoff explained that the remodeling costs could easily reach the same amount as a new structure, pointing to the possibility of building a brand-new restroom facility at the park.

Pierce thanked the county for its contribution.

Later in the meeting, she also sought to clarify some public sentiment that suggested that the town is spending \$1 million on the property.

She explained that is not true, and that the money for the purchase and site upgrades were coming entirely from grant and Conservation Trust funding, reiterating that this was one of the "very best land purchases" during her tenure on the council.

derek@pagosasun.com

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that property.

New mobile home park rezone approved

By Clayton Chaney Staff Writer

The Archuleta County Planning Commission recommended approval of another mobile home park rezone request at its March 27 meeting.

This is the second mobile home park rezone request the commission has heard and approved this year, with the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners giving unanimous final approval to the first request on March 6.

During the March 27 planning commission meeting, Planning Manager Owen O'Dell explained that the rezone request is separate from the tiny home village (THV) request attached to the property, which is a use by right review.

He went on to explain the request to rezone is coming from the Troxtell family for a parcel of land located on U.S. 84, south of Echo Lake, to change the zoning from agriculture ranching to a mobile home park designation.

A mobile home park designation is the only zoning designation in which a THV can be created, according to the county's Land Use Regulations (LUR).

O'Dell noted that a THV permit is a completely separate process from the rezone request, being that it is reviewed and approved administratively.

He also mentioned the future land use map of the area shows the parcel to be designated for very low-density residential development.

O'Dell then explained that the applicants met seven out of the 10 review criteria elements, explaining that the LUR does not require all 10 review criteria elements to be met and adding that meeting seven of the elements exemplifies the applicant's compliance with the county's LUR.

According to O'Dell's staff report, while the existing zoning is not inconsistent with the community plan, neither is the rezone request.

"Tiny Home Villages (Tiny Homes/ Houses), much like multi-family housing, tends to offer housing at a more affordable rate than single-family residences," the report states.

O'Dell's report also states that a tiny home can cost anywhere from \$37,000 to \$160,000 when purchased from a manufacturer out of Durango, with monthly costs estimated as low as \$903, while the average rental price in Pagosa Springs is approximately \$2,800.

When asked for comments from the applicants, Sarah Troxtell explained that her family moved from Texas two years ago and saw an opportunity to help provide more affordable housing options for the community.

Planning commissioner Peter Beaudry commented that a \$37,000 tiny home would likely be only 100 square feet in size, adding that the comparison of a cost of a tiny home to a traditional three-bedroom, two-bathroom home around 1,200 square feet is not a good comparison.

"I don't think that's a good comparison," he said.

Development Director Pamela Flowers explained that according to area median income (AMI) levels identified by the Colorado Housing and Financing Authority, rent for a two-bedroom home at 80 percent AMI in Archuleta County can be as high as

Beaudry also commented that last month the planning commission approved a rezone request that was only 1 mile from the Pagosa Springs town limits, whereas this request is about 6 miles from the town limits.

Beaudry asked if there was certain criteria for referencing the distance from town limits in these requests.

O'Dell explained that there is no certain criteria, but that the distance was referenced on this request due to the property being located off of a major highway corridor on U.S. 84, adding the future land use map indicates the area as high-density residential.

"I felt that it was important to note

that we are close enough to town for density and other identified highdensity areas," O'Dell said.

Beaudry then commented on the notice requirements, which state that any property within 500 feet of the parcel shall be notified, stating that may be sufficient in urban areas, but not so much in rural communities.

O'Dell noted that the Troxtells had to notify fewer than five people, adding that proper notice requirements were also published in The SUN.

"There's, not to me, any real public notice," Beaudry said, adding that nobody reads that section of the paper.

Flowers commented that the planning commission could consider amending notice requirements at a future meeting.

O'Dell also stated that he agrees with Beaudry's statement on notification requirements, explaining that other request applicants have had to notify more than 50 people.

Planning commissioner Mont McAllister asked when the Troxtell property was last used as a mobile home park.

"It was a long time ago," Flowers said, indicating that it may have been as long as 12 plus years ago.

O'Dell explained there are still some electric meters on the property, and that the Troxtells are planning on using those as well as the existing roads on the property.

Commissioner Peter Vecvangs commented that everybody has a right to develop their property within the standards and regulations, acknowledging Redstone's concern of setting a precedent, "but I don't know what weight that carries."

"Its also interesting to note that they've already cleaned the property up," Flowers added, explaining there were multiple abandoned mobile homes on property when the Troxtells purchased it.

Planning commissioner Andre Redstone commented that he lived near the property more than 18 years ago, adding that it's been a long time since the property was used with its previous intention.

Flowers explained that the county did not have zoning regulations until

Redstone added that he is "grateful" for the applicants attempting to provide additional housing options for the community.

"I think many of us realize how challenging making any significant changes within our community ... it's no small undertaking," he said.

Flowers explained that when the zoning regulations were adopted, areas were "blanketed" and grouped together with nearby properties, adding that this property is mostly surrounded by large ranching properties.

She added that it would've been zoned as a mobile home park, but since it was not operational at that time, it was grouped in with surrounding properties.

She also noted the property does not meet the minimum size requirement of 35 acres to be zoned as agricultural ranching.

O'Dell mentioned the property was subdivided before zoning regulations were adopted in 2006, and that the Troxtells have corrected the illegally divided parcel by getting a legal lot certificate through the county.

Redstone commented that he had similar concerns with the first mobile home park request.

"One of my expressed concerns is precedence. We set a precedent that then is leveraged within the community, and I have to believe that this may be once more one of those situations, where neighboring property owners inevitably would look at doing exactly the same thing, should a precedence be set.

Redstone also commented that he was looking at "distinguishing features of this property" compared to others, noting that the nonconforming zoning happened after the intended original use.

"So that's an important qualifier there," he said, adding that the details are important to rely on when making a decision that is contrary to this one.

Flowers responded, saying that the idea of precedence "doesn't quite fit here in my mind."

She explained that it is the planning commissioners' job to determine if the applicant meets the county's standards.

She then used the example of if every property owner in the area wanted to start a mobile home park and they are all able to meet the standards, "then it's your job to approve it; that is it."

Flowers noted the planning commissioners' training in January outlined that it is the commissioner's job to assess an application and compare it to the county's standards and regulations, adding that staff has taken the time to review the application and that is why it is being presented with the recommendation for approval

"Its not about whether you like it or don't like it or think it's a good idea or bad idea. It's not about that. Your job is to apply the standards to the project, and anything else is arbitrary," Flowers said.

Redstone responded that he appreciated the clarification from Flowers, but commented that precedent is set through standard and that if this property meets the standard, "what makes surrounding properties different?"

"It doesn't," Flowers replied. She added, "Each and every property owner has a right to develop their property in any way that the regulations allow ... as long as they meet the standards for that development."

Flowers further explained that unless the planning commissioners can say the applicant is not complying with regulations, "then you need to approve. That's why we recommend approval."

She also commented that the Troxtells have "repeatedly" worked with the Planning Department to ensure that they are in compliance with the

Redstone also commented that he recognizes that "we're all in support of diverse housing in the community," explaining that his concern lies in the application of the standards, and the implication of spot-zoning.

Commissioner Peter Vecvangs commented that everybody has a right to develop their property within the standards and regulations, acknowledging Redstone's concern of setting a precedent, "but I don't know what weight that carries."

He added, "As long as they meet the standard, they have the right to develop their property as they see fit."

Flowers commented that the concerns of spot-zoning are fair and that the commission could have another conversation about how it would like to address that, adding that if the commission were to decide to not approve this request, mobile home parks should be removed from the LUR "because you will never have a bunch of mobile parks next to each other to create a mobile home park area," noting that mobile home parks are spot-zoned in nature.

She explained that it is the opinion of the Planning Department staff that the benefits of this development outweigh the cons of spot-zoning.

Redstone agreed that everyone has a right to develop their property, explaining that a neighboring property was used for industrial activity nearly 30 years ago, raising the question if the same criteria could be applied to

"We're saying it's an appropriate development for the area," Flowers responded

Beaudry indicated that he'd like to have more conversations in regard to the notification requirements, adding that he is concerned about spot-zoning.

"I wanna look at some kind of further criteria," Beaudry said, adding that currently the commission is giving off the impression that people can do anything as long as they meet some of the criteria.

Flowers explained that means when the LUR was originally adopted, "they didn't see a reason to be too restrictive in people's ability to rezone."

No public comment was given on the matter before it was approved by the planning commission in a 4-1 vote with Beaudry voting against and Redstone, Vecvangs, Matt Nobles and David Pribble voting to recommend it for approval.

The matter will go to the BoCC for final approval at a future BoCC meet-

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Assistance

■ Continued from A7

can be challenging. The overwhelming response to this grant program shows just how critical these services are for individuals with disabilities across our state," said Lt. Gov. Dianne Primavera. "Through this funding, we are empowering organizations that are helping individuals and families with disabilities navigate complex application processes and access essential benefits. I am grateful for the work of the Colorado Disability Opportunity Office and the Colorado Disability Funding Committee in advancing equity and opportunity for the disability

community." "With more than 61 applications for this round of funding, and requests for well over the available \$2 million, the CDFC had difficult deci-

sions to make," said CDOO Director Danny Combs. "It's clear there is a huge need to offer further support to individuals with disabilities, and CDOO is committed to doing all we can to provide more pathways to opportunity for all Colorado's disability community.'

About the CDFC

The CDFC is made up of 13 governor-appointed members, with the requirement that at least seven members must identify as living with a disability or have firsthand experience working with someone who does.

Members oversee the distribution of grant funds, which are used to invest in new and innovative initiatives working to increase the quality of life and independence of Coloradans with disabilities, and to assist Coloradans with disabilities apply for programs such as Social Security Disability Insurance and Medicaid.

About the CDOO

Established by HB24-1360 in 2024, the CDOO is the point of contact for state agencies, private-sector organizations and the public to advance the integration and inclusion of the disability community.

The CDOO sits at the intersection of policy development and implementation, and HB 24-1360 ensures that CDOO leadership continues to advise the governor and his team on disability policy, ensure cross-agency collaboration, and provide funding through the CDFC to disability organizations and businesses.



Sports



TRACK

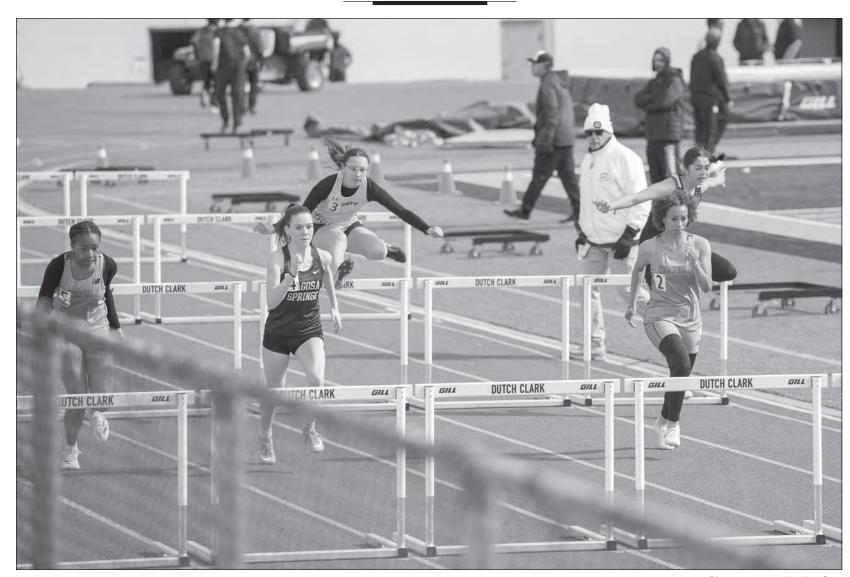


Photo courtesy Jessica Carr

Lady Pirate Eden Conner runs the hurdles in Pueblo on April 4. Connor finished 15th in the 100-meter hurdles and 19th in the 300-meter hurdles at the 30-team meet.

Pirates break school records at Pueblo meet

By Randi Pierce Staff Writer

Two Pagosa Springs High School track and field records were broken at the 30-team John Tate Steel City

Abi Nehring, coach Connie O'Donnell highlights in an email to The SUN, set a new record in discus

Fast Track Invitational on April 4 in

with a throw of 138 feet, 6 inches. "The old record belonged to Keena Murphy set in 2017" O'Donnell notes, adding Nehring "is still ranked first in the state right now. The second ranked throw in the state is 12 feet shorter."

Colton Lucero broke the school record in the 100-meter dash with a time of 10.96 seconds.

"The old record belonged to Jason Schutz in 2002," the coach wrote. "I feel like it's a pretty big deal when you break a 23 year old record. Colton is ranked 2nd in the state. Colton ran a great 200 also, but the wind by that time was pretty significant and so his time will not count for qualifying."

In addition to setting records, the Pirate track and field team also notched 17 top-five finishes at the

Nehring finished first in the discus with her throw, with Malorie Morton following in second with a throw of

Nehring also took first in the discus with a distance of 33-6, with Morton taking 11th with a throw of 27-2.

Lucero's record-setting time earned him second in the 100 on the day. Tommy Nigro finished 22nd with a time of 11.93 seconds. Gavin Carter took 26th with a time of 12.07 seconds.

Lucero finished first in the 200-meter dash with a time of 22.72 seconds. Nigro took 12th in 24.89 seconds, followed by Carter in 13th with a time of 25.03 seconds.

In the girls' 100, Sienna Rose took second in 13.22 seconds. Lexi Campbell finished in seventh with a time of 13.52 seconds, and Rylie Carr finished ninth in 13.59 seconds.

Carr took third in the girls' 200 with a time of 28.07. Campbell finished sixth in 28.68 seconds, and Molly Washburn finished 10th in 29.56 seconds.

Rose claimed the top spot in the girls' 400-meter dash with a time of one minute, 3.48 seconds.

Jeremiah Dean took 19th in the boys' 400 with a time of 57.34 seconds.

Honestye Sweet finished 18th in the girls' 800-meter run with a time of 3:06.84, and took 12th in the 1,600-meter run with a time of

Connor Thomas took 10th in the boys' 800 with a time of 2:19.71. He also took ninth in the 1,600, running a time of 5:14.43, and Eli Nehring finished 29th with a time of 5:59.99.



Photo courtesy Jessica Carr

Jaxten Schiel readies for a start during the 30-team John Tate Steel City Fast Track Invitational on April 4 in Pueblo. Schiel took 20th in the 110-meter hurdles and 13th in the 300-meter hurdles on the day.

Eli Nehring finished 10th in the boys' 3,200-meter run with a time of 12:49.98

Eden Connor finished 15th in the girls' 100-meter hurdles in 20.56 seconds, and 19th in the 300-meter hurdles in 1:01.30.

Jeremiah Jones was the top Pirate in the boys' 110-meter hurdles, finishing 10th overall with a time of 18.12 seconds. Tristan Frame took 19th in 48.46 seconds. Jaxten Schiel finished 20th in 21.99 seconds.

Jones took fourth in the boys' 300 hurdles with a time of 45.56 seconds. Schiel followed in 13th with a time of 48.46 seconds. Frame ran a time of 52.29 seconds to take 20th.

The Lady Pirate relay team of Rose, Washburn, Campbell and Carr finished sixth in the girls' 4x100-meter relay with a time of 52.93 percent.

The Pirate relay team of Lucero, Carter, Creede Dozier and Nigro finished third in the boys' 4x100, running a time of 44.08 seconds.

Both relay teams improved their time, O'Donnell highlights, with the girls ranked 15th in the state and the boys ranked fourth.

Carr took fourth in the girls' high jump with a height of 4-8.

Dozier took third in the boys' high jump with a height of 6-2, and Jones followed in fourth at 6-0.

Dozier won the boys' long jump with a distance of 21-0.25. Dean finished 15th with a distance of 18-5.

Dozier took second in the boys' triple jump with a distance of 40-9. Jones took eighth with a distance of 37-4.

"Creede Dozier had a decent day in the jumps," O'Donnell wrote, highlighting, "His best event of the day was the long jump. He jumped into the wind to get a 21'0.25" mark. He is currently ranked 2nd in the event."

Campbell finished third in the Pueblo. girls' triple jump with a distance of

Emile Schneider threw a personal best in the boys' discus, according to the coach, and is now ranked 12th in

Schneider earned that ranking with a throw of 128-3, which landed him in second.

Aidan Vega finished 17th with a throw of 97-4.

This week, the Pirates will be back in action in Pueblo, this time for a meet at Colorado State University

Action is set to begin at 9 a.m.

"We have another trip to Pueblo on Saturday. With an early morning departure and late return, it sure does make for a long day," O'Donnell notes. "It will be really fun to compete at the Thunderbowl, CSU Pueblo's facility. It's a really nice facility and has hosted NCAA division 2 track championships in the past. There are 32 teams scheduled to compete. We hope to continue improving our times and marks."

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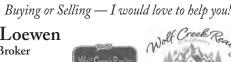
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Soccer



SUN photo/Randi Pierce

to "come out on our toes right away."

Pirates will travel to Leadville to take

see the Lady Pirates capitalize on

earlier opportunities in that matchup. On Tuesday, April 15, the Lady

Pirates will host the Bayfield Wolverines at Golden Peaks Stadium at

Gian noted that he is feeling "good

and confident" heading into this

clayton@pagosasun.com

on Lake County at 11 a.m.

4 p.m.

string of games.

On Saturday, April 12, the Lady

Gian explained he is wanting to

Elizabeth Currier and Terriana Cage battle for the ball while being swarmed by a group of Montezuma-Cortez Panthers.

Lady Pirates move to 2-2 on season

By Clayton Chaney Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Lady Pirate soccer team now boasts an overall record of 2-2, after splitting another round of games over the last week.

The Lady Pirates had their first Intermountain League (IML) matchup of the season on April 5, going up against the Montezuma-Cortez Panthers, but losing by a score of 3-0 at home.

"That was a tough game, for sure," coach Trevor Gian said, explaining that both teams had to endure snowy weather during the match.

He mentioned that the Lady Pirates knew the Panthers would be a tough opponent, noting it was Pagosa's first game back after spring break.

"We did really well hanging in there with 'em," Gian added.

He also mentioned that the Panthers were a physical and "technically sound" team, adding that he was pleased with how the Lady Pirates played defensively by not allowing too many quality offensive chances for the Panthers.

"We were looking pretty good," Gian said, explaining the Panthers were able to get their first goal late in the first half after the Lady Pirates were unsuccessful in getting the ball cleared, allowing Montezuma-Cortez to capitalize on a bouncing ball in Pagosa's box.

"We found a little more intensity in the second half, which was awesome, because Cortez was definitely physical," Gian said.

He noted that the Panthers were

goals about halfway through the added. second half, after the Lady Pirates made some adjustments to try to get forward more.

"I was extremely proud of how we reacted," Gian said, explaining the Lady Pirates responded well in the second half after going down 1-0 in the first half.

He commented that everyone on the field put in a good defensive performance, specifically noting goalkeeper Keira Davis' performance.

Although possession favored the Panthers throughout the game, Gian explained that "at times there was some really quality stuff" from the Lady Pirates.

Additional stats were not available as of press time Wednesday.

On Tuesday, April 8, the Lady Pirates defeated the Del Norte Tigers 8-0 in Del Norte.

Gian commented that he was "extremely satisfied with that game," noting that Del Norte has improved significantly since last season.

He explained that the focus for the Lady Pirates in their match against Del Norte was to look at areas to improve on from their match against Montezuma-Cortez, specifically in finding quality possession and buildup attacking play.

Gian mentioned that the Lady Pirates have been focusing on playing with "intent and purpose," and that the players are starting to understand their roles a little more.

"Extremely proud of the team," Gian added.

He noted that Elizabeth Currier scored a hat trick on the day, bagging three goals for the Lady Pirates.

He also noted that Hailey Sams scored two goals from an impressive individual effort.

Terriana Cage had a "great assist" on one of Currier's goals, and was also able to find the back of the net herself to score one goal for the Lady Pirates on the day, Gian explained.

Tatiana Monterroso and Isabela Forester each had one goal as well, Gian noted, adding that Monterroso "puts herself in good positions."

Gian also explained that Forester's goal came from a corner kick after moving up from a defensive position to score with a "nice little tap to the

Gian added that attacking the ball and being aggressive on corner kicks has been a point of emphasis with the team so far this season.

Gian highlighted Adison Johnson's performance in the midfield, noting she helped create "a lot of stuff," along with Baylee Davis' and Zariah Blankenship's solid defensive performances.

Additional stats were not available as of press time Wednesday.

Upcoming schedule

The Lady Pirates currently sit in third place in the IML as they prepare for their next league matchup against Alamosa tomorrow, April 11, at 4 p.m. in Alamosa.

Gian mentioned that the game against Del Norte was good for the Lady Pirates preparation for Alamosa as both opponents play on turf fields instead of natural grass.

He also noted that he expects Alamosa to be a quick and fast team

and that the Lady Pirates will need able to score their second and third "Really great effort there," he





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BASEBALL

Pirates score 67 in four games to improve to 7-0 on the season

By Randi Pierce

Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Pirate baseball team picked up four more wins over the last week, moving the team to a 7-0 record.

The Pirates scored 67 runs over the course of the games while holding their opponents to four.

"The long break has only strengthened us," coach Ben Garcia said, giving credit to the team's members who attended optional practices and who dedicated time to the sport over spring break. "What we wanted to do was make sure that when we prepared, that we were able to prepare in the right way. ... They really tried to emphasize the right swings that we've been talking about, and it showed."

The Pirates returned to action after spring break with an April 2 doubleheader against the Trinidad Miners in Monte Vista.

Garcia explained Trinidad had three players miss the bus, so the teams ultimately decided to play two shortened, five-inning games.

"It worked out really well," he said. "We played very well against them."

The Pirates won the first game 12-2. The Miners scored first in the matchup, bringing one around in the top of the first. The Pirates, however, countered with one in the first, one in

the second, eight in the third and two in the fourth. The Miners picked up their second run in the fifth. Pagosa's 12 runs came on 12 hits, with Trinidad's two runs coming on

one hit. The Miners committed one error,

with Pagosa logging three. The Pirates' hits included a pair of

Cooper Ralston hit a homer, scoring

a run, and notched three RBIs. Chris Young-Martinez picked up a triple and a homer in addition to draw-

ing a walk, scoring three runs and tallying three RBIs.

the game, hitting a double and a triple, scoring two runs and picking up two

Taylor Wells picked up two hits in the game, including a double, scored a run and logged an RBI.

Sebastian Gonzalez and Sean Ryan each had one hit in the game and scored a run. Ty Richie hit a double and picked up an RBI.

Kaeden Iguchi, who drew a walk, scored a run. Kyler Henderson also

Noah Bellina scored a run.

Four Pirates picked up stolen bases: Gonzalez, Bellina, Angelo Medina and Young-Martinez

Pitching for the Pirates, Ralston allowed one hit, two runs (one earned) and walked four while striking out 11 over four innings.

Wells pitched in relief, striking out two in one inning of work.

The second game lasted only four innings after the Pirates held the Miners scoreless while putting up 17 runs.

The Pirates brought around six runs in the first, four in the second and seven in the third.

Pagosa's runs came on 13 hits, with Trinidad committing six errors. The Pirates committed zero errors.

A trio of Pirates had a two-hit day: Young-Martinez, Ryan and Ralston. Young-Martinez's hits were both doubles, and he also scored two runs and walked once. Ryan hit a double and walked once, scored two runs and notched two RBIs. Ralston also knocked a double, scored two runs, stole a base and logged two RBIs.

