



PAGOSA SPRINGS, ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO 81147

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Hydrant exercising program underway

By Justin O. Ramsey
Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District

On April 28, the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District began its fire hydrant exercising program for this year. Distribution System Resources Ltd. (DSR) from Castle Rock, Colo., will be administering the program for the district.

DSR will begin in The Reserve area and move down through the different pressure zones within the district's boundaries. Customers will be notified by Dropcountr when the fire hydrant exercising will be in their area. The program is expected to be completed within the next four weeks.

Town council, planning commission discuss allowing metro districts

By Derek Kutzer
Staff Writer

On April 29, the Pagosa Springs Town Council and Pagosa Springs Planning Commission met jointly to discuss the possibility of allowing metropolitan, or metro, districts within town limits. The town's upcoming decision on whether or not to allow metro districts was spurred by a request from the developers of the proposed Pagosa West subdivision — Arena Labs LLC — to begin allowing metro districts within town boundaries. Metro districts are considered special districts in Colorado and are a type of local government entity that operates within a jurisdiction, such as a town. They provide specific services, such as building public infrastructure

or maintaining public infrastructure, and have authority to collect taxes to pay for such services. Several metro districts exist within Archuleta County (Alpha Rock Ridge, Aspen Springs and Timber Ridge, for example), but metro districts are not currently allowed within the town's boundaries. Both Development Director James Dickhoff and Town Attorney Bob Cole have described the formation of metro districts as a "tool" to help spur development. An agenda document on the matter states that metro districts "are a valuable tool for development, allowing lower cost financing and governmental authority for construction of public improvements and facilities, and services." Cole explained that a metro district

■ See Metro A16

PAWSD talks fire flow requirements, exceptions made by fire district

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

At the April 14 meeting of the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD) Board of Directors, the board discussed water flow requirements for firefighting and the district's relationship with the Pagosa Fire Protection District (PFPD). PAWSD Programs Manager Renee Lewis explained that the PFPD supplies fire flow requirements for building projects based on the project specifications and the International Fire Code. She stated that, when PAWSD runs models for water flow for these projects, the models often indicate that they do not meet the standards supplied by

the PFPD. However, Lewis stated, when PAWSD staff go with PFPD representatives to test hydrants and water infrastructure at a project, "if it comes in a little low or quite a bit low, sometimes the fire department says, 'Well, that's good enough.'" She stated that the PFPD has been unwilling to resubmit paperwork or provide a letter indicating its approval of a standard lower than the International Fire Code. Lewis commented that the issue has come up frequently recently and that several PAWSD members are concerned about the issue. She asked PAWSD legal counsel Marcus Lock what kind of language or

form Lock would want to cover PAWSD in case of damage resulting from insufficient fire flow. Lock commented that fire protection is the mission and responsibility of the PFPD, not of PAWSD, but that the two districts, as public agencies, should cooperate where possible. However, he stated that it is "very helpful" to have "clear guidance" from the PFPD on how PAWSD can assist it. He noted that PAWSD's rules and regulations state that the district will seek to meet flow requirements provided by the fire district if "physically and economically feasible by the district in its sole discretion." Lock explained that this language recognizes that PAWSD has a variety of

responsibilities and that costs associated with meeting the PFPD's fire flow requirements fall on the developers of a project, not on PAWSD. He continued that, if there are any misunderstandings among the public about the responsibilities of PAWSD and the PFPD, PAWSD could add language to its regulations clarifying these responsibilities and post language on its website explaining that fire-related issues are the responsibility of the PFPD. PAWSD District Engineer/Manager Justin Ramsey explained that his concerns with the issue center on the fact that the fire district does not communicate its willingness to accept levels of

■ See Requirements A16



Photo courtesy Karmen Moeachern

Local snowboarder Logan Lamoreaux recently earned first place in the International Freeskiers and Snowboarders Association's North and South American U15 snowboard men's division. Lamoreaux competed in national competitions over the winter season, taking first place overall on the season in the division, which featured more than 100 riders this season across six countries. Notching first-place finishes in competitions at Crested Butte and Breckenridge, he also placed second at a Telluride competition and third at the Junior Americas championships held on Kirkwood, Calif.