Six Pirates had one hit in the game. Gonzalez knocked a double, drew a walk, reached on an error, stole a base, scored two runs and had two RBIs. Iguchi logged a hit, a run and an RBI. Wells hit a double, drew a walk, scored two runs, knocked one in and stole three bases. Richie hit a double, was hit by a pitch, scored two runs and had an RBI. Henderson had a hit, walked, and had

Charles Washburn went 3-for-3 in an RBI. Washburn had a hit and an RBI. Dylan Dempster drew a walk, and Bellina scored a run. Medina, who

> reached on an error, logged an RBI. Washburn threw four innings for the Pirates in the win, allowing one hit

and two walks while striking out nine. Garcia noted the team started the process of hitting against Trinidad.

"Everything that we have done from a batting standpoint to correct the bottom of our lineup has really worked," he said. "I mean, they came through very, very well, so it was good to see that everybody, one through nine, was a threat. And, that helped us immensely."

Garcia also highlighted the Pirate pitching and defense.

"We did put a total game together,

On Tuesday, the team traveled to Sanford to face the Mustangs in a doubleheader.

Garcia noted the team works to play against itself and get better every game, and he felt the games against Sanford "showed that immensely."

The Pirates made quick work of the Mustangs in game one, breaking out for 12 runs in the first, 10 runs in the second and three in the third to win 25-0.

Garcia explained you never know how things will turn out after a 2.5-hour bus ride and having to play immediately after getting out, but the Pirates responded well with 12 runs in the first inning.

"They were not errors; they were balls that were ... really hit hard," he said. "And we just really did some good things throughout the lineup."

He added the Pirates' bats were on fire in the game, and it was the best he's seen them play

The Pirates picked up 17 hits in the game, with Sanford logging 13 errors.

Garcia highlighted Young-Martinez, who went 4-for-4 with a double, three RBIs, four runs scored and a stolen

Iguchi and Wells each had a threehit game, with Wells knocking a threerun homer as well as a double and walking twice. He finished the game with four runs scored, four stolen bases and five RBIs. Iguchi scored three runs

and notched a trio of RBIs. Richie had a triple, reach on an error twice, scored two runs and notched two RBIs. Washburn had a hit, a run scored and two RBIs, and reached on an error. Ryan had a hit, walked, reached on an error, scored two runs and logged an RBI. Gonzalez and Ralston each picked up a hit and a run scored, with Ralston also reaching after being hit by pitch and on an error.

Chance Ramirez scored a run, and Medina scored three runs and stole two bases. Henderson walked twice. Deaglan Denen reached after being hit by

a pitch. Dempster reached on an error. Ralston took the mound for the Pirates, throwing a perfect game and striking out eight.

"Coop probably threw his best game," Garcia said. "Sanford's not a bad team, they're really not. They've played some good competition, and next to Monte Vista, they're the best team we've played so far."

He added Ralston was "absolutely in control of his command."

The Pirates picked up their second win of the day against Sanford in 13-2

Pagosa scored two in the first, three in the second, four in the third, three in the fourth and one in the fifth. The Mustangs brought two around in the third.

Pagosa's runs came around on 14 hits and three Sanford errors. Pagosa committed one error.

Henderson knocked three hits in the game, which included a double, and notched two RBIs.

Wells picked up two hits, including a double, and scored two runs.

Zach Pouyer knocked two hits, reached on an error, scored two runs and picked up two RBIs. Young-Martinez had two doubles, scored a run and tallied three RBIs.

Gonzales had a hit, a walk, a run scored and an RBI. Iguchi had a hit, two walks, two runs scored and an RBI. Ralston knocked a double, walked, reached on an error and scored two

Ramirez and Medina each scored a run. Richie reached on an error, and Washburn drew a walk. The Pirates had eight stolen bases:

three by Pouyer, three by Medina, and one each by Wells and Ralston. Young-Martinez, Washburn and

Wells took the mound in the game, combining to allow five hits, two runs and one walk while striking out eight. "They set the table very well yester-

day, Garcia said of the Pirate hitting against Sanford, adding later he was pleased with both the offense and defense and the Pirates "looked like a very quality league play."

Garcia also noted it was nice for the team to play in sunshine instead of wind and rain.

"It was fun," he said.

This week, the Pirates will open league play with a Saturday doubleheader in Alamosa beginning at 11 a.m.

On Tuesday afternoon, April 15, beginning at 3 p.m., the Pirates will host their first home games of the season against the 4A Durango Demons.

Garcia indicated getting back into a pattern of playing on Saturdays and Tuesdays will give the team better continuity, and noted the team is approaching it as if every team the Pirates will face is probably better than the last, calling Alamosa a formidable opponent and noting Durango is very good.

"So, every game we play, we're gonna have to bring our best game to be able to do what we're doing, but I'm pretty confident and excited to see how they perform," he said, also highlighting the team's depth.

He added he hopes people will watch the team during Tuesday's home

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Weminuche Audubon Society

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And, of course, we have citizen science projects for the bird lovers among us. Learn to survey bird populations and spend some time in the woods watching and listening to birds. Relax along a river and document the comings and goings of American dippers during nesting

We are a welcoming group and encourage you to come and see what we are about. A desire to learn is the primary qualification we look for in

Join us on April 16 at the Community United Methodist Church on Lewis Street at 6 p.m. for refreshments and social time before the meeting starts at 6:30 p.m. Enter tourists the magic of our wetlands through the side door closest to the parking lot or let us know to open the main door for handicap entry. In appreciation for our meeting space, we welcome donations of nonperishable

food for the church food pantry. A Zoom link for those unable to join us in person will be posted on our website, weminucheaudubon. org, prior to the meeting.

Pagosa Valor Academy student earns Daniels Scholarship

Daniels Fund

The Daniels Fund announced on April 2 its 2025 class of Daniels Scholarship Program recipients, which includes Pagosa Valor Academy's Sienna Rose.

The Fund selected 230 high school

seniors from Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming — including 156 students from Colorado. As part of the Daniels Fund's 25th anniversary celebration, 25 additional

young men and women received a Daniels Scholarship this year. Over its 25-year history, the fund has awarded more than \$275 million

in scholarships to over 5,400 students. The Daniels Scholarship is one of the most selective and sought-after

scholarships in the United States.

"It's an honor to award 230 four-year college scholarships to young men and women who are excellent students and who demonstrated their ambition to lead successful lives of character and service," said Hanna Skandera, Daniels Fund president and CEO. "All of us who had the pleasure of interviewing these new Daniels Scholars were inspired by this rising generation of Americans."

As part of the interview process, 180 top business and community leaders from the Daniels Fund's fourstate region interviewed prospective

Students are selected for their strength of character, leadership potential, commitment to serving the community, academic potential and

financial need. As the living legacy of Daniels Fund founder Bill Daniels, Daniels Scholars embody the values he most cherished.

Daniels Scholars may use their scholarship at any accredited nonprofit college or university in the United States. They have their full cost of attendance covered at partner schools and up to \$100,000 over four years if they choose to attend another school.

At any given time, around 900 Daniels Scholars are attending approximately 200 colleges and universities throughout the United States.

Motivated high school seniors graduating in 2026 are encouraged to visit DanielsFund.org this September to apply online for the Daniels Scholarship Program.

■ Continued from A8

he said, noting that winter storms will always be troublesome.

Hansen acknowledged the Valentine's Day outage that left some residents without power for nearly six hours, stating that it was a "particularly hard" storm with heavy amounts of wet

snow falling. Hansen added that LPEA is "110 percent committed to Archuleta Coun-

Medina replied to Hansen's comments about concerns of reliability saying, "I think where some of the statements may have come from, obviously it wasn't from the commissioners," and expressed concerns over the length of the outage, adding that she could not remember a time where an outage lasted more than an hour.

During a work session held on April

1, the BoCC discussed the matter of creating an energy task force, which was brought up by Ranson. During that meeting Ranson explained that the idea was not necessarily coming from the BoCC, but that there are concerned

constituents with a desire to help. During the April 1 meeting, Medina stated, "I think what's brought this really to the forefront is been the power outages that have happened over the last couple years, more frequently," and that one of her main concerns was communication between LPEA and

the community during outages. In a later interview with Medina, she explained that she feels progress was made in addressing her main concern of having more communication with LPEA when power outage events do

During the April 8 meeting, Hansen

offered to have push notifications sent out to county commissioners after Medina explained that some type of communication from LPEA to the county is needed, "so we know what to do."

"I would be very happy to get push notifications set up," Hansen said. Ranson commented that he was

appreciative of Hansen reaching out to

the commissioners and coming over to meet with them. "In Archuleta specifically, you gotta be careful with what you read or hear," he said, adding the commissioners

Hansen indicated that the next LPEA board meeting will be held in Pagosa Springs. That meeting is scheduled for April

16 at 9 a.m. at the Ross Aragon Community Center. clayton@pagosasun.com

have "no issues" with LPEA.



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Outdoors

CRIA Lecture Series to feature Dr. Andrew Gulliford speaking about Bears Ears

By Ana Murray

Chimney Rock Interpretive Association

The Chimney Rock Interpretive Association (CRIA) invites the public to a free lecture given by Dr. Andrew Gulliford on Tuesday, April 15.

The lecture will take place at 6 p.m. in the Community United Methodist Church fellowship hall located at 434 Lewis St.

Join as Gulliford discusses "Bears Ears: Landscape of Refuge and Resistance."

The lecture is scheduled to begin at 6 p.m. with a Q-and-A period fol-

lowing the lecture.

Gulliford, a historian, will discuss the human history of Bears Ears National Monument and the 1.35 million-acre Bears Ears cultural landscape in southeast Utah.

For CRIA he will focus on the area's prehistory and will discuss a rare Pleistocene petroglyph as well as Basketmaker peoples, Ancestral Puebloans and Chacoan refugees as they relate to Chimney Rock's sites.

Bears Ears peoples and village sites served as the northwest frontier of the Ancestral Puebloan world with different ethnic groups and archi-

tectural styles. Gulliford will show photos from the area and describe current archaeological and botanical research.

Gulliford is professor of history at Fort Lewis College in Durango. He is an award-winning author whose books include "Boomtown Blues: Colorado Oil Shale," "Sacred Objects and Sacred Places: Preserving Tribal Traditions," and "The Woolly West: Colorado's Hidden History of Sheepscapes."

The lecture is free to attend; however, donations are welcome. Additionally, canned goods for the church's food pantry are greatly

CRIA's free lecture series offer the opportunity each year for the public and CRIA volunteers to enjoy a speaker whose topic typically relates to southwest archaeology, archaeoastronomy and/or Chacoan culture.

CRIA is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that offers interpretive programs at Chimney Rock National Monument in partnership with the USDA Forest Service and the San Juan National Forest.

For more information, see the CRIA website, www.chimneyrockco. org, or call (970) 731-7133.

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42Belowconstructioncompany@gmail.com Located at 91 Stevens Lake Road, Pagosa Springs, Colorado

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271 Kay Cee Lane 970-259-8800

ONE BIG HAPPY LITTLE BANK

Discover volunteer opportunities at Chimney Rock National Monument at April 12 event

By Ana Murray

Chimney Rock Interpretive Association

Are you looking for a rewarding way to connect with people from all over the world, share your knowledge and spend time in a stunning outdoor environment?

The Chimney Rock Interpretive Association (CRIA) is excited to invite you to explore the many volunteer opportunities available at Chimney Rock National Monument. If you have a passion for meeting new people, enjoying breathtaking scenery, and helping others appreciate the incredible natural and cultural wonders of Southwest Colorado, this is the perfect opportunity for you.

As a volunteer, you'll have the chance to share your expertise and skills with visitors from across the globe, all while learning about the rich history of the Ancestral Puebloans who once lived in the area. Whether you're interested in guiding tours, sharing your knowledge of archaeology, culture, astronomy or geology, or helping with retail and educational programs, there are plenty of opportunities to get involved.

Other available positions include serving as plaza and mesa hosts, working with youth workshops, assisting with maintenance, supporting the Life at Chimney Rock program, or contributing to the lecture series.

CRIA welcomes volunteers from all walks of life and offers flexible opportunities to match your interests and availability. Whether you can commit a few hours or an entire season, you can choose the schedule that works best for you. Volunteers can set their own hours at the start of the year and adjust later on as they

discover more ways to engage with the Chimney Rock community.

Our next Volunteer Open House will be on Saturday, April 12, at the CRIA Office in Pagosa Springs, located at 2035 Eagle Drive, Suite 107.

This is your chance to learn about the various roles available and find the perfect fit for your talents and passions.

The open house will be held from noon to 2 p.m., and CRIA's team will be available to answer questions, explain the volunteer offerings, and help you understand how you can contribute to Chimney Rock National Monument's mission of cultural and natural preservation.

Volunteering at Chimney Rock National Monument is an enriching experience that will deepen your connection to this amazing place and its history, all while offering the

opportunity to meet like-minded individuals who share your passion for the past and the natural world.

Current volunteer Susan Yalom shares, "I have been a volunteer at Chimney Rock National Monument for many years, working closely with the San Juan National Forest Service. I enjoy leading guided tours, supervising programs like Full Moon and Flute Music at Twilight, and assisting with youth programs. Volunteering has allowed me to connect deeply with the history of the Ancestral Puebloans who lived here over 1,000 years ago. The training and mentoring from CRIA have enhanced my knowledge, respect, and appreciation for both the past and the Native American communities present today. I invite others to join CRIA, where you can choose your level of involvement and receive training that will enrich your life while helping others learn about this special place."

If you're interested in becoming part of the Chimney Rock family, please join us for the informational meeting on Saturday, April 12, from noon to 2 p.m. at the CRIA Office. We will be there to visit with you, explain our volunteer offerings, answer questions and welcome you to the Chimney Rock family.



Photo courtesy Clarence Dotson

A bear looks at recently electrifed fence protecting a coop. There are an estimated 17,000 to 20,000 black bears in the state, and those raising chickens are encouraged to take steps to reduce conflict.

Raising chickens? CPW offers tips for reducing conflicts with black bears

By John Livingston

Colorado Parks and Wildlife

Raising chickens has become an increasingly popular hobby across Colorado. With the high price of eggs at grocery stores, even more residents are adding egg-laying chickens to their properties.

With more chickens on the landscape in quality bear habitat across western Colorado, Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) has tips for chicken hobbyists with the goal of reducing conflict.

"It's always better to prevent the problem than try to fix it after it has begun," said CPW District Wildlife Manager Doug Purcell, of Pagosa Springs. "This is especially true with bears.

Colorado is bear country. There are an estimated 17,000 to 20,000 black bears in the state, and the ever-growing human footprint has led to increased conflicts between humans and black bears. It is up to humans to do their part to limit potential conflicts by securing human food sources.

CPW recommends placing livestock in enclosed sheds or barns at night and to close all doors to all outbuildings so that a bear or other inquisitive predators can't get inside.

Hobby livestock such as chickens can be secured by electrified enclosures. However, it is important for residents to know their local city, county and housing district codes. Electric fencing is not allowed under some regulations.

"Electric fencing is recommended as a resource, but we know it is not allowed by some local ordinances," said CPW Area Wildlife Manager Adrian Archuleta, of Durango. "If you are allowed to use electric fencing, it's also important to make sure it is well maintained and functioning properly. Electric fencing that is not working can present other wildlife issues such as tangle hazards."

Protecting chickens themselves is one piece of reducing conflicts with black bears. But securing chicken

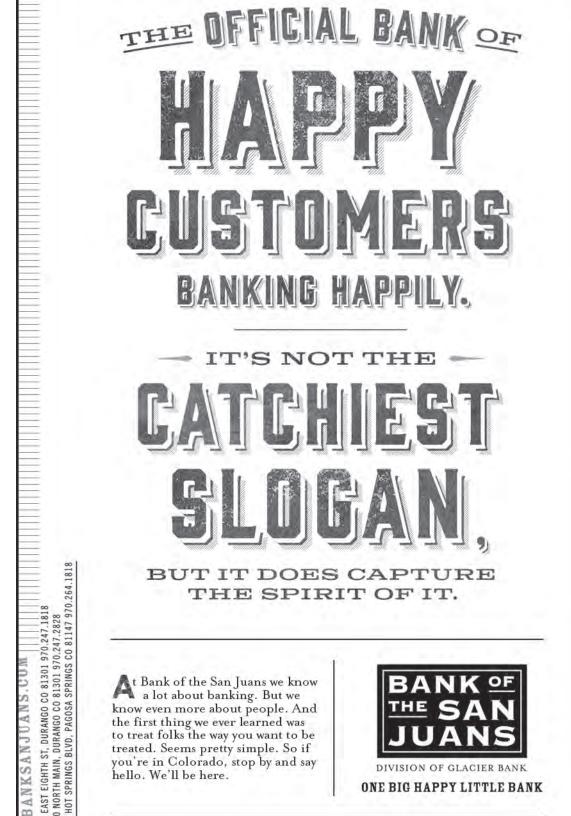
feed or compost materials is equally important.

Bears are always on the lookout for food sources. Like most animals, bears are interested in finding the most calories they can for the least amount of work. Chicken feed or compost left outside unsecured will attract bears.

Once a bear earns a food reward once, it is likely to come back. That increases the chances of elevated conflicts such as property damage and threats to human health and

"We need everyone to do their part to prevent conflicts with bears so that they don't get in the habit of visiting human-occupied spaces," Purcell said. "Whether you're getting into raising chickens for the first time or you're experienced, the early spring is a great time to make sure you're doing what you can to secure those coops and keep them bear safe."

For more information on living with bears, go to cpw.state.co.us/ living-bears.



treated. Seems pretty simple. So if you're in Colorado, stop by and say

hello. We'll be here.

Local reporting that matters.



Election Judge

Development Director DHS Accountant

Elections Administrato

Eligibility Technician

Eligibility Technician

Fligibility Technician

Eligibility Technician

Eligibility Technician

Eligibility Technician

Emerg Comm Dispatcher - PT

Emergency Comm Dispatcher Emergency Comm Dispatcher

Emergency Comm Dispatcher

Emergency Comm Dispatcher

Emergency Comm Dispatcher

Emergency Comm Dispatcher

Emergency Comm Dispatcher

Emergency Communications Direct

Emergency Communications Direct

Emergency Operations Director

Engineering Tech Environmental Health Speciali Equipment Operator I

Equipment Operator I Equipment Operator I

Equipment Operator I

Equipment Operator

Equipment Operator I Equipment Operator I

Equipment Operator I

Equipment Operator I

Equipment Operator II
Equipment Operator II

Equipment Operator II

Equipment Operator III

Equipment Operator III

Equipment Operator III

Equipment Operator III

Facilities Maintenance Tech. Facilities Maintenance Tech.

Facilities Maintenance Tech

Facilities Maintenance Tech.

Facilities Maintenance Tech

Family Suport Specialist

Food Service Assistant

Human Resources Director

Lead Emergency Comm Dispatcher

Lead Emergency Comm Dispatcher

Lead Emergency Comm Dispatcher Lead Mechanic Total

Human Services Director

Evidence Tech.

Fair Coordinator

Family Advocate

Family Advocate

Finance Director

Fleet Manager

GIS Analyst

GIS Analyst

HR Assistant

HR Assistant

IT Director

Mechanic I

Mechanic II

Mechanic II T

Office Assistant

Office Assistant

Office Assistant

Office Assistant

Office Manager

Office Manager Office Manager

Patrol Deputy

Operations Commander

Paralegal/Executive Assistant

Paralegal/Executive Assistant

Kitchen Manager Land Stewardship

Landfill Superviso

Fair Laborer

Fair Laborer

Disnatch Admin Assistant

Public Notices

**					
ARCHULETA COUNTY		Petral Deputy	\$90,062,99		
2024 Annual Salary Report	Y	Patrol Deputy Patrol Deputy	\$80,063.88 \$75,358.69		
County employees are paid every two weeks (not		Patrol Deputy \$70,421.4			
monthly). This report shows amounts paid out within the year of 2024. Fringe benefits, including, but not		Patrol Deputy \$7,194. Patrol Deputy \$72,314.			
limited to, medical insurance, FICA, m retirement plans are on average 21%		Patrol Deputy Patrol Deputy	\$73,203.99 \$74,727.92		
Position	or wages paid.	Patrol Deputy	\$72,671.22		
4-H Coordinator Accountant	\$56,425.76 \$63,650.58	Patrol Deputy Patrol Deputy	\$38,853.91 \$48,245.76		
Accounting Clerk III	\$22,254.51	Patrol Sergeant	\$105,105.13		
Administrative Assistant Administrative Assistant	\$58,324.77 \$53,595.36	Patrol Sergeant Patrol Sergeant	\$77,847.47 \$78,754.26		
Administrative Assistant	\$35,303.30	Personal Property Appraiser	\$50,746.74		
Administrative Assistant Administrative Assistant	\$8,224.02 \$7,840.00	PH Clinic Lead PH Clinic Provider	\$54,067.05 \$1,970.75 \$23,007.30		
Administrative Assistant	\$20,736.66	PH Health Educator			
Administrative Assistant Administrative Assistant II	\$35,811.31 \$59,700.41	PH Nurse PH Nurse	\$14,541.60 \$25,968.75		
Airport Maintenance Tech Airport Manager	\$67,366.62 \$90,191.47	PH Nurse PH WIC Educator	\$5,958.75 \$52,593.50		
Alt. Senten. & Pre Trial Coord	\$100,952.3	Planner I	\$51,946.49		
Animal Control Officer Appraiser I	\$63,913.69 \$66,642.10	Planner I Planning Manager	\$47,522.46 \$74,762.45		
Appraiser I	\$50,904.20	Program Coordinator	\$42,583.45		
Appraiser II Arboles Trans Station Fill in	\$62,704.57 \$21,986.42	Program Coordinator Public Health Administrative A	\$46,372.51 \$49,564.53		
Assesment Generalist	\$50,142.91	Public Health Director	\$121,577.93		
Assessor Build Permit Tech II	\$81,944.98 \$52,079.72	Public Health Navigator Public Health Navigator	\$30,435.76 \$11,558.76		
Building Inspector	\$64,160.54	Public Health Navigator	\$3,175.00		
Building Maintenance Manager Bus Driver	\$70,787.59 \$17,739.19	Public Works Director R & B Foreman	\$107,283.68 \$78,890.36		
Bus Driver	\$12,473.46	R & B Foreman	\$30,843.80		
Bus Driver Bus Driver FT	\$15,142.20 \$49,740.12	R & B Foreman R & B Foreman	\$77,560.03 \$76,179.94		
Bus Driver FT	\$43,321.21	R & B Foreman	\$60,495.47		
Case Svcs Aid/Fraud & Claim Tech Case Svcs Aid/Fraud & Claim Tech	\$33,019.31 \$17,164.88	R & B Foreman R&B Manager	\$60,768.81 \$61,843.73		
Caseworker I	\$26,755.23	Records Tech	\$40,929.20		
Caseworker I Caseworker I	\$34,470.18 \$17,468.25	Records Tech Recycle Center Supervisor	\$7,581.34 \$77,220.79		
Caseworker I	\$33,155.00	Resource Manager	\$53,780.65		
Caseworker I Caseworker I	\$24,045.26 \$8,025.00	RoadWay Inspector Seasonal Firefighter	\$60,708.16 \$20,080.48		
Caseworker Supervisor	\$12,442.31	Seasonal Firefighter	\$23,823.80		
Caseworker Supervisor Chief Building Official	\$66,924.39 \$73,740.99	Senior Accounting Clerk Service Writter	\$57,814.14 \$2,796.00		
Chief Deputy Assessor	\$79,931.55	Service Writter	\$45,198.55		
Chief Deputy Clerk Chief Deputy Treasurer	\$69,120.30 \$54,624.43	Sheriff Solid Waste Facilities Op.	\$106,173.25 \$50,928.01		
Child Support Legal Tech	\$60,407.42	Solid Waste Facilities Op.	\$59,335.27		
Child Support Legal Tech Code Enforcement Officer	\$52,084.49 \$54,713.42	Solid Waste Facilities Op. Solid Waste Facilities Op.	\$50,104.83 \$50,035.93		
Code Enforcement Officer Code Enforcement Officer	\$6,943.56	Solid Waste Facilities Op.	\$9,430.57		
Code Enforcement Officer Commissioner	\$40,210.24 \$77,884.04	Sub Bus Driver Sub Bus Driver	\$12,078.26 \$24,227.81		
Commissioner Commissioner	\$77,884.04 \$81,590.35	Sub Bus Driver SW Admin	\$17,818.19 \$44,010.35		
Communication Specialist	\$47,289.40	Temp Caseworker	\$14,523.85		
Community Outreach Specialist	\$62,005.21 \$62,424.23	Undersheriff Veterans Services Officer	\$104,567.30 \$66,957.76		
Computer Support Spec. Computer Support Spec.	\$44,232.50	Water Quality Manager	\$74,682.34		
Computer Support Spec. County Administrator	\$34,010.75 \$83,200.08	Water Quality Specialist Water Quality Technician	\$55,378.20 \$45,642.72		
County Administrator	\$147,011.75	Weed & Pest Manager	\$87,482.78		
County Attorney County Attorney	\$147,308.04 \$19,428.58	Weed & Pest Technician Weed & Pest Technician	\$14,842.82 \$8,635.12		
County Clerk	\$81,482.35	Total	\$12,808,987.39		
County Coroner County Surveyor	\$46,574.58 \$4,595.00	Published April 10, 2025 in <i>The Pa</i> (261716)	gosa Springs SUN.		
County Treasurer	\$94,058.19	(201710)			
Court House Security Officer Court House Security Officer	\$53,693.38 \$68,316.44	District Court, Archuleta County, St			
Court House Security Officer	\$68,913.04	Court Address: 109 Harman Park I Pagosa Springs, CO 81147	Or, P.O. Box 148		
Data Collection Specialist Deputy Assessor	\$21,539.75 \$74,271.76	Tel. 970.264.2400			
Deputy Clerk II	\$45,026.52	Wyndham Vacation Resorts, Inc. Plaintiff	•		
Deputy Clerk III Deputy Clerk III	\$53,174.92 \$36,290.70	V.			
Deputy Dir. Of Emer. Mgt	\$76,766.53	KIMBERLY J MCCORMICK, MARGEE L SCHROER,			
Deputy Motor Vehicle Clerk I Deputy Motor Vehicle Clerk I	\$41,348.88 \$41,314.79	Defendants			
Deputy Motor Vehicle Clerk I	\$38,486.27	Case No.: 2024CV30058 COMBINED NOTICE OF FOREC	LOSURE SALE OF		
Deputy Motor Vehicle Clerk I Deputy of Emerg. Mgt.	\$8,945.79 \$75,750.44	TIMESHARE INTEREST	ND DEDEEM		
Deputy Treasurer	\$57,365.80	AND RIGHTS TO CURE AI Sheriff Sale 2025			
Deputy Treasurer Deputy Treasurer	\$5,493.53 \$36,553.75	This Notice of Public Judicial Fored			
Detective	\$90,966.77	pursuant to separate Mortgages re of the County Clerk and Recorder f			
Detective Detention Commander	\$82,008.31 \$91,615.76	Colorado, under the information			
Detention Officer	\$66,131.98	"A". Under a Judgment and Decree of	Foreclosure entered		
Detention Officer Detention Officer	\$73,839.56 \$70,273.87	December 16, 2024, in the above	entitled action, I an		
Detention Officer	\$54,275.84	ordered to sell certain real property personal property secured by the D			
Detention Officer Detention Officer	\$10,755.08 \$66,814.53	without limitation the real property	described as follows		
Detention Officer	\$69,723.11	See Exhibit "A" attached herein hereof	ιο and made apar		
Detention Officer Detention Officer	\$65,893.65	Owner(s) of Record:			
Detention Officer	\$66,311.91 \$69,638.88	KIMBERLY J MCCORMICK, MAR Evidence of Debt: Recorded mortg			
Detention Officer Detention Officer	\$76,510.41	the County Clerk and Recorder for	or Archuleta County		
Detention Officer	\$63,000.02 \$67,879.64	Colorado, being further identified in	n Exhibit "A"		
Detention Officer	\$48,715.16				
Detention Officer Detention Officer	\$61,218.87 \$51,837.14	ARCHULETA COUNTY	_		
Detention Officer	\$7,341.93	FEBRURAY 2025 PAYABLE VENDOR	:5		
Detention Sgt. Detention Sgt.	\$64,599.27 \$88,049.56	BUILDINGS BY DESIGN			
Detention Sgt.	\$85,453.38	TOWN OF PS			
Development Director	\$88,090.57	CIGNA HEALTH			

laration: Wyndham Vacation Resorts, Inc Obligations Secured: Underlying note for the purchase of the Timeshare Property identified in Exhibit "A". Agent: Christopher B. Conley, Reg. No. 51651, 700 South 21st Street, Ft. Smith, Arkansas 72901 Payments Due to: Wyndham Vacation Resorts, Inc Debtor(s) & Amount Due: See attached Exhibit "A" Amount of Judgment: See attached Exhibit "A Type of Sale: Judicial Foreclosure Sale of Timeshare Interest being conducted pursuant to the power of sale

granted by the Mortgage, the Colorado Property Code,

and the Colorado Common Ownership Act

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE OF TIMESHARE THEREFORE, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that I will, at 9:00 o'clock A.M., MST, on Monday, June 2, 2025, Sale Number: 2025-01, in the Office of the Archuleta County Sheriff's Office, 85 Harman Park Drive, Pagosa Springs, Colorado, 81147, sell to the highest and best bidder for cash, the said real property described above, and all interest of said Grantor and the heirs and assigns of said Grantor therein, the Lender may bid credited to the Debt up to the amount of the unpaid Debt secured by the Mortgage at the time of sale, for the pur-

pose of paying the judgment amount entered herein,

and will deliver to the purchaser a Certificate of Purchase, all as provided by law. First Publication: April 10, 2025 Last Publication: May 8, 2025

Name of Publication: The Pagosa Springs Sun NOTICE OF RIGHTS

YOU MAY HAVE AN INTEREST IN THE REAL PROP-ERTY BEING FORECLOSED, OR HAVE CERTAIN RIGHTS OR SUFFER CERTAIN LIABILITIES PURSU-ANT TO COLORADO STATUTES AS A RESULT OF SAID FORECLOSURE. YOU MAY HAVE THE RIGHT TO REDEEM SAID REAL PROPERTY OR YOU MAY HAVE THE RIGHT TO CURE A DEFAULT UNDER THE DEED OF TRUST BEING FORECLOSED, A COPY OF THE STATUTES WHICH MAY AFFECT YOUR RIGHTS IS ATTACHED HERETO.

A NOTICE OF INTENT TO CURE PURSUANT TO \$38-38-104 C.R.S., SHALL BE FILED WITH THE OFFICER AT LEAST FIFTEEN (15) CALENDAR DAYS PRIOR TO THE FIRST SCHEDULED SALE DATE OR ANY DATE TO WHICH THE SALE IS CONTINUED.

IF THE SALE DATE IS CONTINUED TO A LATER TENT TO CURE BY THOSE PARTIES ENTITLED TO

CURE MAY ALSO BE EXTENDED.

A NOTICE OF INTENT TO REDEEM FILED PURSU-ANT TO §38-38-302 C.R.S. SHALL BE FILED WITH THE SHERIFF NO LATER THAN EIGHT (8) BUSI-NESS DAYS AFTER THE SALE. THE LIEN BEING FORECLOSED MAY NOT BE A

IF YOU BELIEVE THAT A LENDER OR SERVICER HAS VIOLATED THE REQUIREMENTS FOR A SIN-GLE POINT OF CONTACT IN §38-38-103.1 OR THE PROHIBITION ON DUAL TRACKING IN §38-38-103.2, YOU MAY FILE A COMPLAINT WITH THE COLO-RADO ATTORNEY GENERAL (1-800-222-4444), THE (1-855-411-2372), OR BOTH, BUT THE FILING OF A COMPLAINT WILL NOT STOP THE FORECLOSURE

The name, address, and business telephone number of each of the attorneys representing the holder of the evidence of debt are as follows:

Christopher B. Conley, Reg. No. 51651, 700 South 21st Street, Ft. Smith, Arkansas 72901 INTENT TO CURE OR REDEEM, as provided by the aforementioned laws, must be directed to or conducted at the Sheriff's Department for Archuleta County Sheriff's Office, 85 Harman Park Drive, Pagosa Springs,

THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED MAY BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

DATED at Archuleta County, Colorado, this 26th day of February, 2025. By: Mike Le Roux, Sheriff,

Archuleta County, Colorado Exhibit A Peregrine Townhouses Phase II
Property Owners: KIMBERLY J MCCORMICK and

MARGEE L SCHROER Building Number: 9 and 10 Lot (Unit) Number: 7817 - 7820 UDI Points: 317,000 / 35,486,000

Peregrine Townhouses Phase III, as depicted on the Plat recorded in Reception Number 173555, subject to Declaration of Protective Covenants and Interval Ownership for Peregrine Townhouses recorded at Recention Number 173556, and any amendments and supplements thereto, all in the Office of the County Clerk and Recorder in and for Archuleta County, Colorado. Together with a vested remainder over in fee simple absolute, as tenant in common with the other owners of all Unit Weeks in the described Units in Peregrine Townhouses in that percentage interest determined and established by said Declaration for the above described Matter: Amount

Principal Amount Due: \$4,022.66 Accrued Interest: \$1,722.90 Late Fees: \$85.00 Costs: \$570.50 Attorney's Fees: \$1000.00

Total: \$7,401.06 Published April 10, 17, 24, May 1 and 8, 2025 in *The* Pagosa Springs SUN. (261346)

FOR BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS HEARING ON **APRIL 15, 2025**

Travis and Sarah Troxtell have applied for a GENER-AL 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 84 Pagosa Springs CO (PL VAR-25-026). 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 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

Published March 27 and April 10, 2025 The Pagosa Springs SUN. (260766)

FOR BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HEAR-ING ON April 15, 2025

Travis and Sarah Troxtell have applied for a RE-ZONE on the Parcel in RURAL Sec: 9 Twn: 34 Rng: 1W A TRACT OF LAND IN THE SW4 TRACT DESC 170/368 IN SW4; 9-34-1W 187/340-341 TRACT DESC, at 5503 US HWY 84, Pagosa Springs, CO (PL-RE-ZONE-25-017). The property is zoned AGRICULTUR-AL 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

Published March 27 and April 10, 2025 The Pagosa Springs SUN. (260632)

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

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-ofway indicated on the Pagosa Trails subdivision plat Project work includes, but is not limited to erosion con-

trol, clearing and grubbing, topsoil removal and replace-ment, 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 a Special Meeting of the Pine River Irrigation District

Notice is hereby given that a **Special Meeting** has been called by the Board of Directors of THE PINE RIVER IRRIGATION DISTRICT on Saturday, May 3. 2025, at 1:30 p.m., to be held at Oxford Grange 8018 State Highway 172, Ignacio CO 81137. Sign-in will begin at 1:00 p.m.

The purpose of this meeting is for members to vote on the purchase of a power plant business.

No other business can be discussed or conducted at this special meeting.

Published April 10, 17, 24 and May 1, 2025 in The Pagosa Springs SUN. (261822)

NOTICE OF CANCELLATION OF REGULAR ELEC-TION BY THE DESIGNATED ELECTION OFFICIAL FOR THE PAGOSA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN by the Pagosa Fire Protection District, Archuleta County, Colorado, that at the close of business on the sixty-third (63rd) day before the election or thereafter 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.

The following candidate is declared elected: Linda Lattin: 4 Year Term

Pagosa Fire Protection DISTRICT By: Tomi Bliss

Designated Election Officia Published April 10, 2025 in The Pagosa Springs SUN. (261803)

NOTICE OF ELECTION TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN, and particularly, to the electors of the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District ("District") of Archuleta County, Colorado.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an election will be held on May 6, 2025, between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. regarding the election of certain members of the board of directors, and any questions necessary to implement the provisions of Article X. Sec tion 20, of the Colorado Constitution as applied to the

The election is being conducted as a mail ballot election by the Designated Election Official, AJ Beckman, c/o Public Alliance LLC, 405 Urban Street, Suite 310, Lake wood, Co 80228, telephone number (720) 213-6621. The place of deposit for mail ballots and walk-in polling place for voting at the election will be at said office Not sooner than April 14, 2025 and no later than April 21, 2025, the Designated Election Official shall mail to each active registered elector of the District a mail ballot packet.

Eugene L. Tautges, Bruce Jones Jr., Alex Boehn Christa Chagra and Carl Lee Young are candidates for terms extending to the second regular election.

The walk-in polling place at the address set forth above

shall be open Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. beginning not sooner than twenty-two days prior to the election, April 14, 2025, and from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on the date of election.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN on Election Day, May 6, 2025, an additional polling location shall be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at 100 Lyn Ave, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147, where electors may deposit mail ballots, request replacement ballots, and vote in person. NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that an eligible elector of

said District for the purpose of said election is a person registered to vote pursuant to the "Colorado Uniform Election Code of 1992"; and (i) who is a resident of the District, or (ii) who, or whose spouse or civil union partner, owns taxable real or personal property within the District whether said person resides within the District or not. A person who is obligated to pay taxes under a contract to purchase taxable property within the District shall be considered an owner of taxable property for the purpose of qualifying as an eligible elector.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that applications for absentee voter ballots or replacement voter ballots may be filed with the Designated Election Official at the address set forth above no later than the close of business on the Tuesday immediately preceding the election. Return of absentee voter ballots and replacement ballots may be received by the Designated Election Official at the above address, Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:00 a.m.

and 5:00 p.m. beginning on April 14, 2025, until the day prior to the election, or between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. on the date of the election.

Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District

By: /s/ AJ Beckman Designated Election Officia Published April 10, 2025 in The Pagosa Springs SUN.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Estate of Leigh Cote, Deceased

Case Number 2025 PR 2 All persons having claims against the above-named estate are required to present them to the personal representative or to the District Court of Archuleta, County, Colorado on or before August 10, 2025, or the claims may be forever barred.

Denise Cote 5441 Illini Way Boulder, CO 80303 Published April 10, 17, and 24, 2025 in The Pagosa Springs SUN. (261713)

<u>DESCRIPTION</u> RC HANDBOOK SUBSCRIPT

PROFESSIONAL CLEANING SVCS

Order Amending Order After Replevin After further reflection and review of the certified mail receipt, the Court to ensure proper service, modifies its order of March 31, 2025, and sets a new replevin hearing on June 18, 2025, at 11:00 AM. The plaintiff's counsel shall ensure that notice of this case and the show cause hearing is published in Archuleta County

for a period of 5 weeks and also serves the defendant by certified mail, return receipt requested. Service by both methods shall be attempted at least 14 days prior to June 18, 2025, and the return receipt and affidavit shall filed with the Court prior to June 18, 2025. The plaintiff and his counsel may appear via Webex at the June 18, 2025, hearing. Issue Date: 4/1/2025

JEFFREY RAYMOND WILSON District Court Judge

Published April 10, 17, 24 and May 1, 8, 2025 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (261707) PUBLIC NOTICE OF PETITION FOR

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 be changed to

By Nancy McBroom, Deputy Clerk Published March 27 and April 3, 10, 2025 in The Pagosa Springs Sun. (260873)

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. Defer dant 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 fro

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, Long

Published March 13, 20, 27, April 3, 10, 2025 in *The* Pagosa Springs SUN. (259515)

The Town of Pagosa Springs has received an application for "Design Review" for an Electric Vehicle Super-charger Station at 105 Country Center Drive.

The Design Review Board will conduct a public hear ing on Tuesday, April 22, 2025, at 5:30 pm to cons the Design Review Application, in person at 551 Hot Springs Blvd and available for remote attendance via the Zoom meeting platform. Public comment will be taken in person and over Zoom. To access the meeting agendas and staff reports, click the round Minutes and Agendas tab located along the bottom of the photo on the Town's website home page at pagosasprings. co.gov. You may also view the application at mypagosa. ora/proposed-development-projects.

We encourage interested parties to contact the Plan-ning Division prior to the public hearing dates, with any questions at either (970) 585-8636 or ktunnell@pago-sasprings.co.gov. Written comments received 7 days prior to the meeting or public hearing will be forwarded the Design Review Board for their consideration Public comments will be accepted at the public hearing Published April 10, 2025 in The Pagosa Springs SUN.

The Town of Pagosa Springs has received an application for "Sketch Major Design Review" for the Pagosa Bible Church located at 209 Harman Park Drive. The applicant is proposing an addition to the existing build-

The Design Review Board will conduct a public hearing on Tuesday, April 22, 2025, at 5:30 pm to consider the Sketch Major Design Review Application, in person at 551 Hot Springs Blvd and available for remote attendance via the Zoom meeting platform. Public comment will be taken in person and over Zoom. To access the meeting agendas and staff reports, click the round Minutes and Agendas tab located along the bottom of the photo on the Town's website home page at page sasprings.co.gov. You may also view the application mypagosa.org/proposed-development-projects.

ning Division prior to the public hearing dates, with any questions at either (970) 585-8636 or ktunnell@pago-sasprings.co.gov. Written comments received 7 days prior to the meeting or public hearing will be forwarded to the Design Review Board for their consideration. Public comments will be accepted at the public hearing Published April 10, 2025 in The Pagosa Springs SUN.

AMOUNT \$ 1,082.15

\$ 1,025.54

\$ 1.368.090.49

ARCHULE IA COUNTY
FEBRURAY 2025 PAYABLES
VENDOR
BUILDINGS BY DESIGN
TOWN OF PS

\$64,610.69

\$44.471.50

\$3,740.00 \$52,095.65

\$50,190.70

\$18,542.83

\$11.515.06

\$1,422.00

\$8,227.85

\$1.524.60

\$48,485.33

\$75.536.97

\$73,073.44 \$25,573.41

\$2,429.96

\$20,027.58

\$3.868.50

\$3,841.00

\$88,578.56

\$71.206.31

\$94,644.24

\$49.533.36

\$53,251.70

\$47,353.24

\$45,909.32

\$16,697.10

\$31.327.45

\$17,583.37 \$1,526.58

\$29,209.12 \$14,778.50

\$9.574.50

\$420.00 \$58,293.02

\$57,442.13

\$54,295.24

\$59.351.01

\$60,610.42

\$52,854.46

\$61.863.98

\$53,434.75

\$56.624.63

\$49,299.32 \$1,622.83

\$56,463.06

\$52,917.25

\$4,728,50

\$39,902.38

\$1,045.00

\$5.717.06

\$14,753.75 \$109,546.95

\$75,068.75

\$60,506.07

\$67,470,22

\$49,631.22

\$57,245.12

\$15,762.86 \$91,652.21

\$119.671.82

\$97,763.52

\$76,635.04 \$31,029.02

\$88.454.01

\$85,290.79

\$45,489.82

\$86,576,96 \$57,117.90

\$16.598.75

\$54,416.32 \$47,867.73

\$24,156,35

\$21,661.00

\$8,322,44

\$11,318.75

\$63,207.69

\$23,067,08 \$37,850.75

\$94.113.39

\$51,822.25

\$26,381.75

\$69,666.40

NEWMAN TRAFFIC SIGNS MSC INDUSTRIAL SUPPLY

KUBL GROUP PINE VALLEY RENTAL & SALES

ID NETWORKS ELITE RECYCLING & DISPOSAL

DAY LUMBER COMPANY

\$603.00 \$48,291.18 CIGNA HEALTH SAN JUAN REDIMIX MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS CREDIT COMPANY WELLS FARGO BANK A SAFE PLACE IN PAGOSA CONSTRUCTION TECHNIQUES C & J GRAVEL PRODUCTS CIVIC* POSSIBLE WORLD FUEL SERVICES VAL'S VIP CLEANING WAGNER RENTS **ECONORTHWEST** HUMANE SOCIETY OF PS QUILLER ELECTRIC
RUNBECK ELECTION SERVICES CORNWELL TOOLS SHAMROCK FOODS COMPANY KOY DINGBOOM OATES DIGIUM CLOUD SERVICE LPEA CENTURYLINK GOGOVAPPS INLAND KENWORTH US REYNOLDS ASH & ASSOCIATES CO DEPT OF PUB HEALTH & ENV DBT TRANSPORTATION SERVICES MUTUAL OF OMAHA DELTA DENTAL
MGT OF AMERICA CONSULTING PAWSD PAGOSA COMMUNITY INITIATIVE PS GUNS & AMMO CHUCK'S EXPERT SERVICES TRAUTNER GEOTECH AXIS HEALTH SYSTEM ROBINSON WATERS & O'DORISIO MAEZ CONCRETE PUMPING
CABE'S COLLISION AND CUSTOMS ROSE MOUNTAIN DHS PARTS PLUS OF NM CO HI-TEK CAPITAL BUSINESS SYSTEMS AMAZON THE PONDEROSA LUMBER COMPANY O'REILLY AUTO PARTS BUCKSKIN TOWING & REPAIR BAYFIELD GLASS M&M CONSTRUCTION SERVICES WINTER EQUIPMENT COMPANY VISIONARY COMMUNICATIONS DELL MARKETING ROCKY MOUNTAIN GUN WORKS CROSSFIRE AGGREGATE SERVICES LEDS STATE OF COLORADO QUADIENT FINANCE USA GRAINGER **AMERITAS** CO DEPT OF HUMAN SVCS NEWEGG BUSINESS PAGCO INCORPORATED SCHOOL OUTFITTERS JACK HARPER COOPER FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES
THE PAGOSA SPRINGS SUN ASCO MASONRY CONSTRUCTION THOMSON REUTERS - WEST WESTERN PAPER DISTRIBUTORS
ODP BUSINESS SOLUTIONS BRANTLEY DISTRIBUTING VALE-VICTIM ASSISTANCE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT CHARM-TEX

DESCRIPTIONTRANSIT FACILITY CONTRUCT
LDG TAX/CONSV TRUST/WATER & **AMOUNT** \$ 298,503.96 SEWER UTILITY EMPL BENEFITS CONCRETE BLOCKS/SUPPLIES ANN RADIO LEASE CNTY P-CARD PURCHASES SFTWR SUBSCRIPT ARPA #31 (#7)/#32 FABRIFORM/SUPPLIES GRAVEL/LOADER SURCHARGES STRATEGIC PLNG FINAL PMT CNTY FUEL CLEANING SVCS REPAIR SVC/PARTS & SUPPLIES CNTY FUEL PROFESSIONAL SVCS IMPOUND FEES BLDG WIRING AGILIS CONTRACT NATURAL GAS UTILITY FLEET EQUIP INMATE FOOD DHS LEGAL SVCS CLOUD SUBSCRIPT ELECTRIC UTILITY LANDLINE/FAX UTILITIES GOGOV LIC PARTS/SUPPLIES/EQUIP ARCHITECT SVCS
YRLY WEB HOSTING/COMMERCIAL APPR FEES QTRLY REPORTING/OWTS FEES CELL & DATA USAGE AWOS INSTALL/COMMISS EMPL BENEFITS COST ALLOCATION WATER & SEWER UTILITY/COMM DEVELOP CMP CONTRACT/SUPPLIES BLDG REPAIRS GEOTECH ENG STUDY/CONCRETE TESTING INMATE MED SVCS LEGAL SVCS SUPPLIES PARTS, LABOR/SVC REPAIR DHS LEASE AGRMT PARTS & SUPPLIES OAK BRUSH TOWER RENT COPIER LEASE/USE SUPPLIES/UNIFORMS/EQUIP SUPPLIES
PARTS & SUPPLIES **REPAIRS & SVCS** WINDSHIELDS SNOW PLOWING FLEET PARTS BROADBAND SVCS COMP EQUIP RNG REGISTRATIONS SALT SAND/SCALE FEE ANN MAINT/LIC RENEWALS METERED POSTAGE EMPL BENEFITS PARTS & SUPPLIES EOC FURNITURE REIMB FIRE SYSTEM INSPECT/QTLRY MONITORING PUBLICATIONS/SUBSCRIPT RENWL