Officials gearing up for fire season

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

Fire officials across the region and state are preparing for the upcoming season, with the Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control (DFPC) releasing its fire outlook and preparedness plan on April 24, and regional agencies meeting earlier this week. As of Wednesday, April 30, the U.S. Forest Service's San Juan National Forest listed the fire danger status at high for the upper zone (high elevation) and moderate for the lower zone (low elevation).

Fire, drought and snowpack

According to the DFPC's fire outlook, current forecasts indicate that normal fire potential is expected across Colorado for April through July, except for southwestern Colorado, which will likely be above normal due to the continued drought and expected hot, dry weather before the monsoon develops. Fire potential in May, according to the DFPC, will be normal across the entire state, then June will see southwestern Colorado with above-normal potential due to drought and anticipated hot, dry weather. July is expected to see the monsoon arrive with more regular chances for showers and thunderstorms. Pagosa Fire Protection District

■ See Fire A15



Photo courtesy Pagosa Springs High School

Bella Gutierrez, left, and Edgar Ortiz were named this year's queen and king during Pagosa Springs High School's annual prom, which was held Saturday, April 26.

Mobile home rezone park request tabled by commissioners

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

During a meeting held on Tuesday, April 15, the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) voted unanimously to table a rezoning request, along with a general variance request, for a property located at 5503 U.S. 84 owned by the Troxtells. The BoCC expressed concerns about making a decision on the matter without having advice from any legal counsel. The Archuleta County Planning Commission voted to recommend approval of the Troxtell rezoning request during its meeting held on March 27, which was passed by split vote of 4-1. The Troxtells have previously explained their plans to renovate the

property and run a tiny home village (THV), which is allowed under the Archuleta County Land Use Regulations (LUR) with a use-by-right permit that is approved administratively. A THV can only operate on properties zoned as a mobile home park, according to the current county LUR. During the April 15 meeting, Planning Manager Owen O'Dell explained the Troxtell THV permit was approved on April 11. Variance request The first matter considered by the BoCC during the April 15 meeting was the general variance request for the Troxtells to not have to pave the driveways on the properties they are planning to develop. O'Dell's report presented during the April 15 meeting states, "Variance

■ See Rezone A8



Photo courtesy E.J. Romero

On Arbor Day, Friday, April 25, tree-lovers gathered with Town of Pagosa Springs staff to plant 12 trees in Centennial Park. The town is an official Tree City USA.

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Opinion

The Pagosa Springs SUN

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OUR VIEW

Mental health matters

"In Every Story, There's Strength."

That's the theme for this year's Mental Health Awareness Month, according to the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), with the awareness focus occurring annually in May.

The theme focuses on turning struggles into strength and offering hope to others.

"Each story shared is a testament to the possibility of recovery and the strength that lies within us all," the NAMI website states.

Focusing on mental health is not just for those who some may perceived to be weak or those who are in their darkest moments. It's for everyone, all the time, and it shows great strength to admit when you need help.

"Mental health," the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA's) website states, "is essential for overall well-being at every stage of life. Regardless of age, background, or experience, prioritizing mental health strengthens individuals, families, and communities."

We agree completely.

In our opinion, the importance of taking care of our mental health — both individually and as a community — cannot be underscored enough.

Taking care of our mental health helps

us to be our best and give others our best. It helps us, among other things, deal with challenges we come across, manage stress, and navigate the division and vitriol we seemingly all feel right now.

And it's important to keep in mind getting help doesn't make you any less of a person. It shows strength and can help others. We all need help sometimes, and that help can look different for each of us, from taking a walk outside or spending time with loved ones to seeking additional help from qualified providers.

As the Mayo Clinic's website explains, "Mental health is the overall wellness of how you think, regulate your feelings and behave. Everyone has ups and downs with mental health, however, sometimes a significant disturbance can lead to a deeper issue that needs more attention."

The Mayo Clinic suggests it might be a good idea to seek professional help if you experience:

"Marked changes in personality, eating or sleeping patterns."

"An inability to cope with problems or daily activities."

"Feeling of disconnection or withdrawal from normal activities."

"Unusual or 'magical' thinking."

"Excessive anxiety."

"Prolonged sadness, depression or apathy."

"Thoughts or statements about suicide or harming others."

"Substance misuse."

"Extreme mood swings."

"Excessive anger, hostility or violent behavior."

Resources abound for seeking help for yourself or to try to help someone else, including NAMI (nami.org), SAMHSA (www.samhsa.gov), the Mayo Clinic (mcpres.mayoclinic.org/mental-health/) and many more.