CW HOTLINE

SUPPLIES

SUPPLIES

CTH CONSTRUCT

JANTL SUPPLIES CNTY SUPPLIES

INMATE SUPPLIES

EQUIP RENTALS

TRASH UTILITY

BLGD/PLNG SIGNAGE

EMG REMOTE SUPPORT

SFTWR SUBSCRIPT/OFF SUPPLIES

VENDOR MARSHALL & SWIFT **ALSCO** \$ 167,711.40 \$ 166,255.51 \$ 57.508.95 \$ 42,794.79 \$ 29,870.00 \$ 28,017.86 \$ 21.648.29 \$ 18,670.50 \$ 18,552.97 \$ 18,360.00 \$ 16.579.83 \$ 15,115.00 \$ 15,000.00 \$ 14,350.00 \$ 12.500.00 \$ 11.560.40 \$ 11,333.75 \$ 11,013.06 \$ 10.946.10 \$10,784,18 \$ 10,464.00 \$ 9,985.32 \$ 9.500.00 \$ 8,475,11 \$ 8,284.72 \$ 8,171.00 \$8.043.64 \$ 7.500.00 6,890.92 \$5,931.46 \$ 5.695.00 \$ 5.510.91 \$ 5,463.88 \$ 5,279.31 \$ 5.150.50 \$ 4.384.00 \$ 4,166.67 \$ 3,775.50 \$ 3.506.04 \$ 3.230.45 \$ 3,209.91 \$ 3,171.34 \$ 3.134.59 \$ 2.800.00 \$ 2,720.47 \$ 2,559.56 \$ 2.254.34 \$ 2.191.53 \$ 2,160.00 \$ 2,156.07 \$ 2.124.37 \$ 2.019.48 \$ 1,960.00 \$ 1,870.33 \$ 1.869.44 \$ 1.689.60 1,624.99 1,566.74 \$ 1.536.00 \$ 1.505.52 \$ 1,505.00 \$ 1,449.32 \$ 1.371.20 1,300.00

\$ 1.291.14

\$1,285.24

\$ 1.278.84

\$ 1.181.05

\$ 1.092.68

ALEXANDER CLARK PRINTING DAVIS ENGINEERING SERVICE CORY RIOJAS **ERROL LORD** RANDY BETTS STERLING WARREN BROWN MCKESSON MEDICAL-SURGICAL
DRUG AND ALCOHOL TESTING ASSOCIATES ALPINE PORTABLE TOILETS TERRY'S ACE HARDWARE AXXIS AUDIO OF DURANGO TYLER TECHNOLOGIES BOB BARKER COMPANY FORREST CONST-BEARFOOT GARAGE DOORS EMPLOYERS COUNCIL SERVICES
VERONICA MEDINA
AMERICAN PRECISION AUTO GLASS PATAGONIA HEALTH NMS LABS CONTEXTURE CO ICS JAIL SUPPLIES
MOREHART MURPHY REGIONAL AUTO CENTER MICHAEL KEEGAN CO ASSN OF CHIEFS OF POLICE ORKIN GINA MCCUNE ADVANCE AUTO PARTS POSTMASTER CYNTHIA ANN GALABOTA SIMPLY HOME KELSEY JENSEN NORTHERN SAFETY CO PAGOSA SPRINGS MEDICAL CENTER JERMAL BALL PARTS AUTHORITY COWBOY CARWASH DANNY JAMES GONZALES JEROME N LUBETZ BROWNSTEIN HYATT FARBER SCHRECK

ARCH CNTY SOLID WASTE LAWSON PRODUCTS
JUST CLICK PRINTING MODERN IMAGING SOLUTIONS JLM TIRE AZTEC MACHINE & REPAIR NOAH ENTERPRISES BECKY JACOBSON SCRAM SYSTEMS CO STATE UNIVERSITY EXT FOUR CORNERS WELDING & GAS SUPPLY SOURCE OFFICE & TECHNOLOGY UNITED REPROGRAPHIC SUPPLY CCTA- EASTERN DIVISION PSYCHOLOGICAL RESOURCES **ROCKY MOUNTAIN RESERVE** NAVAJO TRAIL RENTAL CENTER DAVEY COACH SALES SAFETY-KLEEN SYSTEMS VITAL RECORDS CONTROL
STATE OF COLORADO JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT MIGHTY AUTO PARTS ECHO IT CONSULTING RADIOLOGY IMAGING ASSOCIATES LA PLATA CNTY CORONER
CO CORRECTIONAL INDUSTRIES GLORIA MACHT CRESTONE GRAPHICS SENTINEL OFFENDER SERVICES KATHERINE F. BETZER
BRUCKNER'S TRUCK & EQUIPMENT APRIL RIVAS CCTPTA FERRELLGAS DARRIN STRICKLAND ANSWER TOPEKA CARROLL CONSTRUCTION MICHAEL LEWIS BERNDT

MICHELE ANN BERNDT

Published April 10, 2025 in The Pagosa Springs SUN. (261812)

RUBY M. SISSON LIB ENG/SURV/CHIP SEAL PROJ \$ 912.00 PER DIEM-ICC 2025 EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE PER DIEM-ICC 2025 EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE PER DIEM-ICC 2025 EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE \$840.00 PER DIEM-ICC 2025 EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE BKGD CHECKS \$ 840.00 \$ 832.22 PER DIEM-CCI/REIMB \$829.68 MED SUPPLIES TESTING \$ 780.00 TOILET RENTALS & SVCS UNIFORMS/SUPPLIES \$ 755.00 \$ 752.36 SUPPLIES \$ 746.38 \$ 724.49 SFTWR \$712.50 INMATE SUPPLIES
REPAIR SVC
EMPLMNT LAW POSTERS \$ 664.21 \$ 624.75 \$ 605.00 PER DIEM-NACO WINDSHIELD REPLC \$ 589.00 \$ 573.75 \$ 550.00 SFTWR SUBSCRIPTS LAB FEES IMPLEMENTATION FEE \$ 500.00 SUPPLIES \$ 493.14 TOWING SVC REIMB \$ 490.00 \$ 465.00 PER DIEM-POST HANDGUN INSTRUCTOR COURSE \$ 460.00 NDST TESTS PEST CONTROL SVCS \$ 425.99 PER DIEM-ICC 2025 EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE FUEL/SUPPLIES \$ 385.00 \$ 372.44 BOX RENWL PER DIEM-CSU DIR RETREAT \$ 360.00 REIMB VRP APE \$ 350.00 ON CALL SVCS UNIFORM SUPPLIES \$ 344.00 \$ 337.50 PUB HEALTH SVCS PER DIEM-SFST INSTRUCTOR TRNG \$ 326.54 PARTS & SUPPLIES \$ 308.08 VEH MAINT ON CALL SVCS \$ 299.70 \$ 294.00 ON CALL SVCS \$ 294.00 TRASH DISPOSAL \$ 275.00 SUPPLIES BLDG FORMS \$ 274.02 \$ 245.71 SUPPLIES WASTE TIRE FEES \$ 243.00 SUPPLIES \$ 225.67 TECH SVCS PER DIEM-ANN CSU 4-H MTG \$ 204.88 GPS DAILY MONITORING BABYSITTING CLASSES \$ 202.46 SUPPLIES \$ 180.85 OFFICE SUPPLIES
OCE CONTRACT \$ 164.41 \$ 162.80 \$ 150.00 EMPL EVAL EMPL BENEFITS \$ 150.00 EQUIP RENTAL/SUPPLIES/LABOR FLEET PART \$ 148.00 \$ 147.75 OIL DISPOSAL SVC \$ 138.44 SHREDDING SVC FAMILY FRIENDLY \$ 135.00 SUPPLIES VoIP SVC BUNDLE \$ 123.74 \$ 123.61 MEDICAL SVCS \$ 108.94 MORGUE USE FEE **DHS FORMS** \$ 92.73 \$ 80.00 \$ 72.37 CPR/1ST AID CLASS BCDS GPS MONITORS \$ 62.00 MILEAGE REIMB SUPPLIES \$ 53.35 REIMB WESTERN DUES \$ 50.00 **PROPANE** \$ 40.83 ANSWERING SVC \$ 36.32 REIMB SW CPR/1ST AID CLASS \$ 22.45 CPR/1ST AID CLASS \$ 22.45

TOTAL

EXTENSION VIEWPOINTS

Plant profile: dandelions, uses and lookalikes

By Ethan Proud and Cindi Galabota

SUN Columnists

Dandelions, to some, are a weed, the scourge of an aesthetic lawn. To others, dandelions are an endearing plant with many uses.

The common dandelion was introduced to North America in the 1600s as a source of food and medicine for the European settlers. In fact, the second part of its scientific name (Taraxacum officinale) denotes medicinal value. This small flower fell from grace as lawns became a status symbol and land was used to demonstrate wealth rather than to grow food.

The Colorado Noxious Weed List, which regulates invasive plant species with legal framework for management goals, does not contain dandelions. The management of this species is up to individual preference. Dandelions are extremely adaptable and can be found in a wide range of habitats, and are synonymous with human presence.

Controlling dandelions can be difficult because of their stubborn taproot, but proper lawn care such as raising the mower deck can help crowd them out before resorting to herbicides.

Finding a use for them can also reduce their population. All parts of the plant are usable: the flowers can be made into wine or jelly, the leaves are a great addition to a salad, and the root can be steeped for tea or roasted. When foraging for dandelions, it's best to collect them from your own yard

rather than a public area where they may have been treated with herbicides.

Two years ago, I made dandelion wine and the following year there weren't enough blossoms for another batch. Whether it's from overharvesting, which I doubt because of the taproot and their perennial nature, or from competition from another lookalike species, I'm not sure. However, my dandelion population dropped and another yellow aster showed up in its place — cutleaf viper grass.

Cutleaf viper grass is in fact, not a grass, but a yellow aster that is listed as a noxious weed in Utah. Cutleaf viper grass belongs to an unofficial grouping of plants: dandelion lookalikes, which also contains catsear, salsify, hawksweeds, prickly lettuce and sow thistles. Orange hawkweed and perennial sow thistle are noxious weeds in Colorado. The rest of the lookalikes, while not having a legal requirement to control, are not native and can be invasive. Many of them are also edible.

Archuleta County Weed and Pest is your local resource for managing noxious weed populations and controlling other pests.

Seed potatoes for sale

Place your order today for Colorado certified and non-GMO seed potatoes. Five varieties of potatoes are available.

Order by April 30 and pick up your potatoes May 13, 14 and 15 at the CSU Extension Office. Visit https:// archuleta.extension.colostate.edu or call (970) 264-5931 to learn more and place your order today.

Be prepared for an emergency

A "Be Prepared for an Emergency" workshop with Cindi Galabota, CSU extension director, and Lacy Capre, Archuleta County Public Health outreach specialist, is set for 9 a.m. on Saturday, April 26 at the CSU Extension Building at 344 U.S. 84. This free workshop will cover the best practices for preparing for and recovery from an emergency.

Field to Freezer Course

Colorado Parks and Wildlife will be holding its Field to Freezer Course on May 16 and 17 at the CSU Extension building located at 344 U.S. 84.

Trained professionals will teach you how to responsibly care for and process the meat from any big game ungulate in Colorado. Participants must be at least 16 years old. Visit https://forms.gle/owfhB5R8PTpYY-HGGA to register.

There are limited spots available. Applications are due by May 9.

Vermiculture workshop

Join Galabota for a fun, hands-on and engaging Vermiculture Workshop. Learn all about the vital role worms play in healthy soils and build your own worm composting bin.

It is set for 10 a.m. on June 28 at the CSU Extension Building at 344 U.S. 84. There is a \$20 materials fee. RSVP at (970) 264-5931 or https://archuleta.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/.

Need \$100? Need \$5,000? Come see us now!

\$ CASH LOANS \$

Short-term loans based on collateral only, we take collateral on the following: Cars • Trucks • Trailers • ATVs • Motorcycles Guns • Gold • Jewelry • Silver & More

Got Gold? Get Cash! ★

We buy gold, silver, guns, ammo and more.

Turn your old, broken jewelry into CASH TODAY

San Juan Trading Post 635 San Juan St. (Hwy 160) • (970) 731-PAWN (7296)

STAYCATION RATE FOR LOCALS Includes 24-hour access to all 50+ pools, salt-therapy sauna, wellness activities WE WANT THE COMMUNITY TO HAVE FIRST ACCESS AT OUR BEST RATE! **April 15 - May 15** *Residents within a 60-mile radius with a valid government-issued ID SCAN QR CODE OR BOOK ONLINE AT: PagosaHotSprings.com

Wildfire Adapted Partnership offers spring cleanup tips

By Bill Trimarco

Wildfire Adapted Partnership

Spring is an amazing time. Many of us get excited as the migrating birds return, the temperatures rise and the

Unfortunately, there isn't much snow to melt this year. At the elevations where most of us live, things have been very dry all winter. Higher up, the snowpack in our local mountains is at 62 percent of our normal amount.

In spite of some recent storms, that snow is expected to melt much quicker over the next few weeks than what we are used to. The long-range forecast for southern Colorado and northern New Mexico over the next three months expects less precipitation and higher temperatures than normal.

We could be in for a bad wildfire

The recent cuts to the federal budget, and the U.S. Forest Service in particular, could have a serious effect on wildfire preparation and response efforts, too. Wildfire is a potential threat to almost every home in our county. Ignoring that fact will never make it go away. Understanding what the threat is can help us prepare for it.

Most of our forests have not seen a significant wildfire for more than 100 years. That is a lot of time for unchecked growth of potential fuel. Without fire to thin the trees and underbrush, that excessive growth is dense and reaches from the ground

to the tree crowns, feeding the huge fires have become the norm across the West

A lot of our residents here feel very safe because their homes are nowhere near the forest. Unfortunately, that may not make a difference. Eight-five percent or more of the homes lost to wildfire are never directly touched by the flames. No, you did not misread that. Most of the structure loss is caused by the blizzard of embers that blow ahead of the fire, starting spot fires outside of the area that is burning. Those embers can travel over a mile. All it takes is one ember landing on some kindling and you have a new

Usually, you will see thousands of embers swirling ahead of the fire. If those embers enter your house or find some kindling on or near your house, there is a good chance that your house will catch fire, too.

Spring is cleanup time for a lot of us. This is a great time to take steps to safeguard your house. Some basic steps can make a big difference:

- Clean the leaves and pine needles off of the roof.
- Make sure all attic and soffit vents

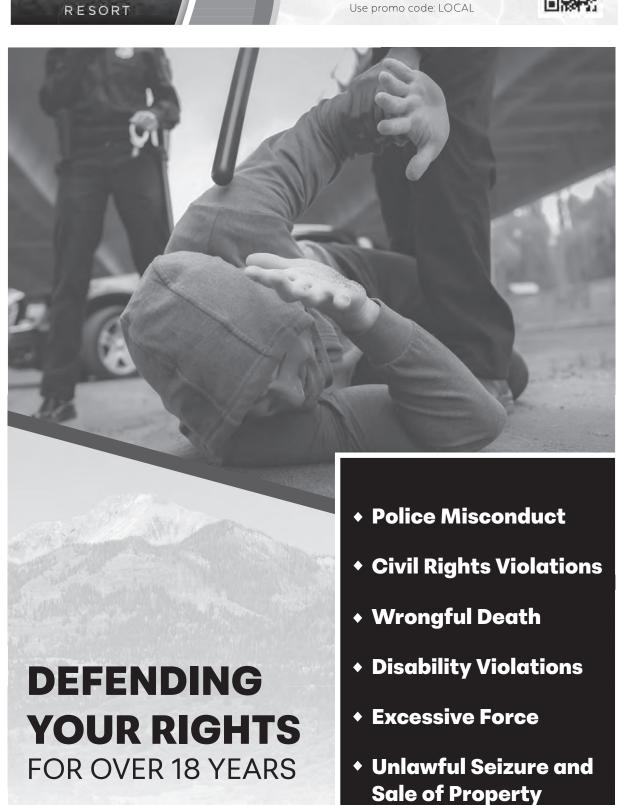
• Clean the eavestroughs.

- have one-eighth-inch metal screen-
- Chimneys need spark arrestors (they keep birds out of your woodstove, too).
 - Repair any holes or gaps in the

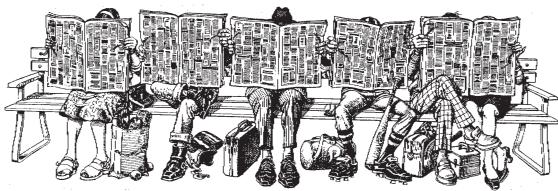
- Crawl space vents need oneeighth-inch metal screening.
- Rake up leaves and needles within 10 feet of the structure.
- Remove all combustibles on, under or near wooden decks.
- Install metal screening under the deck to keep duff and critters out.
- Maintain decks and stairs. Driedout wood is more flammable than oil-stained or painted wood.
- Use noncombustible fencing within 5 feet of the house. As a temporary fix, you can clear the combustibles from either side of the fence for its entire length.
- Move firewood piles at least 30
- feet away from structures. • Remove any combustible plants
- within 5 feet of the house. Within 30 feet of the house, mow grasses to a 4-inch height or less.
- Ornamental junipers and spruce are highly flammable.

Those are some good spring wildfire cleanup tips. If you want to learn what else you can do to protect your property from wildfire, Wildfire Adapted Partnership has plenty of information and may be able to offer you a partial reimbursement on vegetation

At wildfireadapted.org you can sign up for helpful E-news, a free site assessment (the first step in the reimbursement process) and learn about the popular chipper rental rebate program. If you have any questions, call (970) 385-8909.



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Hydrants

■ Continued from front complete the task.

He added that he had asked a contact of his who works in the school system to "ask around" and poll teachers about their interest in this.

However, he added that having staff is still a concern.

The fourth option Ramsey presented was using volunteers from other organizations, such as the Pagosa Fire Protection District (PFPD) or the Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Association (PLPOA).

He noted that this would have the benefit of incurring no costs, but that he did not believe that the district would make much progress with that approach.

"These are volunteers," Ramsey said. "Six o'clock in the morning, the alarm goes off and I can go turn on hydrants, for free, or I can go back to bed."

He noted that he was also concerned about the potential that this approach would have a high likelihood of equipment being damaged due to volunteers being unfamiliar with testing procedures.

Ramsey added that scheduling and coordinating these volunteers would also be difficult.

Walsh asked whether testing done by professionals would also provide higher-quality feedback, which Ramsey confirmed.

Ramsey then presented his fifth and preferred option of hiring a thirdparty contractor to test the hydrants.

He explained that Distribution System Resources, the contractor PAWSD spoke to, could inspect and service the hydrants for \$127,000 and could do it in 12 weeks, faster than the timeline PAWSD expected for a crew it would hire.

He explained that the company is "extremely knowledgeable" and could commit at least a two-man crew with the potential for more staff to work on the testing process, which would shorten the schedule.

He noted that the company is licensed and certified, and has its own vehicles and equipment for

Hudson asked to hear cons other

than the price. Ramsey stated that the price is the only significant con.

Hudson commented that there would also be the con that this would not train anyone locally to perform

Ramsey explained that he would want to have PAWSD staff create a schedule to test the hydrants regularly in the future, testing some portion of the hydrants each year.

He proposed that the schedule round of testing is done since the results would be informative in terms of how many hydrants are damaged and thus how often they would need inspection and repair.

Ramsey added that PAWSD could pursue a sixth option of hiring a contractor and its own crew, with the hydrants tested by PAWSD's crew reducing the amount of testing the contractor would need to do, and thus the cost.

He stated that the contractor charges \$111.25 per hydrant tested and that pursuing this option could help PAWSD determine how viable finding a crew in the future would be.

PAWSD board chairman Jim Smith then asked the board for a motion on one of these options.

Hudson asked to make a statement before a motion was made, which Smith accepted, commenting,

"You always do." Hudson stated that he had a "really hard time" with PAWSD moving forward with hydrant testing without

first meeting with the PFPD board. He noted that he had already spoken to the fire chief and did not want

to speak to him again, but that he did want to speak with the board.

He proposed that PAWSD try to hold a meeting with the PFPD board in the next week.

"I mean, I'm willing to get a no from them, but I don't want to approve anything and have PAWSD be totally responsible for this when Glenn did research into who normally checks fire hydrants in the United States and it's usually the fire department checking to make sure they work and the water district maintains them when they're not working," Hudson said. "I think that's a very fair ask of their board and, again, I don't want to meet with the chief, I want to meet with the board."

PAWSD board member Gene Tautges commented that testing the hydrants would benefit Archuleta County and the PFPD, and proposed that PAWSD ask these organizations for monetary support to reduce

PAWSD's costs. Walsh suggested that maintenance of fire hydrants is complex and involves cooperation between water and fire districts, and that both organizations being involved in testing would be reasonable.

Walsh stated that he believes that PAWSD should follow up with the PFPD board, although he noted that the fire chief is "very adamant that he does not want to get involved in this right now."

He added, "I'm personally pretty adamant that somebody in this community show decisive leadership and I think that needs to be PAWSD, and they know, we know and we know that they know that if they say no, we are still going to do this,"

He added that the district could move both issues forward at once by establishing a hydrant testing program and then asking the PFPD to contribute.

"I completely agree, but I want to sit down with the board first," Hud-

Tautges asked why the fire chief opposed being involved with hydrant

PAWSD board member Alex Boehmer, who had also spoken with PFPD Chief Robert Bertram, stated that Bertram appeared to be concerned about manpower and to believe that hydrant testing is PAWSD's responsibility.

Tautges noted that the PFPD just got a new income stream from impact fees, but added that he was unsure about the district's current budget

Smith proposed that PAWSD could charge the PFPD \$500 every time it uses a hydrant if it declines to participate in hydrant testing.

"I'm not in favor of charging anybody anything," Hudson said. "I would like to have a discussion."

Smith asked Hudson to make a motion about his proposal to hold a joint meeting with the PFPD board prior to making a decision about hydrant testing.

 $Hudson\,did\,so,\,noting\,that\,PAWSD$ would likely move forward with testing even if the PFPD refuses to meet with PAWSD or to participate.

Walsh seconded the motion. Tautges asked if Hudson would

accept an amendment to also invite Archuleta County to this meeting.

"I can invite them, but if Archuleta County can't come to it, I want the district to say no to us," Hudson said. Tautges seconded Hudson's re-

vised motion. Walsh commented that he did not see why PAWSD could not move forward with hydrant testing and use this momentum when going to other

districts to ask for their participation. He added that he also did not want to delay testing since other communities are concerned about drought should be determined after this conditions and fire hydrant testing and all crews may already be taken if PAWSD delayed taking action.

"So, if we're going to do it anyway, let's simply demonstrate the leadership and then challenge the other districts, particularly the fire district," Walsh said, adding that he does not see a natural fit with Archuleta County or the Town of Pagosa Springs in terms of encouraging them to contribute to the program.

He noted how impressed he was with the meeting with Distribution System Resources and wanted to hire it and potentially move forward its start date for hydrant testing.

Ramsey stated that he would not want to lose the opportunity to hire a contractor and that PAWSD could pursue hiring its own crew simultaneously.

Smith returned discussion back to Hudson's motion, saying, "I will not vote for your motion."

"Would you wait a week?" Hudson

asked. "No," Smith replied. "No, no week. We can kick this down the road ..."

Boehmer commented that he would also not support waiting a week as he feels that PAWSD would get the work done regardless of the PFPD's cooperation and he did not see that "putting them under pressure before we make a vote on it is necessarily going to change the minds of any of those board members."

He added that, while he likes Hudson's idea of using local resources, he supports using professionals at this time since the hydrants have not been tested in 10 years and professionals will know how to test them without accidents occurring.

He added that he would support using local resources in the future.

Tautges asked whether the perhydrant price for testing would change if the district reduced the number of hydrants tested, to which Ramsey replied that he believed it would not.

Tautges also noted that the isolation valves for the hydrants may not have been tested in more than 10 years since the PFPD only tested the hydrants and not the valves the last time it performed testing.

Ramsey noted that Distribution System Resources would test the isolation valves and upload information on testing into the PAWSD tracking system.

Hudson noted that Ramsey previously stated at an Archuleta County and Town of Pagosa Springs joint meeting that testing could not begin until May 1 due to the chance of water

freezing and causing accidents. "To say that you don't want to wait one week at the beginning of April to ask the fire department when we're gonna put out \$130,000 that's not in our budget and to say that we can't wait one week to find out if we have to pay that whole \$130,000 to me is bad fiscal policy," Hudson said.

Boehmer noted that the district is going to "do it either way."

"We're going to do it either way," Hudson said, "but saying you won't wait a week to find out if we have to pay the whole \$130,000 that we don't have in our budget and we're not going to start it until May, I have a really hard time understanding. Maybe you want to be heroes and show up as the heroes of the community, but that's not what I want to do."

Walsh interjected, asking Hudson to not "cartoon other board mem-

"I respect your position and I'm not turning you into some sort of cartoon character," Walsh said. "I'm accepting what you're saying and respecting it, so just show the same respect for other board members."

Smith then called for a vote on Hudson's motion, which garnered a vote from Hudson and subsequently failed.

He then called for another motion, with Boehmer moving to hire Distribution System Resources to test hydrants while continuing to work on using PAWSD employees to test hydrants when they are available prior to the contractor starting.

He noted that this would reduce the cost and that he felt testing should start on hydrants in the most-used areas

Smith seconded the motion.

Hudson then asked if Boehmer would amend his motion to include having a meeting with the PFPD Board of Directors.

Following a brief discussion of whether to invite Archuleta County where Boehmer suggested that the county is willing to have its fire crews assist with hydrant testing if they are not needed for other tasks and the discussion would primarily be with the PFPD, the district voted to approve the amendment to the motion to ask to meet with the PFPD.

Tautges commented that he feels that it is in the district's best interest to ensure that hydrant testing is done by professionals and that the district could ask others for financial support if they could not provide staff.

Boehmer pointed out that the Archuleta County fire crew has to address both wildland fires and any county business it is ordered to attend to before doing hydrant testing.

Hudson commented that he agreed with Tautges about wanting testing crews to be trained and about asking other districts for financial support.

In response to a question from Walsh, board members clarified that the motion up for consideration would include hiring Distribution System Resources for testing, directing staff to use staff or hire a local contractor to do additional testing and to hold a meeting with the PFPD board.

Ramsey raised the issue that, due to the cost being more than \$100,000, hiring a hydrant testing contractor would likely have to go through a bidding process under Colorado statute.

However, he proposed that, working from consultation with the PAWSD attorney, the board should vote to declare the issue an emergency, which would allow the district to avoid the bidding process and move forward with hiring Distribution System Resources.

The board then unanimously voted to approve the motion from Boehmer to hire Distribution System Resources and take other actions related to hydrant testing.

Following this, Tautges moved to declare the hydrant testing issue an emergency.

The board unanimously approved Tautges' motion.

Walsh concluded the discussion by noting the possibility of the cost being reduced by PAWSD staff also testing hydrants and reducing the number Distribution System Resources would have to test.

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PAGOSA SPRINGS REAL ESTATE & RELOCATION GUIDE



Overview

New this year is our Business and Service Directory! Ask about being included in this great special section of the publication. Other sections of the guide highlight Pagosa Springs' Business and Economy, Education, Health Care Resources, Real Estate and Construction, Leisure, Active Adults and Getting Settled, making it a useful tool for businesses and families looking to relocate to our beautiful part of Colorado.

Distribution

10,000 copies of the Relocation Guide will be printed for distribution by area businesses, on newsstands and in one edition of The Pagosa Springs SUN. Distribution will begin mid June.

A digital version will be online at **PagosaSUN.com**

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DIEMENA ARIS & J. R.

Americana Project Concert

April 30 • 7 to 9:15 p.m. • Pagosa Springs High School Auditorium



Photo courtesy Pagosa Springs High School



Photo courtesy Patrice Pike

Patrice Pike, an acclaimed Austin-based musician known for her dynamic voice and engaging stage presence, will perform on April 30 at a concert presented by Pagosa Springs High School's Americana Project Class.

Live **Performers**

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

Friday

The Springs Resort lodge atrium: Ron and Susan, 5

Saturday

The Springs Resort lodge atrium: Maxwell Miller, 5

Tuesday

The Springs Resort lodge atrium: Jackson Mountain Ramblers, 5 p.m.

Wednesday

The Springs Resort lodge atrium: San Juan Mountain Boys, 5 p.m.

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Tuesday, April 15th

San Juan Mountain Boys

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PagosaSUN.com

Save the date for Americana Project **Concert featuring Patrice Pike**

Pagosa Springs High School

The Americana Project class at Pagosa Springs High School is proud to present its spring concert on April 30 featuring special guest Patrice

The evening will begin with performances by students from the class, sharing a mix of original songs and covers, followed by a full set from Pike, an acclaimed Austinbased musician known for her dynamic voice and engaging stage presence.

Pike has been a long-standing figure in the Austin music scene. A gifted singer-songwriter, guitarist, percussionist and band leader, her music blends soul, rock and folk in a way that resonates with audiences everywhere. She will be joined by her guitarist, Hunter Hendrickson.

The Americana Project was established in 2008 to provide an outlet for students who love music but may not participate in traditional music programs like band or choir. With the help of grant funding and a dedicated group of educators, administrators and community members, Pagosa Springs High School partnered with Brad Tisdel to mentor the local team on how to successfully implement the program. Tisdel is the originator of the Americana Project in Sisters, Ore. A key focus from the beginning was community involvement, and the project quickly gained local support.

During a time when many school districts across the country were cutting arts programs due to economic challenges, the Archuleta School District board made a clear and courageous decision to protect and invest in the arts. This support made it possible to launch the Americana Project and to sustain it through the years. Christine Funk, a local community member, played an essential role early on, organizing fundraisers to help purchase instruments and equipment.

Each year, the program invests in bringing a professional musician or group to both perform and mentor the students. Over the years, the Americana Project has welcomed an impressive list of guest artists, including Victor Wooten, Pete Kartsounes, KJ Denhert, Sway Wild, Anna Tivel and Jeffrey Martin, Bo DePena, Joe Craven, Joseph Wooten, Thom Chacon, Caleb Hawley, Jaden Carlson Trio, Elder Grown, Good Time Travelers, Beth Wood, Songs of the Fall, Nathaniel Talbot, Vicki Genfan, Gary Morris and Ariella.

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an elective course that uses music. performance and songwriting to encourage self-expression, build confidence and give students a chance to connect through creativity.

The concert will be held in the Pagosa Springs High School auditorium, with doors opening at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are available at the door for students and seniors. Children 12 and under are free.

Seating is general admission. This event is a wonderful opportunity to support young local musicians and enjoy a night of heartfelt music from both students and a nationally respected artist. Please mark your calendars.







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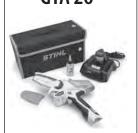
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Photo courtesy Southwest Organization for Sustainability

This year's Earth Day celebration is set for April 19 in Centennial Park, with booths and activities planned for all ages.

Earth Day celebration planned for April 19

By Pauline Benetti

Southwest Organization for Sustainability

Every day we act. How many of those acts keep us treading just a bit lighter on the planet? Check below to see how you score.

Though every day is earth day, we chose one day of the year to dedicate to the Earth — April 22 — which here locally we will celebrate on Saturday, April 19, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Centennial Park. This day will be dedicated to our forests and to those who serve to protect them.

The day will be filled with activities: The Mindfulness Hour from 9 to 10 a.m. will include an opening earth blessing, a sound bath, yoga in the park and a wetland tour with the River Walk Naturalist Program; from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., activities for young and old will abound — a community tea gathering, World Migratory Bird

Day, a poetry slam and open mic, tour of the Geothermal Greenhouse Partnership Education Dome, a youth art booth, and chalk art for children.

Meanwhile, having set up from 9 to 10 a.m., our community booths featuring local businesses, nonprofits and individuals, all who consider themselves stakeholders in the fate of the planet, will be open to introduce their product or service. And food? Of course; there will be a food truck or two

Now, let's consider our acts for the year and see if we can check off a few from the list:

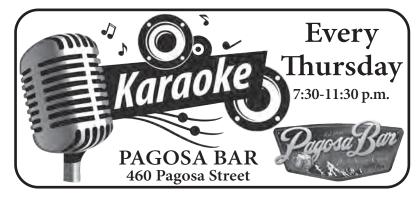
- Use of energy: Change all your light bulbs to LED. Plug large electronics into a smart power strip. Check weatherproofing on windows and doors. Get an energy audit.
- Use of water: Switch to reusable water bottles. Install a low-flow

showerhead. Install a toilet buddy. Recycle gray water.

- Use of food: Compost your food and yard waste. Grow your own food. Shop at your local farmers market.
- Handle waste: Recycle glass, metal, plastic and paper. Deny all plastic bags. Shop at our local thrift stores. Purchase a sustainable toothbrush. Switch from paper towels to reusable rags. Switch to recycled paper or bamboo paper toilet paper.
- Ecology practices: Use native birdseed in your feeder. Install a solitary beehive "hotel." Plant native plants.

How did you score? Better than last year? What will you set as targets for the year?

If you have not signed up to be present and want to, email the following sworgsus@gmail.com and explain who you are and what you want to do.



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Library to host Funder Connection Series featuring El Pomar Foundation April 17

By Kim Cassels

Community Foundation serving Southwest Colorado

On April 17, every nonprofit in Southwest Colorado can stop by its local library to connect with one of the original grant makers in the state, as well as learn to use the Colorado Grants Guide for free.

In partnership with the Community Resource Center (CRC), the Community Foundation is bringing CRC's monthly Funder Connection Series to nine regional libraries in Southwest Colorado.

The virtual statewide event will feature the El Pomar Foundation, one of Colorado's first foundations founded in 1937.

The participating libraries include the Ruby M. Sisson Memorial Library in Pagosa Springs, Pine River Library in Bayfield, Cortez Public Library, Dolores County Library in Dove Creek, Dolores Public Library, Durango Public Library, Ignacio Community Library, Mancos Public Library and the Silverton Public Library.

"We're pleased to be a part of this regional event to bring nonprofits together to learn about funding opportunities through the Funder Connections Series, as well as the Colorado Grants Guide," said Joanna Lee, programming librarian of Pine River Library.

Pagosa Bible Church to offer a free four-day course in fly-fishing basics

Pagosa Bible Church

Have you ever seen someone flyfishing and desired to learn how? Now's your chance. Fly-fishing is one of the most relaxing, soul-restoring activities you can learn.

The classes are designed to teach the basics of the sport. We will focus on some history of the sport, gear usage, techniques of casting, handling of fish, finding fish in different waters (lakes, rivers, streams) and etiquette. We will also go fishing on the final day.

This is a free four-day course, spread over four Saturdays, from 9 to noon, starting on April 19 and continuing on April 26, May 3 and

Equipment is not necessary, but useful on the last two sessions (casting and fishing days). A state fishing license required for the last day.

In addition to this class, there is a gathering every Wednesday from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. for fly tying and flyfishing at Pagosa Bible Church, where we go deeper into the sport.

For more information, please call (303) 828-6386.

A Night to Remember: Masquerade Fundraiser set for May 17

By Hannah Longmire

Our Savior Lutheran School

Mark your calendars, Pagosa Springs, for an enchanting evening on May 17 at 5 p.m. as Our Savior Lutheran School proudly presents its annual fundraiser, A Night to Remember: Masquerade.

Step into a world of mystery and glamour while supporting a noble cause that benefits the students at Our Savior Lutheran School.

The evening promises to be a delightful experience, including a catered dinner, an open bar, and silent and live auctions that feature an array of exciting items. Don't forget to come in your best costume, as there will be prizes for the most outstanding masquerade attire. The night will include a DJ playing all the hits from the '80s, '90s and early 2000s.

Early-bird tickets are available until May 1, priced at \$45 for individual tickets and \$300 for a table of eight. After May 1, ticket prices will increase to \$50 for individual tickets and \$320 for a table of eight. Buy your tickets now at auctria.events/ANighttoRemember to take advantage of the early-bird prices and ensure your spot at this unforgettable event.

The website also features some of the items available for auction and will be updated frequently. You can also stop by Our Savior Lutheran School office or call Lois at (970) 731-4668 to reserve your tickets in person.

Our Savior Lutheran School is a classical, Christian school, operating without federal or state funding. Fundraisers like this, along with donations and scholarships, are crucial to maintaining affordable tuition for all families and providing further assistance to those in need.

Don't miss out on this opportunity to enjoy a captivating evening while making a meaningful difference in the lives of our students. We look forward to seeing you at A Night to Remember: Masquerade on May 17.

Informative.

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Honoring our Vets in 2025



From 10:30 a.m. to noon, El Pomar

will engage with nonprofits to share

advice and tips for successful grant

applications. At 12:15 p.m., El Pomar

will then host an exclusive after-party

just for Southwest Colorado, where

nonprofits can connect and ask ques-

tions that are more specific to their

public libraries have a subscrip-

tion to the Colorado Grants Guide,

Colorado's leading online tool for

grant funding research," said Marcy

Mitchell, Colorado Grant Guide

Manager at CRC. "This comprehen-

sive resource guide contains more

than 1,000 funders and grant pro-

files of local foundations and trusts.

corporations, national funders and

government agencies that support

Colorado nonprofit organizations. As [Colorado Grants Guide] subscribers,

libraries offer free access and support

encouraged to take advantage of

this opportunity to strengthen their

development efforts, build relation-

ships with funders, and explore the

Nonprofits across the region are

to access the database."

Colorado Grants Guide.

"Additionally, many Colorado

communities

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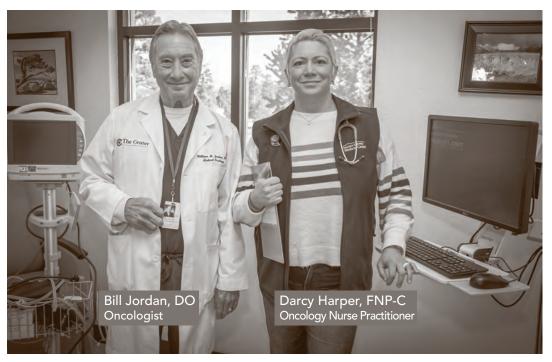




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End of Life Education group learns about natural funerals

By Joan Mieritz

End of Life Education

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

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

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

It was decided that the official program should end around 2:30 p.m., but people can remain in the fellowship hall for socializing, discussions, support, etc. until 4 p.m.

We are a casual group, so feel free to come and go as needed. Attendance varies for each program. Feel welcome to come anytime and bring

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

I usually do not report on past

programs, but on March 20 we were introduced to the very latest concepts in funerary practices, called natural funerals.

The presenter was Karis Meskimen, from the Denver area, where they are being used more and more. I was absolutely blown away by what she shared.

One new process Meskimen told us about is called terramation, or body composting. It was developed in Washington state. The other new process developed in Oregon is called water cremation.

I am not an expert, but I think that these new processes will someday, fairly soon, be taking over the funeral industry. They are absolutely amazing in that they have little to no negative impact on our environment and they feel like such a positive, clean way to deal with remains.

Once younger people find out about these two processes they will take over as the only acceptable funeral practices. It is just a matter

Meskimen will be returning to

Pagosa Springs to educate us again. Check out these new and mindblowing procedures with your friends and family.

Future programming

On April 17, we will have a guest facilitator, Sam Conti, who is a counselor. She will help us figure out how to be most helpful and supportive of people in the grief process. We will also consider any other suggested topic. If someone wants to present something anonymously, write a note to give to the leader as soon as you arrive. This is a great opportunity with no unacceptable topic.

On May 15, we will be hearing from Dr. Pam Kircher. I hope to have copies of her book for people to purchase who would like to have extra study and discussion sessions in May, June and July to discuss near-death experiences. On May 15, we will set up how to handle extra sessions on this topic of great interest.

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

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Geothermal Greenhouse Partnership to show 'Common Ground' for annual fundraiser

By Keith Bruno

Geothermal Greenhouse Partnership

Please join the Geothermal Greenhouse Partnership (GGP) for our annual spring Environmental Film Fundraiser on Tuesday, April 22, from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Liberty Theater.

We'll be honoring this year's Earth Day with a live screening of the film "Common Ground," a sequel to "Kiss the Ground," which grabbed audiences' attention with regenerative agriculture solutions to combat the climate crisis.

As part of a "Global Watch Par-

ty," we will be watching the initial streaming of the film along with millions of people worldwide.

Tickets are \$25 (children under 13 go for free) and can be purchased either at the door on the day of or in advance at our website. With the purchase of a ticket, attendees will be eligible for door prizes from local businesses.

The event will kick off with a short piece by local filmmaker Darryl Saffer entitled "Pagosa is My Name."

The GGP is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose mission is to edagricultural practices by producing food year-round using local renewable energy.

To learn more about the GGP or secure tickets, visit our website at pagosagreen.org.



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Sexual Assault Awareness Month: Learn, act and change

By Phoebe Schroeder

Rise Above Violence

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM), and this week, we're focusing on how we can come together as a community to learn, act and change.

At Rise Above Violence, we believe that preventing sexual violence isn't always just about policies or training; it's about culture. It's about how we talk to each other, how we show up for one another and how we respond when something feels off. Everyone has a role to play in making our community safer.

Learn: understanding what sexual violence really looks like

Sexual assault doesn't always look like what we see on TV. It can happen in relationships, between friends or behind closed doors. It includes any sexual activity without clear, freely given, enthusiastic consent.

Consent isn't just a "yes"— it's a yes that's informed, honest and ongoing. It can be withdrawn at any time. And it cannot be given by someone who is intoxicated, impaired or unconscious.

Coercion is not consent. Pressuring someone through guilt, fear or manipulation is not OK. Everyone deserves the space to say "yes" or "no" without fear of consequences. And a "yes" founded in fear of repercussions or backlash is not real consent.

And let's be clear: If someone agrees to sex with a condom and the other person secretly takes it off, that's stealthing, and it's sexual assault

Act: Interrupt the patterns

Small actions matter. When we ignore uncomfortable jokes, brush off boundary-pushing behavior, or stay quiet about harassment, we send a message that those things are normal. But they're not.

Sexual harassment — like unwanted comments, repeated advances or gestures that make someone feel uncomfortable — is real harm. It's not "just a joke," and it's not about being "too sensitive." It's about respect.

You don't have to be an expert to speak up. Just noticing and saying, "Hey, that's not OK," can shift the tone. You don't have to have all the answers; you just have to show that you care.

Change: Build the culture you want to live in

When we make room for people to speak up, to feel heard and to be believed, we create something powerful. We build trust. We build safety. We build a culture where survivors don't feel ashamed and where violence has no room to grow.

This isn't about blame. It's about responsibility. And the good news is we can all be part of the change.

Whether you're setting boundaries, checking in on a friend or just

learning more about consent and healthy relationships, it all matters.

Together we rise

If this feels overwhelming, you're not alone. The truth is, this is big. But so is our capacity for change. One conversation, one moment of courage, one person choosing to do things differently — that's how culture shifts.

This April let's rise against silencenot with judgment, but with curiosity, compassion and commitment.

Let's learn, act and change so that together we rise.

Want to get involved with Rise Above Violence and make a real impact in our community?

There are so many ways to join the movement: become a volunteer advocate, support community outreach, or take part in this month's fundraiser, the 12th annual Push-Up Challenge on April 23.

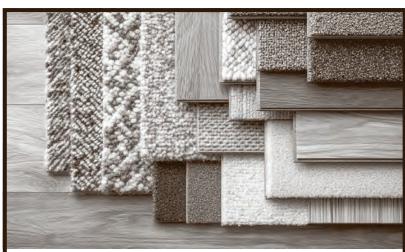
Together, we'll be pushing up survivors in our community, raising strength, support, and awareness. It's a powerful way to show up, speak out and fun-raise for a cause that matters.

Learn more and get involved at www.riseaboveviolence.org/push-up-challenge.

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Five-week women's book study to focus on 'Imagine the God of Heaven: Near Death Experiences'

By Shanna Robb

Pagosa Catholic Community

If you could behold what heaven and hell were like, would you change how you live? What if the existence of a loving God was proved by non-Christians?

Questions like these will be discussed during an upcoming book study hosted by the Pagosa Springs Catholic Women's Fellowship. The book being studied is "Imagine the God of Heaven: Near Death Experiences," written by New York Times bestselling author John Burke.

A self-described skeptical agnostic turned Christian, Burke's investigative journey started after his father died from cancer.

With millions of people around the world reporting a near-death experience, Burke has dedicated the past three decades studying the commonalities of stories from those brought back from clinical death.

His comprehensive analysis not

only proved the existence of a wondrous God that correlated with the Bible, it changed the course of his life and beliefs.

Burke's book introduces true stories of nearly 70 people from every continent, ethnicity and social status. True stories that include many who did not believe in the existence of God, heaven or hell prior to being clinically dead and subsequently resuscitated.

The captivating stories of Burke's book reveal God's kingdom, His loving story for us, and His invitation for a personal relationship that starts here and now.

All women seeking a community of women with hearts turned toward God are invited to unveil the wonders of Burke's book in a small group format. The book is available online.

The five-week book study will start with a video introduction on Monday, April 14, followed by the second session on April 28.

The Women's Fellowship meets at

Pope John Paul II Catholic Church, located at 353 S. Pagosa Blvd. Rosary is at 9 a.m., followed by the book study and fellowship from 9:30 to 11 a.m.

For more information about the Women's Fellowship, visit Ihmjp2. org.



I'm Alex Boehmer, currently serving on the PAWSD Board of Directors and running for re-election.

I'm a 2012 Pagosa Springs High School graduate, husband, father, and former volunteer firefighter.

I'm passionate about protecting your family budget and our water security.



OPPOSE LARGE RATE HIKES

Every dollar of rate hikes must be challenged and justified. This year, as a new Board member, elected to be Board Treasurer, I opposed a planned 30% sewer rate increase — and we lowered it to 10%. Not low enough, but a good start.

COMPREHENSIVE FIRE PLAN

STEP ONE: Test every fire hydrant in the district — in cooperation with the County and Fire District if possible — or by PAWSD alone, if necessary. No excuses. Starting immediately.

STEP TWO: Develop a collaborative Fire District, County and PAWSD action plan to use our reservoirs to directly attack wildland fires threatening our homes. We must plan for the large fires which threaten entire neighborhoods — and not merely react.