Here are a few others from SAMHSA worth knowing:

If you or someone you know is struggling or in crisis, call or text 988 or chat at 988lifeline.org.

To learn how to get support for mental health, drug and alcohol issues, visit Find-Support.gov.

To locate treatment facilities or providers, visit FindTreatment.gov or call SAMHSA's National Helpline at (800) 662-HELP (4357).

Let's take care of ourselves and, in turn, each other. Mental health matters.

Randi Pierce

LEGACIES

By Shari Pierce

100 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
May 1, 1925

Mrs. W.E. Nickell is today moving from the Springs hotel property to the San Juan hotel, which she has leased and will conduct in the future. The plans of Mrs. Sallie Conder, who has been managing the latter, are undermined. No definite word has been received from Mr. Lynn, owner of the Springs property, but he is expected here daily.

Forest Rangers Glenn Dalton, Harry L. Norris and J.C. Maloy have been in charge of the observance of American Week in this county the past few days. By the means of a splendid display in the windows of the Sparks Hdw. Co. store and illustrated lectures at the Liberty theatre Tuesday night, which was taxed to its capacity by the large crowd attending, considerable interesting and instructive propaganda was dispensed to the people of this community in the care and protection of our forests, particularly regarding fire prevention. The same program was rendered at Chromo the following evening, and Ranger F.E. Loring is today holding a similar session at the Piedra school house. The results from this campaign should be manifold in this forest district.

75 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
April 28, 1950

Word was received here late Wednesday that Pagosa Springs had been chosen as headquarters for a movie to be filmed in Archuleta County. The movie, entitled "Vengeance Valley" is to be in technicolor and is one of the major budget pictures of Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer for 1950.

A number of locations in the county have been studied and the Martin Ranch on the Upper Piedra and Weminuche has been leased for a large part of the shooting. Other locations at Williams Creek, Piedra Park, Chimney Rock, Chromo and the Leon Montroy ranch will probably be used in the film.

The picture is an outdoor western and will use around 80 riders in addition to the 75 actors, technicians and other personnel from Hollywood. The schedule calls for five weeks work and will begin May 15. The film will be directed by Dick Thorpe with Reggie Mallow as first assistant director, Wes Brown, art director and Charley Coleman will be location manager.

50 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
May 1, 1975

Members of the Pagosa community met last week to hear details on a proposed fire protection district. The proposed district covers over 13,000 acres and is composed mainly of subdivisions within the Eaton Pagosa development.

Roy Vega, public safety officer at Pagosa, made the presentation. Maps and charts were used to outline the district boundaries, proposed costs, and methods of financing. In addition a member of the State Forestry department spoke, as did Leonard Carey, vice president of Eaton International.

Mr. Vega said that the proposed fire protection plan would cost approximately \$60,700 in formation of the district and initial capital expenditures. It was estimated that annual operation and maintenance expense for the department would be \$10,325.

The proposed plan calls for a volunteer force to man the department, construction of a modern fire house, two pumper trucks, an alarm system, necessary equipment, and contingencies. It is estimated that the two pieces of fire equipment would cost \$40,000.

25 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
April 27, 2000

After conducting seven public workshops attended by as many as 630 residents, the county planning department has fashioned a vision statement it believes represents the purposes of the people of the county.

Ironically, the vision statement is derived from the 1994 Archuleta County Master Plan, a statement considered still relevant by the county planning staff. The statement reads: "Archuleta County should retain its outstanding scenic and natural qualities while providing quality employment, housing, education and recreation to its residents. Tourism, recreation, and agriculture will remain major sectors of the economy, but attempts will be made to diversify and encourage other types of economic development. The majority of youth should be able to have a career and eventually raise a family without being forced to leave. A healthy and vibrant community will continue to evolve and the rural character and small town atmosphere will be preserved."



From the May 1, 1986, Pagosa SUN — MEETING THE CANDIDATES — Joe Lister and Laura Lane were among some 40 persons who met Roy Romer, right, 1986 Democratic candidate for governor of Colorado. Archuleta County Republican precinct delegates assemble May 5 to vote on primary candidates; the Democrat's assembly is May 6.