FINALLY STOP DRY GULCH

The unjustifiable and reckless Dry Gulch Reservoir is a \$400 million disaster which threatens to impose a \$65,000 second mortgage on every Pagosa family and business. We can triple our water supply by finally connecting the reservoirs we already have, at less than 1% of that \$400 million cost.

FIX THE LEAKS

Water losses are threatening to get worse as our water infrastructure ages — and repairing and replacing pipes is expensive. It's time to sell the \$10 million Dry Gulch property and invest that money to fix the leaks. Any other approach to water loss will hike rates higher.

Ballots will be mailed in mid-April. If re-elected, I promise to protect your family budget... and our water future.

Learn more at: www.AlexForPAWSD.com
Paid for by Alex Boehmer

Community United Methodist Church to host climate expert for Earth Day-themed talk

Community United Methodist Church

The Community United Methodist Church is continuing its Abundant Health series with a timely and powerful session on environmental health.

The session is set for Thursday, April 24, at 6 p.m. at 434 Lewis St.

This installment, titled "Climate Change: Our Power, Our Planet," will feature Dr. Terry Root, Nobel Prize-winning scientist and professor emerita at Stanford University.

Root will speak on this year's Earth Day theme, offering both inspiration and practical guidance on how individuals can take meaningful steps to help combat climate change.

This event is free and open to the public. Donations are appreciated. All are welcome to join the conversation and explore ways we can care for our shared planet, together.



2016 & 2018 Spirit Award, 2019 Realtor of the Year

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, 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. 5:30 p.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd.
- 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 Procession and Eucharist Service. 8 a.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd.
- Palm Sunday Mass. 9 a.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church, 353 S. Pagosa Blvd.
- Palm Sunday Service. 9 a.m., Our Savior Lutheran Church, 56 Meadows Drive.
- Palm Sunday Procession and Eucharist Service. 10 a.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 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.
- Maundy Thursday Holy Communion. 6 p.m., Trinity Anglican Church, 246 Harman Park Drive.
- Holy Thursday Service. 6:30 p.m., Our Savior Lutheran Church, 56 Meadows Drive.
- Maundy Thursday Liturgy Service. 6:30 p.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd.
- 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.
- Good Friday Chief Service. Noon, Our Savior Lutheran Church, 56 Meadows Drive.
- Good Friday Worship Service. Noon, St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd.
- 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.
- Good Friday Service. 6 p.m., Trinity Anglican Church, 246 Harman Park Drive.
- Good Friday Service. 6 p.m., Pagosa Bible Church, 209 Harman Park
- Good Friday Tenebrae Vespers. 6:30 p.m., Our Savior Lutheran Church, 56 Meadows Drive.

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.
- Saturday Easter Vigil. 6:30 p.m., Our Savior Lutheran Church, 56 Meadows Drive.
- Easter Vigil. 8 p.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church, 353 S. Pagosa

Sunday, April 20

- Easter Vigil. 6 a.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa
- Easter Sunrise Service. 7 a.m., Our Savior Lutheran Church, 56 Meadows Drive.
- Easter Eucharist Service. 8 a.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd. Instrumental music. followed by coffee and an Easter egg hunt at 9:15 a.m.
- Easter Sunday Service. 8:15 a.m., Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St.
- Easter Mass. 9 a.m., Pope John Paul Il Catholic Church, 353 S. Pagosa Blvd.
- Easter Service. 9:30 a.m., Pagosa Springs High School auditorium. Hosted by Grace in Pagosa. A kids' Easter egg hunt will follow the service.
- Easter Sunday Service. 9:30 a.m., Pagosa Bible Church, 209 Harman Park Drive.
- Easter Day Service. 10 a.m., Our Savior Lutheran Church, 56 Meadows Drive.
- Easter Sunday Holy Communion. 10 a.m., Trinity Anglican Church, 246 Harman Park Drive.
- Festival Eucharist Service with Choral Music. 10 a.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd.
- Easter Sunday Service. 10 a.m., Restoration Fellowship, 264 Village Drive.
- 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.

The Weekly Crossword

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1 Flows back

ACROSS

- 5 Washington's portraitist
- 10 "Fernando" group
- 14 Romance novelist Roberts
- 15 Wall climbers
- 16 Golfer's need
- -clad
- 18 Cartoonish portrait
- 20 Like some humor 45
- 22 Still in the outbox
- 23 Black tie is one
- 26 Coffeehouse packets
- 28 Forsaker of the faith
- 33 Mia in "Pulp Fiction"
- 34 Coconut meat
- 36 Mortise's mate
- 37 Treat poorly
- 39 Falcons, on scoreboards
- 40 Flip response?
- 41 Meat avoider
- 42 Trash
- 44 Singer Rawls
- 45 Constructing, as a building
- 47 Good-fornothing
- 49 Adding to
- 51 Bassett of "Black Panther"
- 55 Art done with acid
- 58 Shade of red
- 61 Berry in smoothies
- 62 Indigo dye
- **63** Finger-pointer
- 64 "Nail" anagram
- 65 Runs into
- 66 Healing plants
- 67 First Lady of Song

DOWN

1 "National Velvet" author Bagnold

- 2 Snoozefest
- 3 Railroad track width
- 4 Justice O'Connor
- 5 "Guernica" painter
- 6 Captain America portrayer Chris
- 7 It can be fresh or hot
- 8 Waikiki welcome
- 9 Old Portuguese money
- 10 Plays a part
- **11** Down in the dumps
- 12 Get too much sun
- 13 Assist illegally
- 19 Numbing drug
- 21 Data ranking
- 24 Hauling charge
- 25 Milky gems
- 26 Smooth-tongued 27 Brownish color
- 29 Three-way joint
- **30** Having similarity

31 Big fusses

60

- 32 Follow as a result
- 35 King protectors
- 38 Small pouch 43 Walks unsteadily
- 46 Sumerian goddess of love
- 48 Get some air
- **50** Rapp of "Mean Girls"
- 51 Miles off

52 Vessel of 1492

by Margie E. Burke

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- 53 Dismal
- 54 Snaky swimmers
- 56 Polish place?
- **57** Actress Gershon
- 59 "For Me and My
- 60 "If you ask me," in a text

Answers to Previous Crossword:



Subscribe to The SUN PagosaSUN.com

SpiritFire Inspirational Living Center announces upcoming events

By Shayla McClure

SpiritFire Inspirational Living Center

The Sunday service at 11 a.m. on April 13 will be a manifestation meditation on "Moving Into Your Authentic Power" with Shayla Azriel.

Azriel is a medicine woman, speaker, writer, master herbalist and spiritual minister.

A love donation will be accepted.

Upcoming events

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

- April 12, 6 p.m.: Full moon pink paschal moon drumming circle. A love donation of \$10 will be accepted.
 - April 19, 11 a.m.: Book sale. We

are releasing our spiritual library books to find a good home.

- 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.

Whether you're a longtime member or visiting for the first time, we'd love to have you with us as we celebrate the true meaning of Easter. Date: Sunday, April 20th Time: 10:00 AM Location: 264 Village Drive Bring the whole family for a morning of worship, hope, and fun! After the service, children are invited to participate in our Easter egg hunt. Don't forget your baskets!

Unitarian Universalists announce upcoming services

By De Anna Hoyle

Pagosa Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

As we turn our attention toward lengthening days, we know that in the Rocky Mountains we wait. More than likely, it will snow again and again as spring makes it way up the mountains.

We give thanks for the added moisture whenever it arrives, and the Pagosa Unitarian Universalist Fellowship gathers each month to share in a small group setting we call Going Deeper Sharing Circle.

This offering on the second Sunday of the month is from 10:30 a.m. to noon and is for those with curious minds and open hearts. We come together to share with one another and practice

deep listening. We explore themes of recent topics and leave space for reflection through poetry, music and personal sharing. We invite you, even if you are not a regular attendee or have ever been to the fellowship. Come to make friends and practice the art of listening with others as we grow our spirits. Light refreshments are offered.

Also on Sunday, April 13, is the Meditation Practice and Dharma Talk from 9 to 10:15 a.m.

Facilitated by Dan Dempster, a certified meditation instructor and Buddhist teacher, authorized by Lama Migmar, Harvard Buddhist chaplain. All are welcome. You do not need to be Buddhist to benefit from these beautiful, authentic practices. Just bring a kind heart and an open

mind. We can even help you to find those. Join us.

We meet at Unit B-15 of the Greenbriar Plaza, 301 N. Pagosa Blvd., on the north side facing the Pagosa Peak. We also offer Zoom services the first and third Sundays of the month.

Find our current newsletter at PagosaUU.org for the link to join, and to find our current programs.

www.PagosaSUN.com

Trinity Anglican Church welcomes new vicar

By Jeanette Hill

Trinity Anglican Church of Pagosa Springs

Trinity Anglican Church is pleased to introduce to the Pagosa Springs community our new vicar, the Rev. Nicholas Ziegenhagen. He will begin his ministry here during Holy Week.

Ziegenhagen comes to us from Tyler, Texas, where he served alongside Bishop Walter Banek at Good Shepherd Church and School as associate rector and school headmaster. He brings experience, energy and creativity to this new beginning in the life and growth of our church.

He and his wife, Sarah, and their family of six children enjoy many of the activities Pagosa offers, and we predict that they will soon become "locals" like the rest of us transplants.

We welcome visitors to worship with us during Holy Week, as Ziegenhagen leads in our celebration of the central core of our faith — Christ's sacrificial death and glorious resurrection:

- April 17: Maundy Thursday Holy Communion at 6 p.m.
- April 18: Good Friday service at 6 p.m.
- April 20: Easter Sunday Holy Communion at 10 a.m.

As a Reformed Episcopal church, Trinity Anglican offers communion to all baptized Christians.

We do not yet have separate child care available, but we always enjoy having children with us in our services.

Trinity Anglican Church is located at 246 Harman Park Drive.

For more information about Trinity Anglican and the Reformed Episcopal Church, check out our website, www.trinityanglicanchurch.org.

Shop the SUN classifieds.





Photo courtesy Healthy Archuleta

Healthy Archuleta is offering a series of classes that will focus on gardening basics. The classes will begin April 23 and continue for the following four Wednesdays.

HUD Publisher's Notice



EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

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

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

Healthy Archuleta to offer series of classes on gardening basics

Healthy Archuleta

Are you interested in learning about gardening and growing fresh vegetables? Healthy Archuleta is offering a series of classes that will focus on gardening basics.

The classes are being offered starting Wednesday, April 23, from 5 to 7 p.m. and will continue for the following four Wednesdays: April 30, May 7, May 14 and May 21.

The Vista Lake Community Garden and Pagosa Springs Community Garden have both graciously offered to provide space in their beds so that class participants can get some hands-on experience in what it takes to start a vegetable garden. The classes will cover basic knowledge about soil, how and when to start seeds, pest and disease control, and proper irrigation.

Registration is open now and spots are limited. To register, complete the registration form at https://form.jotform.com/250646054697061 or visit Healthy Archuleta's calendar of events and look under the garden course at https://www.foodcoalition-4archuleta.org/events--happenings. html.

Gardening in Pagosa Springs presents some challenges when it comes to maintaining vegetable gardens. Weather, wildlife and access to water all play roles in how successful a growing season will turn out. With the short growing season of approximately 90 days, the amount of time needed to get seeds and start out into garden beds in time can have everyone watching the calendar.

However, the limited growing season can be extended by a few more weeks with a little creativity.

With access to a greenhouse, a grow dome or even a high tunnel,

growing vegetables is possible as early as April and as late as October, given the right conditions.

Most vegetables will grow and mature in anywhere from 45 days to 65 days; this is true of most greens once seeds have germinated. Long-season crops such as tomatoes, squash or peppers will begin producing within 65 to 90 days; these fall within that three-month peak temperature range, that prime time to get the most out of what grows in the ground.

However, aside from the mechanics of vegetable gardening, there are other important aspects of gardening

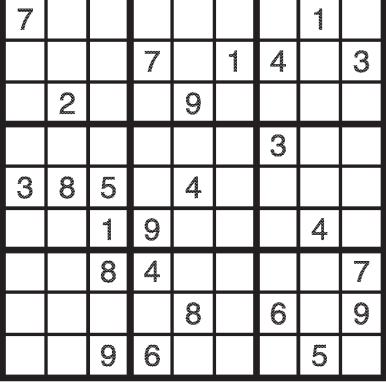
Gardening is good for our health for a number of reasons. Usually, exercise is at the top of that list, and it's true, being outdoors and getting a dose of vitamin D is definitely beneficial, and it can be a good boost to our mental health. There are also the economic benefits of growing fresh fruits and vegetables in home gardens. Given the price of groceries today, growing something as easy as potatoes or onions can make a difference in our pocketbook over a season. Gardening is also a way to meet our neighbors and make connections in the community.

Now is a great time to learn how to garden and start growing some of your own food, connect with some fellow gardeners and spend some time outside in the garden.

Register now to participate in the upcoming Seed to Supper garden course at https://form.jotform.com/250646054697061 or visit Healthy Archuleta's calendar of events and look under the garden course at https://www.foodcoalition-4archuleta.org/events--happenings. html.

■ See Healthy on next page

SUDOKU



Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles?
Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Level: Advanced

Here's How It Works:

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

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ANSWER:

Build Pagosa annual dinner, auction to be held May 2

Build Pagosa

Build Pagosa is bridging the gap between educational skills training and the urgent needs of our labor force and creating economic opportunities across the region by providing the facilities, equipment, and instructional resources for evidence-informed career and technical education (CTE).

In an article last week, we provided a little history about the start of the Build Pagosa organization, thanks to Larry Ash and Tor Hessman.

Hessman, who was our first CTE teacher highlighted, is followed by another amazing teacher. His name is Adam Taylor.

Taylor started from scratch and for the last three years has overseen the automotive classes, metal fabrication and welding at Pagosa Springs High School, and started the first Auto Club of its kind.

Taylor is high class — a certified Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) master technician (25+ years), he was previously a technical team leader and curriculum developer at the Universal Technical Institute (UTI), where he was assigned to write and rewrite advanced programs nationally for UTI as well as for Ford Motor Company. He is certified to work on any manufacturers and types of automobiles. It's pretty impressive to have such a quality instructor in our own high school.

Taylor is a strong advocate for his students as he believes that all students, no matter their background, gender or situation, be given the opportunity to "flip that switch," discover and learn they are capable to excel in this field. His classes confirm

this as they include 30 to 50 percent female and a diversity of students including Native American, Hispanic and African American. Some have already become employed right out of high school.

His program encompasses Metal Fabrication/Welding 1 and 2, Auto 1 and Auto 2.

Fabrication 1 is available to all students, including freshmen, where they get an overview of Occupational Safety and Health Administration safety, shop safety, how to use all equipment, cut metal, bend metal, use blow torches, use a plasma cutter and enjoy creating their first project, etc., followed by weeks of welding. After these four weeks, if they pass a test, it gives them the chance to use an MIG welding machine, which provides a different kind of welding,

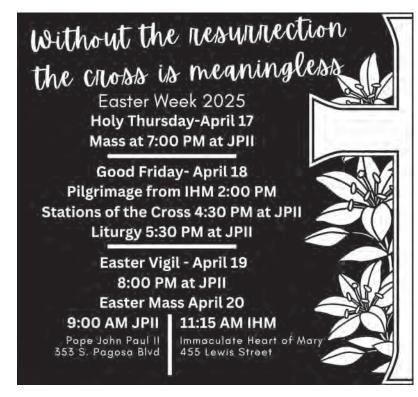
■ See Auction on next page

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Jesus rode into Jerusalem on the foal of a donkey People lined the road with branches, shouting "Hosanna!" Come Sunday! 10am.

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Shop the SUN classifieds.

Healthy

■ continued from previous page

Spots are limited, so register today. For more information on Healthy Archuleta and learn about future events, please visit our website at www.foodcoalition4archuleta. org. You can also keep up to date by following Healthy Archuleta on our Facebook and Instagram.

Volunteer coordinator wanted

Healthy Archuleta is all about empowering the community and working to make sure everyone has access to healthy food and healthcare.

We're all about learning and growing together to create a thriving environment for health and well-being. Our mission has been made possible by the incredible volunteers who've been with us through thick and thin, supporting our ongoing projects. But we're always on the lookout for passionate and organized folks to join our team.

time of singing, scripture reading, communion and

a short message.

We're currently seeking a volunteer coordinator to help us make a real difference. This is an unpaid volunteer role that'll take around three to five hours a week.

As our volunteer coordinator, you'll be the heart and soul of our volunteer program, making sure everyone feels engaged and valued. Your primary role is to collaborate with our team to help recruit, interview, offer training and supervise volunteers. You'll also be the main point of contact for our team, helping us identify volunteer needs and match them with the right opportunities. You'll be responsible for organizing volunteer recognition and appreciation events, and you'll help us develop and maintain volunteer guidelines and procedures.

We're looking for someone who's organized, communicative and passionate about making a difference in our community. This is a great opportunity to contribute to building

an Easter Egg Hunt!

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a community where everyone has the chance to contribute and benefit from healthy eating and overall well-being.

If you're interested in joining our team, please reach out to Healthy Archuleta at fsfearchuleta@gmail.com.

To learn more about our work and activities, please check out our website at https://www.foodcoalition4archuleta.org/. Together, we can make our community healthier and more vibrant.



Our Savior Lutheran Church, School, and Mercy Care Ministry invite you to join us for Easter Worship Services.

56 Meadows Drive



Palm Sunday, 9 am Holy Thursday, 6:30 pm Good Friday Chief Service, 12 noon Good Friday Tenebrae Vespers, 6:30 pm Saturday Easter Vigil, 6:30 pm Easter Sunrise, 7 am Easter Day, 10 am

Sundays, a Divine Worship Service at 9 am

OSLC is thoroughly committed to everything the Bible teaches. We are a congregation uniquely devoted to liturgical worship, to catechesis (Christian education), and to the centrality of the Holy Communion and other Sacraments in the life of the Christian.

Auction

■ continued from previous page

one of the highest-quality provided within his budget.

Fabrication 2, an advanced and project-based course, is meant to build stronger student's skills set and give the students a chance to TIG weld, a process that creates high-quality welds.

In sophomore year, Auto 1 class is available each semester. The program is such a great tool for students whether they choose to pursue a career in the field or not. From the start, Taylor doesn't wait and puts his students right in the midst of it all.

Students first experiment with tools and learn how to use a lift, tire machine, practice soldering and light repairs. One of the interesting assignment is to take an engine apart, identify the parts, put it back together and make it start.

Once they graduate from Auto 1, students have the option to take Auto 2, which is the next level for a more advanced and career base. There, students delve deeper into improving their mechanical abilities, such as brake's system technology, electrical technology, HVAC and acquiring the tools to start their own business.

Auto 2, which at times has a wait list, can be taken as many times as you want, always exploring exciting subjects as Taylor offers something different each time. It's a great way to acquire diversified knowledge.

Students can then become certified in MLR (maintenance and light repair) through ASE after completing his program. This is the only ASE certification that can be earned at the high school level.

A few of his former students are already employed in town.

To attend the Auto Club, you must first apply and pass Auto 1 class. It is set on Thursdays at the high school from 4 to 6 p.m. Taylor started this club to give his students the chance to practice, build projects (hot rod), spend time with others, even occasionally opening his Saturdays for it — all this on his own time.

At one of the Auto Club meetings, nine students were in attendance and were divided in two groups. Somehow, one was all girls and the other all boys by the choice of the students.

One group, all girls, was in charge of cleaning the differentials, installing a battery, gas tank and putting the radiator back inside a T. Bucket/hot rod. The other group worked on a Chevy truck, replacing the brackets, remounting the differential and shaft and pulling out the stereo to figure out how to make it work.

Taylor has a deep passion for his work and students. His classes are well attended, but have a limit of about 12 students, not only for safety reasons, but also for better teaching.

He makes it so interesting that one of his students, Hannah, started metal fabrication and switched quickly to Auto 1. For her it was "more fun,



Photo courtesy Build Pagosa

Students learn automotive skills through hands-on work at Pagosa Springs High School.

more to do and more experimenting."

Taylor hopes to get an ASE professional and refrigerant certification in place, as this will give such a high level of workmanship his students will be able to use directly in the workforce. This is one of the highest qualifications one can achieve at the high school level.

One of the results of his instruction and caring for his students: a large number of his students have stated that they stayed in school so not to miss his classes. There are a few stories of students who had no direction, considered dropped out of school and came back thanks to Taylor's classes.

That is making a difference.

If this was not impressive enough, Taylor chose to leave this career to come to our small town to teach our kids, giving them an amazing chance to earn a great living and improve the numbers in our qualified workforce. This is a benefit to us, to our whole community.

Taylor hopes to raise awareness and support from the community so this program can continue and expand. The benefits of CTE classes are showing daily — there's nothing like a smile on students' faces learning and discovering something they can be proud of and use for the rest of their lives.

We are extremely fortunate to have him.

Opportunities to be involved

Our upcoming event will be our annual dinner and auction on May 2 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Ross Aragon Community Center.

Next school year, Taylor hopes to have an open house event scheduled at the high school. There will be demonstrations by those talented students on automotive and metal fabrication.

Other CTE teachers will be in attendance as well. More information to come in the next few months. In the meantime, if you are interested in attending the event or would like more information, feel free to contact us. We will keep you updated.

Please check our website (Build-Pagosa.org) or contact us at officemanager@buildpagosa.org or Marie@buildpagosa.org.

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Bird of the Week



Photo courtesy Charles Martinez

This week's Bird of the Week, compliments of the Weminuche Audubon Society and Audubon Rockies, is the long-billed dowitcher.

Spring migration, one of the amazing phenomena of migratory birds, provides opportunities for us to observe birds that we don't usually get to see. Oftentimes the chances are fleeting and birds are here today and gone tomorrow. Many travel under the cover of night and drop down early in the morning to rest and feed during the day before moving on.

The long-billed dowitcher is one of these migrants to be on the lookout for now. In spring they travel from wintering grounds found along the Pacific and Gulf coasts and in Mexico to breeding grounds in eastern Russia, northern Alaska and extreme northwestern Canada. In fall they make the trip in reverse.

These medium-sized shorebirds appear front-heavy and have long bills. In breeding plumage, they are cinnamon-colored below and patterned brown on the back. They have a long, pale eyebrow and in flight show a white triangular patch above the tail. Fall birds and juveniles are grayish. Short-billed dowitchers are very similar in appearance, but more likely to be found in saltwater habitats.

Long-billed dowitchers probe deeply with their bills into wet mud or sand to capture insects and aquatic invertebrates. They prefer to feed in freshwater areas where the water is less than 3 inches deep. Like those of other sandpipers, the tips of their bills have many tactile receptors and they locate their buried food by touch. Characteristically, they pump their heads in a sewing machine fashion and communicate with each other in twittering calls while feeding.

Take a moment to be amazed when you spot one of these birds here. They nest in some of the most remote parts of the planet, guided along the way by means still not completely understood. Soon after chicks hatch, the female leaves the nest. The male stays behind to guard the chicks until they fledge in 20-30 days, but it's up to them to find their own food.

When it's time to head south, females migrate first, then males, and finally the juveniles on their own, which somehow make it to a place they've never been before. It's all a part of the magic of migration.

For information on events, visit www.weminucheaudubon.org and www.facebook.com/weminucheaudubon/.

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CAN OVEREATING SUPPRESS YOUR IMMUNE SYSTEM?

At this point you are more educated about your immune system than you probably ever were. The immune system is strong, but it's also delicate and requires proper support and management. Here's another way to provide it with what it needs. Note today's excerpt below. The body requires energy to function properly. Carefully planned nutrition must provide a balance of energy and of nutrients.

Carbohydrates - our main source of energy, consisting of complex carbohydrates and simple sugars

Fats - one source of energy and important in relation to fat-soluble vitamins

Minerals - inorganic elements that occur in the body and are critical to normal functioning

Proteins - essential to growth and repair of muscle and other body tissues

Roughage (fiber) - the fibrous indigestible portion of our diet from plants that is essential to health of the digestive system

Vitamins - water and fat-soluble vitamins play important roles in many chemical processes in the body

Water - essential to normal body functioning, and a means to distribute other nutrients throughout the body; 60-70% of the human body is made of water

Immune system maintenance requires a steady intake of energy in the form of all the nutrients. Those who under-eat run a greater risk of contracting infections. Dieters taking in less than 1200 calories per day can also suffer from reduced immune function. Overeating may also compromise the immune system's ability to fight infection. Obesity is linked to an increased rate of infectious disease. Furthermore, obese people are more likely to develop coronary heart disease, which has been linked to alterations in immune function. Additionally, highly fatty diets appear to depress the immune response, increasing the risk of infections. Reducing fat content in the diet can increase immune activity. Studies show this does not just affect infections but could also strengthen the type of immune cells, which can fight the growth of tumor cells. Source: "Nutrition for Immune Deficiency." http://

Bonus Tip: Visit http://www.AmazingFacts.org for spiritual refreshment every week! "Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand." Philippians 4:5

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

Disclaimer: This and all our Nature's Remedies are for health information purposes only. The Seventh Day Adventist Church is not responsible for results.



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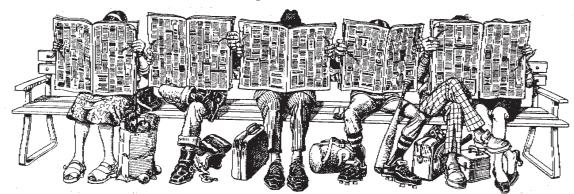
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Preview Calendar

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

Thursday, April 10

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.

Archuleta County Public Health
Department Open House. 4-6
p.m., Archuleta County Public
Health Department, 502 S. 8th St.
Learn more about the department's
services and meet the team.

English as a Second Language. 4-7 p.m., Sisson Library. Your library offers English as a second language classes. These classes are free. Call (970) 264-2209 or email for more information. Beginning students are encouraged to attend from 4-5 p.m., intermediate students from 5-6 p.m. and advanced students from 6-7 p.m.

PALS Adult Education. 5:30-8 p.m., Sisson Library. Pagosa Adult Learning Services, or PALS, can help you with high school equivalency, GED, college prep, financial aid, tutoring and more. Mark can help you develop a plan to achieve your education goals. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information.

Friday, April 11

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.

Friday Flix. 2-3:30 p.m., Sisson Library. Participants will choose between a selection of PG-rated movies.

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.

Spring Fling Wine Pairing Soiree.
6-8 p.m., Community Center, 451
Hot Springs Blvd. Join Archuleta
Seniors Inc. for a selection of curated wines, savory appetizers and
chocolates, as well as live music
from Gus Palma. The event will
also feature a silent auction and
door prizes. Tickets are available
at https://givebutter.com/SpringFlingWinePairing, by calling (970)
264-2167 or by visiting the organization's office.

Saturday, April 12

Hora de Cuento Bilingual Storytime. 10-11 a.m. Join for an educational

hour of reading and singing in Spanish, and free play.

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

Pagosa Springs Scrapbooking and Crafters Club. 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Community Center.

Chimney Rock Interpretive Association Volunteer Open House.
Noon-2 p.m., Chimney Rock Interpretive Association Office, 2035
Eagle Drive, Suite 107. Learn about the various roles available, ask questions and understand how you can contribute to Chimney Rock National Monument's mission.

Knitters Circle. 1-3 p.m., Sisson

Library. Join new or experienced knitters to get help with your project, or sit and knit

Monday, April 14

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

Women's Fellowship. 9 a.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church classrooms

Women's Fellowship Book Study. 9:30-11 a.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church.

Line Dancing. 9:30-11 a.m., PLPOA Clubhouse, 230 Port Ave. Beginners meet at 9:30 a.m. and the advance group meets at 10:15 a.m. If you haven't attended before, please call Beverly at (970) 264-2064 for more information.

Brain Fitness and Mobility. 10-10:45 a.m., Senior Center. For anyone 21 and older.

■ See Calendar on next page

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> Friday May 2, doors open @ 5:30 pm Ross Aragon Community Center

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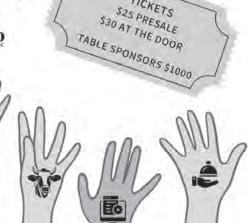
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Preview Calendar

- **■** continued from previous page
- Senior Conversations. 1:15 p.m., Senior Center.
- Healthy Aging and Yoga Therapy Class. 2:30-3:30 p.m., Senior
- High School Math Tutoring. 4-5:30 p.m., Sisson Library. Math tutors are available for ages 14 and up. Registration is required.
- Deepening the Faith Classes. 6-8 p.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church classrooms.
- DivorceCare/DivorceCare for Kids. 6-7:30 p.m., Centerpoint Church, 2750 Cornerstone Drive. A 13-week program that provides a safe environment for people who have gone through, are going through or are considering divorce and features experts on divorce and recovery topics. DivorceCare for Kids is for kids 5-12, with topics mirroring the adult sessions. For more information, email Jim Shook at jshookup@ gmail.com or the church at admin@ centerpointpagosa.com. You can register online at www.divorcecare.

Tuesday, April 15

- Pagosa Springs Stitchers. 10 a.m.noon, Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St. Bring your current stitching project and a snack/drink if you wish, and enjoy the fellowship of other stitchers. All are welcome.
- **Veterans for Veterans of Archuleta** County. 10 a.m., Pagosa Bible Church, 209 Harman Park Drive. Veterans and family members are invited to share experiences with vets of all ages. Find out about the latest in vets benefits, vets news and community-focused events. Contact (970) 880-8387 for more details
- Tech Time. 10 a.m.- noon, Sisson Library. Basic questions related to computers, smartphones, tablets, etc. Bring your device charger. We provide assistance with accessing any of the library's online resources. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information.
- Adult DIY. 1-2:30 p.m., Sisson Library. Lean an ancient way to weave with cards taught by Gloria. Everything needed will be provided. Registration is required.
- 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
- Mahjong. 1:15 p.m., Senior Center. Pagosa Springs Varsity Baseball. 3 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School. Pagosa Springs vs. Durango dou-
- Pagosa Springs Varsity Girls' Soccer. 4 p.m., Golden Peaks Stadium. Pagosa Springs High School vs. Bayfield.
- English as a Second Language. 4-7 p.m., Sisson Library. Your library offers English as a second lan-

- guage classes. These classes are free. Call (970) 264-2209 or email for more information. Beginning students are encouraged to attend from 4-5 p.m., intermediate students from 5-6 p.m. and advanced students from 6-7 p.m.
- 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.
- Lecture: 'Bears Ears Landscape of Refuge and Resistance' with Andy Gulliford. 6-7:30 p.m., Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St. A free lecture hosted by the Chimney Rock Interpretive Association. A Q-and-A period will follow the lecture.

Wednesday, April 16

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-yearolds where the Bible is taught with songs, stories, object lessons, games and more. For more information, email Frank and Connie Porter at ceflittlekids@gmail.com.

Family Storytime. 10-11 a.m., Sisson Library. Join us for great stories, fun songs, and plenty of reasons to get up and move. It's a great way for kids to have fun while building the skills they need to become independent readers. For all ages. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information.

Mountain High Gardeners. 10-11:30 a.m., Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St. Join a group of Archuleta County gardeners for a roundtable discussion on preparing for the spring planting season. Vegetable, flower and landscape gardeners are all welcome.

Lifelong Learning Lecture Series. 1-2:15 p.m., Sisson Library. "To Here and Back: A Basic Look at Astronomy" presented by Pat Hasenbuhler. The presentation will be an informative talk on our night sky and the importance of dark skies in Pagosa Springs and Chimney Rock National Monument.

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. Build essential skills in core subjects. Registration required. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information.

Pagosa Springs High School Booster Club. 5:30 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School.

Current Conversations with Chris. 5:30-7 p.m., Ramon's Mexican Restaurant. An informal gathering and opportunity to engage with Chris Hansen, CEO of La Plata Electric Association, ask questions and learn more about the cooperative's move toward energy independence.

Weminuche Audubon Society. 6 p.m., Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St. Join at 6 p.m. for refreshments and social time before the 6:30 p.m. meeting. The program will highlight the chapter's projects and ways to get involved.

Ladies Night Clothing and Gear Swap. 6-9 p.m., Riff Raff Brewing Company. Bring gently used clothing and gear to swap and discover your next favorite find. Tickets are \$10. A portion of all ticket and

■ See Calendar on next page





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Tickets remain for Friday's **Spring Fling Wine Pairing Soiree**

By Rose Chavez PREVIEW Columnist

Join us for the Archuleta Seniors Inc. (ASI) Spring Fling Wine Pairing Soiree this Friday, 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 soirée will also feature a silent auction with unique items and fantastic door prizes.

Senior News

This event invites everyone singles, couples and groups — to enjoy an unforgettable evening while supporting ASI.

A few tickets remain, so act soon. Purchase tickets at https://givebutter. com/SpringFlingWinePairing, call (970) 264-2167 or visit our office.

Community spring and April birthday celebration

cited to continue to host monthly seasonal and birthday celebrations for community members of all ages.

Fostering social bonds between our community.

The Pagosa Senior Center is ex-

older adults and community members of all ages is vital. Celebrating the spring season with small gestures of connection and compassion can significantly improve emotional well-being, reduce loneliness and promote a sense of belonging among

■ See Senior on next page

Preview Calendar

■ continued from previous page bar sales will benefit Rise Above Violence. For more information. visit www.riseaboveviolence.org/

saam2025.html.

Thursday, April 17

Ruby's Writers Guild. 9-11 a.m., Sisson Library. Ruby's Writers Guild welcomes writers who are looking for opportunities, support and camaraderie with other writers. Members will provide support, resources and guidance for each other.

End of Life Education, 1 p.m., Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St. Sam Conti, counselor, will speak about how to help and support people in the grief process.

Community Spring and April Birthday Celebration. 1:15-2:15 p.m., Senior Center.

Tech Time. 2-4 p.m., Sisson Library. Basic questions related to computers, smartphones, tablets, etc. Bring your device charger. We provide assistance with accessing any of the library's online resources. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information.

English as a Second Language. 4-7 p.m., Sisson Library. Your library offers English as a second language classes. These classes are free, Call (970) 264-2209 or email for more information. Beginning students are encouraged to attend from 4-5 p.m., intermediate students from 5-6 p.m. and advanced students from 6-7 p.m.

PALS Adult Education. 5:30-8 p.m., Sisson Library. Pagosa Adult Learning Services, or PALS, can help you with high school equivalency, GED, college prep, financial aid, tutoring and more. Mark can help you develop a plan to achieve your education goals. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information.

Friday, April 18 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.

Paws to Read. 2-3 p.m., Sisson Library. Read with Maple, a therapy dog who loves stories.

Decorate Denim Day with Rise Above Violence. 2-3 p.m., Sisson Library. Decorate denim jeans and talk about the history of Denim Day and how denim affects our environment today.

Steam Engines. 2-3:30 p.m., Sisson Library. Science fun for ages 6-10.

Saturday, April 19

Fly-fishing Basics. 9 a.m-noon, Pagosa Bible Church. Put on by Pagosa Bible Church. For more information, call (303) 828-6386.

Earth Day. 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Centennial Park. There will be an early mindfulness hour from 9-10 a.m. From 10 a.m.-2 p.m., visitors can enjoy a variety of activities.

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

son Library. For ages 6-11. Bring ence is required.

Pokémon Club. 12:30-2:30 p.m., Sis-

your cards to battle against others who love Pokemon too. No experi-

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Senior

■ continued from previous page

If you have an April birthday and/ or want to join in a low-key, informal spring celebration, come join us Thursday afternoon, April 17, from 1:15 to 2:15 p.m. in the dining hall at the Ross Aragon Community Center, 451 Hot Springs Blvd.

We'll have treats, games, music and opportunities for meaningful connections. Come experience Pagosa love and help us build and strengthen systems of community care. Our community celebrations at the Senior Center are intergenerational, so everyone is welcome.

Supplies are limited and will be provided on a first-come, first-served basis, so arrive early. For more details and updates about these monthly events, please visit our website, www. psseniors.org, or call (970) 264-2167.

Senior discount card

The Senior Center is continuing its annual tradition of providing a local discount card for those ages 60 and better.

The discount card encourages seniors to support local recreational, restaurant, medical and retail services by obtaining a senior discount card for a small fee that serves as a fundraiser for ASI.

These local businesses provide a discount ranging from 5 percent to 20 percent off services.

For more information, visit http:// www.psseniors.org/discount-club. html or stop by our offices at 451 Hot Springs Blvd. to pick up your card. For more information, contact us at (970) 264-2167.

Caregiver support group

Thanks to everyone who joined us for our first caregiver support gathering last Thursday.

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: April 24, May 22, June 26, July 24, July 24, Aug. 28, Sept. 25, Oct. 23, Nov. 20 and Dec. 18.

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

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

No t'ai chi chih in April

The Senior Center offers t'ai chi chih with accredited instructor Patti Popovich to support older adults who want to discover purpose and fulfillment in this transitional phase of life.

This activity will be paused for the month of April and will resume in May. We apologize for any inconveniences.

For more information, call (970)

Scrapbooking and crafters club

The Pagosa Springs Scrapbooking and Crafters club continues to hold monthly meetings the second Saturday of each month from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Ross Aragon Community Center, 451 Hot Springs Blvd., within the dining hall in the Senior Center.

This creative tradition has been happening since 2005, and we invite all creative individuals to come and share ideas, connect with new and old friends, learn/share creative techniques, share supplies and indulge in a potluck lunch together. Bring

■ See Senior on next page

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Free Spring Lifelong Learning series moving to afternoons

By Carole Howard

PREVIEW Columnist, and the library staff

Your library's free Spring Lifelong Learning Lectures takes place on Wednesdays from April 16 through May 21 — and note that they are now happening in the afternoons, from 1 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, these informative and interesting talks will cover a wide variety of topics with talented and knowledgeable speakers:

- April 16 will feature Pat Hasenbuhler, who taught astronomy for 30 years, discussing the importance of dark skies in Pagosa Springs and Chimney Rock National Monument.
- April 23 will showcase Karina Guerrero, a financial planner, explaining the difference between wills and trusts and much more in an estate planning session.

Library News

- April 30 with Kimberley Schooley of the Durango Dementia Coalition will explore what it's like to live well with dementia from a care partner's perspective.
- May 7 with Peggy Bergon will go back into history when Hispanic sheepherders expressed their loneliness and artistic talents with arborglyphs carved on aspen tress.
- May 14 will be a Zoom session by Dayton Romero introducing you to AARP Senior Planet live online classes for seniors on many topics from wellness to finance.
- May 21 will highlight the weather expertise of Arleen Prochazka discussing the 2025 monsoon in the

Southern San Juans.

Pick up a brochure at your library with more details on all these outstanding talks.

■ See Library on next page





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Senior

■ continued from previous page

your scrapbooking projects — or any crafting project that you may want to work on with the group.

Help us create an intergenerational community. Those ages 18 and older are welcome. For those youth age 17 and younger, we kindly request an adult chaperone accompany them.

If you would like to be added to the mailing list, please send your request to copenhavercreative@gmail. com and you will receive notification each month of the upcoming meeting, along with handy tips and tricks for scrapbooking and more.

Meals on Wheels Share lunch Monday through Friday

Open to all. Join us at the Silver Fox's Den, aka the Community Cafe, in person for daily hot/cold meals Mondays through Thursdays at the Community Center between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. It is open to all. Pickup is available all week.

Our dining hall is open to all ages and welcomes you all with kindness and warmth. We provide hot/cold meals for anyone in the community interested in a nutritious and delicious meal. For those 60 or older we request a suggested donation of \$6, but no one will be turned away. There is a \$10.50 charge for guests under the age of 60.

Meals include a main course, side dish, fruit/dessert, garden salad plus beverage.

To reserve your meal for the day, please make your reservation via text

or phone call to (970) 264-2167 by 9 a.m. weekdays.

Community Cafe menu

Thursday, April 10 — Cheeseburger casserole, green beans, garden salad, fruit, chocolate cake and milk.

Friday, April 11 — Vegetarian pasta fagioli, ciabatta bread, garden salad, fruit, brownie and milk.

Monday, April 14 — Tuna salad sandwich on wheat bread, cucumber salad, ancient grains salad, fruit, lemon bar and milk.

Tuesday, April 15 — Pork tenderloin with harvest chutney, baby baked potatoes with sour cream and chives, garden salad, fruit, cottage cheese and milk.

Wednesday, April 16 — Beef fajitas with peppers and onions, guacamole, salsa, tortillas, garden salad, fruit, cookies and milk.

Thursday, April 17 — New England clam chowder, oyster crackers, broccoli, garden salad, pistachio fruit, salad and milk.

Friday, April 18 — Greek chicken with lemon potatoes, orzo salad, garden salad, strawberry shortcake 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.

Library

■ continued from previous page

More elementary tutors needed

We are in need of more tutors for our free elementary tutoring sessions for children ages 6-11 on Wednesdays from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. to help them build essential skills in core subjects.

This program has become so popular that we are looking for more tutors to participate. If you have teaching experience in early grades and are interested, please contact Barb Brattin, library director.

Online author talks

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

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

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

Friday Flix tomorrow

Enjoy a PG movie chosen by participants plus free popcorn Friday, April 11, from 2 to 3:30 p.m.

Bilingual storytime Saturday

Join beloved retired high school Spanish teacher Mrs. Mable Martinez Barber Saturday, April 12, from 10 to 11 a.m. for Hora de Cuentos, a bilingual storytime.

Children will enjoy a story and singing in both English and Spanish as well as a craft and free play together, all aimed at building early literacy skills. This special event happens on the first Saturday of every month.

Adult knitting and needlework Saturday

Join new and experienced knitters Saturday, April 12, for our free Knitters Circle from 1 to 3 p.m. It is aimed at anyone over the age of 18 who would like to knit together or get some help if you are stuck on your project. Any type of needleworker is welcome.

Brain fitness 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 April 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.

Adult DIY next Tuesday

At the free in-person adult DIY next Tuesday, April 15, from 1 to 2:30

p.m., Gloria will teach you an ancient way to weave with cards. All supplies will be provided. Registration is required.

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.

Mysteries, suspense and thrillers

"The Paris Express" by Emma Donoghue is a historical thriller set on a train from Normandy to Paris.

Other novels

"A Constant Love" by Tracie Peterson is a Hope of Cheyenne historical romance. "Harlem Rhapsody" by Victoria Christopher Murray features the first Black woman to become literary editor of a major magazine. "B is for Bonnet" by Shelley Shepard Gray is book two in the Amish ABCs series. "Beach Vibes" by Susan Mallery focuses on an accomplished brother who cheats.

Large print

"High Tea and Misdemeanors" by Laura Childs is a Tea Shop mystery. "The Rivals" by Jane Pek is book two in the Claudia Lin series. "Count My Lies" by Sophie Stava starts with a lie. "Ward D" by Freida McFadden is set in a hospital's mental health unit. "Broken Country" by Clare Leslie Hall tells of a woman pulled back into the life of a past lover. "The Queens of Crime" by Marie Benedict features a secret society of the five greatest women crime writers. "Close Your Eyes and Count to 10" by Lisa Unger focuses on the ultimate game of hide and seek. "Beach Vibes" by Susan Mallery focuses on an accomplished brother who cheats. "Robert Ludlum's The Bourne Vendetta" by Brian Freeman is the latest Jason Bourne adventure. "Battle Mountain" by C.J. Box is a Joe Pickett adventure.

DVDs

"Reagan" stars Dennis Quaid.
"All Creatures Great and Small" is season five. "Thomas Jefferson" and "The Statue of Liberty" are Ken Burns films. "Frasier" is season one. "Billions" is the complete series of 84 episodes. "The Wonders of America's State Parks" and "Epic Engineering Failures and the Lessons They Teach" are Great Courses DVDs.

Nonfiction

"The Ultimate Retirement Guide for 50+" by Suze Orman is a revised and updated version. "Jung: The Key Ideas" by Ruth Snowden explains the ideas of the founder of analytical psychology. "Farm-fresh Charcuterie Spreads" by Lana Stenner offers more than 40 recipes for boards, platters and grazing tables. "Brooke Shields is Not Allowed to Get Old" is a memoir by the actress that focuses on midlife. "Power to the Pelvis" by Alicia Jeffrey-Thomas offers practices and exercises to avoid pelvis problems. "Dancing with a

Porcupine" by Jennie Owens offers advice to parents dealing with children with challenges. "Ageless Aging" by Maddy Dychtwald with Kate Hanley is a woman's guide to feel youthful while gaining wisdom and experience that comes with age. "Victorian Fashions: A Pictorial Archive" contains 965 illustrations selected by Carol Belanger Grafton. "Southern Living 2024 Annual

Recipes" includes all the magazine's recipes from last year.

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.

PAGOSA SPRINGS REAL ESTATE & RELOCATION GUIDE



Overview

New this year is our Business and Service Directory! Ask about being included in this great special section of the publication. Other sections of the guide highlight Pagosa Springs' Business and Economy, Education, Health Care Resources, Real Estate and Construction, Leisure, Active Adults and Getting Settled, making it a useful tool for businesses and families looking to relocate to our beautiful part of Colorado.

Distribution

10,000 copies of the Relocation Guide will be printed for distribution by area businesses, on newsstands and in one edition of The Pagosa Springs SUN. Distribution will begin mid June.

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EVOLVE GROUP ANNOUNCES introductory meeting. Friday, April 18, 4:45p.m. to 5:45p.m. at Ruby M. Sisson Library. This group is organized to discuss human ecology and climate change at the global and local level for education, inspiration, and connection for individual action. For more information or questions please contact Jennifer-Rose at (970)507-1760.

PAGOSA AA: M-W-F 5:30p.m. Mens' meeting Tuesday 5:30p.m. Saturday and Sunday 10a.m. Tuesday and Thursday at noon. 315 N. 2nd St., County Road 200 (.2 miles off 160). Zoom Sunday 10a.m. Zoom Thursday noon women only; ID 858 319 763, password 754 234. Call Kathi (970)946-1482 or Central Office (888)333-9649.

THERE IS A SOLUTION GROUP of Alcoholics Anonymous meets Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, 5:30-6:30p.m. Pagosa Bible Church, 209 Harman Park Drive. Questions? Richard: (970)903-1456. Diamond: (970)264-1073. More resources: www.aa.org, www.aa-westerncolorado.com, (970)245-9649, (888)333-9649 (24 hours).

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Westward Inc.

Call (970) 264-0913

Check out our Quality Works One Sixty Concrete Works on

SERVICES



LAWN CARE **SERVICES**

Mow Lawn • Bush Trimming Seasonal Clean-ups (Gardens) Rock Wall Projects Stain Houses • Plant Work • & More

Adolfo 970-903-1929

VALENZUELA LANDSCAPING Socorro 970-769-9060

Blueprints

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Cole Plumbing

24/7 Service

EMERGENCIES SAME DAY

in most cases

Boiler service & repair

Tankless water heater

specialist

Have your plans drawn now. Don't wait!

Be ready to start your house, barn, garage or deck on time.



190

Call Rick 946-1737

FIREWOOD Snow Removal FIRE & ICE Call Dan • (970) 582-0006

HANDYMAN SERVICE. Noah's Ark Enterprises. (970)901-5298.

HOME IMPROVEMENT: Drywall, Floors, Windows, Doors, Plumbing, Kitchens and Bathrooms, Siding, Decks, Snow Removal! (970)844-0554

Semi-retired plumber 30+ years experience 15+ years in Pagosa Reasonable rates • Local references

Michael • 480-685-6191 I return all calls!

I DO YARD WORK. Pine needles, lawns, pull weeds, etc. Text me at (970)946-8598. Gabriel, \$25/ hour.

KITCHEN DEEP CLEANS now offered by Pagosa Sparkles. Group of high standard cleaners. Window cleaning also available. Text/ call KIM. (970)946-6446.

KRITTER GITTERS, SKUNK AND BAT Busters. We specialize in capturing and removing unwanted rodents and varmints. We don't trap pigs. 50 years experience. lifetime resident. Dan Snow (719)849-8873.

PAGOSA SECURE STORAGE

80 Bastille Dr. • 970-731-8599 Storage units & parking spots Special rates available pagosaspringsrealty.com

LOCAL MOVING SERVICES. Reasonable and reliable. (970)946-2061.

MINT ROOFING Re-roofs, commercial and maintenance. Contact Mint Roofing at (970)426-5255.

PAGOSA SPRINGS STORAGE has all size units available. 24 hour access, gated, with security cameras. Call for specials. (970)731-0007 www.pagosaspringsstorage.com.

PREMIUM PEAK CLEANING and property management, Local, Reliable, Detailed, Call (970)902-3145.

PROFESSIONAL SNOW REMOVAL. - Residential and Commercial, Fully insured, Shovel and salt upon request. Call now for quote. (970)946-4450.

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE/ HOME CARE checks, providing snow removal, landscaping, handyman services. Call Eric (970)946-2061.

SERVICES

NEW ADDITIONS

Kitchen Deep Cleaning **Now Offered!**

Pagosa SPARKLES Detail Oriented, Trustworthy & Reliable Cleaners For All Your Housekeeping

& Window Cleaning Needs

Text/call Kim (970) 946-6446

The Water Runner

Certified Bulk Potable Water Delivery Cistern Deep Cleaning (970) 731-5022

we haul! <u>Since</u> 1999

Handyman & 🙉 🔫 Construction Services

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RICHARD DECLARK ELECTRICAL is available for all your electrical services from remodels to new construction. I have been in Pagosa for 15 years, no job too small or too large. (970)903-1456.

RIVERSTONE CARPET CLEANING. 25 cents/sq. ft. and \$3 per stair. No hidden charges. Owner/operator 20 years experience. Professional, trustworthy and punctual. 100% eco-friendly. Call Mike at (970)403-9222. Credit cards accepted with no fee. Hallways and closets always free.

ROOF REPAIRS, LEAKS, RESCREWS, INSPECTIONS. 35+ years experience. Call Jeff at Blair Roofing. (970)903-6556.

ROOF RESCREWING, CHIMNEY CLEAN-**ING.** roof repairs, dryer vent cleaning, valley repairs. Arlie's Chimney Sweep. (970)731-

SMALL ENGINE SOLUTIONS. 2-stroke and 4-stroke gas engines. Maintenance, tuning, repairs. Pick-up and drop-off available. Chain and blade sharpening. Tire changes, balance, flat fixes. (970)585-4191.

TANKLESS/ON DEMAND WATER HEAT-

ERS. Largest inventory in the area, including replacement parts. Same day Installation and service in most cases. We are the only company that extends the parts & labor warranty from 1 year to 5 years. VAIL HOME SERVICES, (760)835-1041.

SERVICES

TREE FELLING, TRIMMING, REMOVAL and lot cleaning! MTN Forestry specializes in hazardous and technical tree trimming and removals. Call anytime for a free quote! (970)403-6396.

VANCE AND BERNARD TREE SERVICES.

Trimming, removals, fire mitigation, masticator, tractor, dump trailer, chipper. Insured. Call (720)409-9923. vandbtreeservices@ gmail.com

WE HAUL. WE WILL haul off anything but your marijuana or your mother- in- law. No iob too big or too small. We also move buildings. We don't haul pigs. Dan Snow (719)849-8873.

WEBSITE DESIGN, SOCIAL MEDIA AND **DIGITAL AD EXPERT**. Available to help grow your business. www.mgmpagosa.com Text: (928)246-1321.

WEST CO, CONSTRUCTION & SERVICES. Services include but not limited to; fencing, gates, greenhouses, sheds, siding, windows, roofing, decks, gardens, remodels/ renovations, tree mitigation and removal. Call (970)698-1362.

HEALTH

HOT SPRINGS HEALERS. Sessions at hot springs! Introducing Quantum Reset. Also, cranial sacral, bodywork, massage. Serving Pagosa 27 years, Dr. Dean and Amanda, (970)844-0645, (970)903-5309.

HELP WANTED

3R RANCH HIRING one full or part-time position. Ranch and landscape maintenance. Must have own reliable transportation and valid driver's license 40 hours a week available \$20 to start. (970)264-5160.

A CUT BELOW LAWN CARE. Seasonal labor April-October, Competitive pay, weekdays. Team Player Performance based bonuses. (970)764-0789. acutbelowlawncare@gmail.

BAKER WANTED. Join Root House Coffee +Shop and bring your baking talents to life in a warm, welcoming environment, Imagine filling our space with the irresistible scent of fresh cinnamon rolls and stocking our display case with a variety of house-made treats. Be a vital part of our close-knit team, where we create a haven for community connection, great coffee, delicious snacks, and a carefully curated retail selection. PERKS: With tips, pay is over \$20 per hour. Morning shifts with plenty of time to enjoy the rest of your day. Employee discounts on our retail offerings, food, and beverages. Bonus: Take your break with a relaxing walk along the San Juan River, right in the heart of downtown Pagosa. If you're passionate about baking and community, we'd love to have you on board! Email us at howdy@roothouseco. com to request an application and share more about yourself.

BOOKKEEPER for small Pagosa trucking and hauling business at your office. Start immediately. Call Ann (970)946-4810.

Classifieds

(970) 264-2100

apply in person.

HELP WANTED

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

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, ac-

curacy, 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 eve-

nings, nights and weekends; Excellent critical

thinking and problem-solving skills; Ability to

work in a fast-paced environment; A valid driv-

er'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, crich-

ardson@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 technol-

ogy 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 pro-

duce hyper-local, high interest local news and

accurate and trustworthy reporting. Our Sales

and Digital Fulfillment teams bring omnichan-

nel 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 De-

cember 2018, totally bootstrapped, confident

NORTH PAGOSA MARATHON is hiring a

and with an entrepreneurial mindset.

Office Hours: Monday — Friday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

We Are Hiring!

Elementary Teachers

www.pagosapeakopenschool.org

Classified Deadline: Tuesday 10 a.m.

HELP WANTED

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.

We are looking for reliable,

motivated additions to our team!

WE'RE

HELP WANTED

Apply now!

CDL DRIVER. Ponderosa Lumber is hiring

a CDL Driver. This is a full-time position.

Duties include deliveries, loading /unloading

trucks, and helping customers. Requires the

ability to drive a stick shift and have a Class B

endorsement. We offer paid time off, medical,

dental, vision, prescription, 401(k) and Profit

Sharing. Please apply at Ponderosa Lumber

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

DEDICATED CLEANERS Must be detail

oriented, trustworthy, reliable and committed.

\$20/ hour possibly more for special projects.

Text Pagosa Sparkles, (970)946-6446.

2435 Eagle Dr. (970)731-4111.

Send your resume to:

emurphy@ppos.co

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

ARCHULETA SCHOOL DISTRICT IS NOW HIRING!



Archuleta School District

"Success for Every Student — Every Class — Every Day."

for the following positions:

Service Technician

Elementary School SPED Teacher 2025-26 SY

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!**

click on "Job Postings" on the following web-site: www.mypagosaschools.com **FOF**

> IMMEDIATE OPENING for CDL Driver / Equipment Operator. Experience with forestry equipment helpful. Must pass drug test. Local

frontdesk@pagosalandcompany.com.

JAND JENTERPRISES is looking for friendly and enthusiastic people who are eager to help customers navigate the wide world of cannabis. We offer paid sick leave, product sampling, employee discounts, sales bonuses and comprehensive on-site training! Must be 21 years of age. A Marijuana Enforcement Division badge is required to start work. E-mail your resume to employment@jandjinc.net or check us out on Indeed.com.

driving only. Please send your resume to

MALT SHOPPE NOW HIRING. Apply in person between 9a.m. and 2p.m.

We're looking for Outstanding Employees to join our team!

strives to achieve

Currently accepting applications

Full-time position with a starting salary of \$41,946-\$47,818 for a 250-day work schedule.

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

Instructional Aides Elem, Middle, & High School

Full-time positions with a starting salary \$27,899-\$31,175 for 173 days paid over a 12-month period.

For more details and to apply for these positions

HOUSEKEEPING. Fireside Cabins are looking for Part-time housekeeper. Primarily Tues- Fri (possibly some weekend days) 2-4 days a week. Starting pay \$19 an hour. Great work environment, will train. No Laundry. Hours vary from 9a.m.- 4p.m. but are flexible. English not a requirement. (OFF ALL MAJOR HOLIDAYS). Fireside Cabins está buscando ama de llaves a tiempo completo o parcial necesaria 5 días a la semana. Comenzando a pagar \$19 por hora. Gran ambiente de trabajo, entrenará. No hay lavandería, los horarios varían de 9a.m.- 4p.m., pero son flexibles. El inglés no es un requisito. (FUERA DE TODOS

Fireside Cabins 1600 E Hwy 160 Pagosa Springs. (East side of Pagosa just past Hwy 84 & 160 junction 1 mile from downtown Pagosa area) must be dependable. For more information call (970)264-9204 or email Johnjessharper@gmail.com Come in to preview our facility.

LOS PRINCIPALES VACACIONES)

LOOKING FOR PART-TIME ranch help. Flexible hours. Becky (970)264-6938.

> full-time cashier nights and weekends. Competitive wages. Please apply in person at 30 N. Pagosa Blvd.

MULTIPLE DEPARTMENTS Starting at \$17 per Benefits include hour, dependent on discounts, paid time off, experience. profit sharing and more! Apply in person. Weekends and Applications available holidays required.

on www.terrysace.com

Full-time and Seasonal

MULTIPLE POSITIONS

Terry's ACE 525 Navajo Trail Dr.

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

EMPLOYMENT AT SILVER DOLLAR LI-QUOR. Must be 21. Full-time or part-time. **CONTRACTOR SALES** Nights and weekends. (970)264-2749.

an application.

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.

PagosaSUN.com

Classifieds (970) 264-2100

Office Hours: Monday — Friday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Classified Deadline: Tuesday 10 a.m.

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE

The Pagosa Springs SUN is recruiting for a dynamic, versatile customer service representative. This position is required to work at our office at 457 Lewis Street, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147. Hours 8am to 4:30pm, Monday through Friday.

Job Responsibilities

Account Management: Support the Advertising Department with account management activity that's associated with customers running ads in The SUN, PREVIEW, special publications and on our digital platforms. Administrative: Handle postal paperwork, insertion order processing and payment processing for advertising and subscriptions.

Service: Provide personable, friendly customer service answering phones and interacting in person with customers that visit the office.

Communication: Serve as a point of contact for internal and external communications. Answer phones, respond to emails and direct inquiries to the appropriate team members.

Project assistance: Assist with special projects and initiatives as needed.

Requirements

3-5 years of experience working in an office.

Excellent attention to detail and accuracy in data entry.

Strong organizational and time management skills to meet payroll deadlines

Excellent communication skills on the phone and through all communication channels

High level of proficiency in MS Excel and other Microsoft Office applica-

Compensation Range/Benefits

\$17-\$20/hour depending on experience level.

Eligible for medical, dental and vision benefits on the 1st of the month after 30 days of employment.

Eligible to enroll in the company's 401 (k) retirement savings on the 1st of the month after 90 days. The company matches 50% of your contribution up to 2.5% of total compensation.

16 days of PTO plus 4-5 paid holidays.

Opportunity for advancement and career growth within the company.

About 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. O'Rourke Media Group now operates in eight states and 28 markets with 41 publications and hyper-local websites.

Send your email or letter of interest directly to CEO Jim O'Rourke at jorourke@orourkemediagroup.com

The Pagosa Springs S

an O'Rourke Media Group company

NOW HIRING: Behavioral Health Techs. Work with youth. Make a difference. Paid RBT training, \$18-\$24/ hour, Part-time, High school grads welcome. Flexible hours. Must have Reliable transportation. Email resume: AngelinaJWLLC@gmail.com.

OFFICE ADMIN. Come join our TFI team, part-time 25-30 hrs. Must have good customer service and computer skills. Call (970)585-1021 for more information.

OWNERS THERE IS A LONG TERM RENT-AL SHORTAGE IN PAGOSA SPRINGS. We have a waiting list for approved tenants. Need all types of rentals. Call us today for lowest commission and highest customer service. All you have to do is wait for your rent check to come in. We do the rest! Rocky Mountain Realty & Rentals (970)507-1192.

PAGOSA LIQUOR IS HIRING a full-time cashier. Please come and apply in person at 30 N. Pagosa Blvd.

HELP WANTED

PART-TIME ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT. Community United Methodist Church in Pagosa Springs is seeking a friendly, organized Administrative Assistant to manage office operations and support the pastor. This is a part-time position (16 hrs/ week, Mon- Thurs, 8:30a.m.- 12:30p.m.). The Administrative Assistant is often the first point of contact at our welcoming and inclusive church. To apply, email your resume to Rev. Ken Daniell at pastor@cumcps.org.

PINE VALLEY RENTAL, busy equipment rental yard is seeking a reliable, self starting shop/yard person. Must have experience in mechanics, diesels, hydraulics, electrical work, and be knowledgeable of heavy equipment plus small engines. CDL is a plus but not required. Must have own transportation. Full time, Monday -Friday 8-5. Please call (970)731-4410 Or Email ppine000@centurytel.net. 391 Bastille Drive.

ROOF LABORER NEEDED with some construction experience. Will train. \$20-\$25/ hour to start. (970)749-0830.

TEAM PAGOSA REALTY is seeking a full time assistant property manager to assist with our portfolio of homes under management. Salary is \$3500/ month and hours are Monday thru Friday 9a.m. to 5p.m. with an hour for lunch. Responsibilities include marketing vacancies, responding to inquiries, showing rentals to prospective tenants, coordinating leases and renewals, entering and paying invoices, responding to maintenance requests. etc. Customer service skills are a must. If interest, please email resume and qualifications to arun@teampagosa.com.

THE KEYAH GRANDE GUEST HOUSE is hiring a line cook/ dish (\$20/ hour) for our new fine dining restaurant, "Beyond the Gates". Experience preferred. Email your resume and references to theguesthouse@ keyahgrande.com

WAREHOUSE PERSON. Detail oriented FT, Monday- Friday. Must be able to lift 50+ lbs. Must be over 21 for forklift. Non smoker. Drop resume off at The TIle Store, 204 Bastille Dr.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

OWN YOUR OWN BUSINESS IN 2025! Four year-old profitable Side-by-Side rental business with extremely high reviews on Google. 1 to 8 Polaris Rzrs, LLC, website, reservation site, customer list, insured, bonded, licensed, maintenance and safety gear included. Better location than any of our competition. Operates May- Nov. Call or text Ryan (970)946-2409.

SMALL CRANE BUSINESS FOR SALE. National Crane truck, business, client list, and all attachments come with business. Inquire at (970)903-2381.

FOR SALE

16 FT FIBERGLASS step ladder, \$100. Tonneau hard cover, fits 2020-2025 Chevy GMC long-box pickup. Used one week, \$600. Layout blinds, duck and goose decoys, make offer. (970)903-7567.

ASPEN, DOUGLAS FIR, PINE MIX firewood for sale. (719)937-8707.

FOR SALE

CAMPRELL / BOSWORTH saddle/ harness machine. \$4500. Texting is better (970)946-

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.

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.

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.

QUADRA-FIRE 4300 Millennium wood stove. Looks new, original price was \$2479.00. Asking \$1500 plus nice accessories. Call for pictures (970)946-4983.

RABBITS FOR SALE. Everything from baby Easter bunnies to breeding pairs. Starting at \$10.00 each. Dan Snow (719)849-8873.

SELL OR TRADE YOUR GUNS. We buy for cash or trade it. No hassle. Licensed, bonded, insured. San Juan Trading Post, 635 San Juan St. (970)731-PAWN (7296).

WINDOWS FOR SALE. Assorted sizes. Text me for sizes and prices or all for one price. Mary (970)946-8598.

PETS

ADOPT FROM THE Humane Society. Stop by or call (970)731-4771. You'll be amazed at what we have to offer, www.PagosaHumane.org

DOGGY DAY CARE 81147.COM. Open 365 days of the year! Full day and half day doggy day care and overnight boarding. Conveniently located just 1 mile from downtown Pagosa. Call (970)264-9111.

RECREATIONAL VEHICLES

2009 PACIFIC COACHWORKS TANGO. Model 306RLSS travel trailer. 30', rear lounge super slide (both dinette table and couch in slide), center kitchen, front gueen bedroom. One owner. Excellent condition, covered most of its life. \$13,000. (970)730-9367.

23' GRAND DESIGNE. Used twice. \$44,500 new. Sell: \$35,000. (970)398-1155.

WANTED

BLUEGRASS MUSICIANS interested in joining an intermediate/ advanced level regular bluegrass jam, contact Melinda at malutz@ centurytel.net.

WANTED

Pagosa Springs Employer Seeking Housing for Manager

Employer seeking housing for 1 employee who works a full time management position and attends university online. Looking for an apartment, self contained unit, or something similar. Preferably in town. Not looking for shared housing. Employee has one small dog (under 10 lbs) who will be at doggy daycare when the employee is not at home. Good credit, good rental history, and can provide references upon request. Looking to pay up to \$1,000 per month including utilities. Please call Kevin (720) 234-8380 for more information.

AUTOS

1980 CHEVY K10, Custom Deluxe, good engine and transmission, new battery and fuel pump, 1/2 ton but suspension beefed up to 3/4. \$5300 OBO. (970)946-7415.

2015 SILVERADO TRUCK, Red 4 door Crew Cab. 139,077 miles. \$6,700. (402)960-1978 mobile or (402)291-6609 landline.

2019 RX350 LEXUS. Gold, loaded, runs great, looks great. \$29,900 OBO. Call Lee Riley (970)946-3856.

GUARANTEED CREDIT APPROVAL! 4X4 Auto Sales, 21698 Hwy. 160 West, Durango. (970)385-7940.

YARD SALES

468 FIRESIDE ST. Friday and Saturday, April 11 and 12. 9-?.

BE SURE TO CHECK for more yard sales in the Too Late To Classify section.

ESTATE SALE, April 12, 9a.m. -2p.m. Inside 21 Pike Dr. Furniture, lamps, home decor, art, kitchen items

MULTI-FAMILY YARD SALE. 4/12/25 9a.m.-2p.m. Tools, furniture, kids items, clothes, a paddle boat and more. 433 Meadows Dr.

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.

PagosaSUN.com

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

HOMES FOR SALE

"We owned a condominium in the Pagosa Springs area which was a rental property. For many years the firm provided property management services for us and we always found them to be very professional and responsive. If you are in need of a competent, professional property management firm or realtor, we would strongly recommend them. ~

www.RMREALTYANDRENTALS.COM



Info@rmrealtyandrentals.com
117 Navajo Trail Dr. Ste E, Pagosa Springs

[argest local Droperty Management Co.



150+ SW Colorado
Property Owners Served
19+ Years. Mortgage &
Real Estate Exp
FULL LT TENANT SCREENING
NATIONWIDE ADVERTISING
ON CALL 24 HR 7 DAYS





COMMERCIAL FOR RENT

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.

SMALL SPACE FOR RENT. \$250/ month. Inside a new barber/ salon. Text/ Call (760)277-5318

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.

Email us at classads@pagosasun.com to submit your classified.
PagosaSUN.com

RESIDENTIAL RENTALS

3 BED/2 BATH San Juan River Village. Clean, pristine and ready for you. 3/2 in highly desirable San Juan River Village. 2 level master on first floor. 5 min to town, 20 min to Wolf Creek. Water views and beautiful mountain views, first last deposit. Local landlord with great tenant history. No pets, no smoking, lots of storage, including indoor and outdoor storage. \$2300/ month. 6- and 12-month options available. Text (970)582-0148 for application.

3 BEDROOM 2 BATH with storage unit. Access to lake, park and rec center. \$1,950. (719)850-8680.

BASEMENT STUDIO APARTMENT. Downtown, river view, furnished. \$1000 rent, \$1000 deposit. Utilities included. No smokers. No pets. (970)264-6797.

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Gratitude for the core of our community

By Betty Slade

PREVIEW Columnist

Spring and summer guests will soon fill our streets, scurrying in and out of stores and shops.

Winter has passed and a new season is about to burst into our little town of Pagosa. We will soon be dodging orange cones and more traffic than our streets can hold.

We are putting behind another winter — an odd winter with little snow. For me it meant weekly visits to doctors and hospitals. Behind the activity was the real core of our community working — our people who showed up every day with love and good hearts who took care of our community.

My gratitude goes out to the staff of the emergency rooms, doctor offices and clinics. Even compounded with seven months of physical therapy, pushing my body beyond itself — to return to normal.

One doctor went beyond what was expected of her. I have great gratitude and thankfulness toward my primary doctor, Emilie McIntyre, MD, and her team. She has walked along side me since she came to the Pagosa Springs Medical Center in July 2024 — evening phone calls, reading data, adjusting medicine, staying closely involved with me and the string of viruses, stomach flu and a gallbladder scare.

When data came over her desk, she was quick to reach out by phone or text. She has spent hours monitoring and adjusting my medicine.

This winter was about emergency rooms in three different hospitals. I wondered if life would become normal again. I knew I was in a dark hole when I started planning my funeral, dispersing everything to family members.

This last bout put me over the edge. Three nights of groaning, moaning and fussing. I told my son, "Take me to the hospital. Something is really wrong."

The journey began. Nine hours in the Pagosa emergency room, a plane trip landing me in Colorado Springs in the same hospital I had been in seven months earlier. I said then, "I'm not coming back. I'm passing this way only once."

I was wrong. Once again, I lay flat on my back for two days, on a liquid diet, waiting for the surgeon to take out my infected gallbladder. Only the hand of God stopped the operation.

Artist's Lane

Only the hand of God stopped the operation. The doctor understood what was happening and I came home with my gallbladder and a story to tell.

The doctor understood what was happening and I came home with my gallbladder and a story to tell.

I have one more ditch to jump over. An appointment scheduled with a heart doctor in Durango, then I should be back to normal.

In my younger days, it was easy to throw all caution to the wind, take a chance, go out on a limb, even saw off the limb if necessary. This time in life is all about knowing we need to take care of important things, such as relationships and my health.

We live in a community whose core is love for each other. So many people stepped up, cared and helped me become healthy again. I will not forget their kindness. So many prayers have gone out for my family and me.

I am different today than I was before the accident last August. I received so much compassion and mercy. An odd winter has put things in perspective and shown me the importance of relationships, a healthy body and the brevity of years on this earth

Several readers ask if I would still be writing articles for "Artist's Lane". Yes, of course. I plan to show up and hopefully have something that will encourage, inform and even make you smile. Thank you for walking alongside me.

Final brushstroke: When you're dodging orange cones and excited



and or rude visitors come to our little town, remember it's not the real core of Pagosa's community. It's just the season we are in. Our people remain the same. They show up every day ready to help.

Send your comment to bettyslade. author@gmail.com.

Views expressed do not necessarily represent those of The SUN.

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