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Weather data

Date	High	Low	Precipitation			
			Moisture	Type	Depth	
4/22	64	26	NA	NA	0.00	
4/23	67	27	NA	NA	0.00	
4/24	65	28	NA	NA	0.00	
4/25	69	28	NA	NA	0.00	
4/26	68	31	NA	NA	0.00	
4/27	62	32	NA	NA	0.00	
4/28	56	22	NA	NA	0.00	



Letters

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

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

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

Pagosa West development

Dear Editor:

The proposed Pagosa West development is a 100-acre tract with 55 acres designated as mixed residential. The current sketch design for the residential tract includes 7, three-story apartment buildings (including 4 workforce housing buildings) placed directly across from our local hospital and adjacent to the rural Pagosa Lakes Ranch (PLR) Subdivision. This concentration of apartments (estimated to be 154 housing units) is surrounded by more than one hundred single family houses on lots of .17 acres each.

Contrast this with the rural PLR subdivision immediately to its south where homes are on a minimum two acres each. Each of development's small homes would have a right to build three stories in height, completely obscuring majestic mountain views now visible to all who live in the surrounding areas.

It is worth noting that the PLR subdivision is uniquely designed so that each lot has protected views. This was accomplished through the placement of designated building zones on each lot.

When PLR residents met in July 2024 with developer Doug Dragoo, he emphasized his commitment to environmental sensitivity and open spaces. He sought to reassure the residents that their plan was to create one-acre lots which followed the same configuration as PLR, thus protecting views for existing and future residents of both subdivisions. This pattern, had it been followed, would have provided a gradual, thoughtful transition from a low density to a higher density. It would have also potentially provided enough space for resident elk and deer to have a wildlife corridor.

Unfortunately, this reassuring plan is not reflected in the current sketch design--just the opposite--with high-rise apartments and single-family homes on .17 acre lots!

The Town's Land Use and Development Code (LUDC) states the following, in Section 6.10.4: "Special consideration shall be given to adjacent land uses of different intensities. It shall be the responsibility of the more intensive use to ensure that the transition from one use to another is attractive, functional, and minimizes conflicts between current and planned uses."

The Town's Comprehensive Plan recommends the following in Goal Land Use-2, #5: "Require a wildlife movement corridor on parcels greater than 5 acres in size when it creates a corridor through the town, or the corridor connects to undeveloped or lower density areas."

In keeping with the LUDC and Comprehensive Plan, I suggest the following sketch design changes:

1. Keep the commitment to PLR residents in July 2024 to follow the same residential configuration of PLR that protects views and wildlife corridors. Less concentrated housing also reduces water usage and the risk of fire spreading rapidly.

2. Relocate the Workforce Housing to the northeast area of the Residential Tract to reduce congestion near the hospital and link to other nearby workforce housing.

3. Work with the Town and County to set aside the large area which is now forested with old growth Ponderosa trees for the development of a park/recreational area for all of Uptown to enjoy.

Together, let's find a better way.

Sharon Carter

Rush to renewable energy

Dear Editor:

The rush to renewable energy is raising utility bills across Colorado—and government subsidies are hiding the real cost. This transition is being driven by political mandates and taxpayer-funded incentives, not market demand or proven affordability. Wind and solar projects often rely on massive subsidies to stay afloat, while reliable energy sources like natural gas are being sidelined too soon.

Families are now paying the price through higher bills and less depend-

able service. Activists blame fossil fuels, but the real problem is a top-down energy agenda that prioritizes ideology over common sense. We've heard "we don't have time" for decades.

Since the 1970s, politicians have warned of imminent catastrophe—but those deadlines come and go.

Urgency isn't a strategy; it's an excuse for poor planning.

We need a smarter approach—one that balances environmental goals with affordability and reliability.

That means keeping natural gas in the mix during the transition, letting energy sources compete fairly without distortion from subsidies, and focusing on local solutions like hydro or geothermal that make sense for Colorado. Above all, we must hold utilities accountable and protect consumers from being forced to fund risky experiments.

Let's stop chasing headlines and start focusing on what works—for working families, for our economy, and for a responsible energy future.

Britny Hanson

Durango

Jeff Hurd meeting

Dear Editor:

To John Ranson,

I was one of the "protesters" at Tuesdays meeting with Congressman Hurd on 4/22/25. I think the meeting went pretty well and Mr. Hurd addressed some of our concerns. The protesters in attendance (there were quite a few of us) were polite and listened to Mr. Hurd. We intended to be silent but show our displeasure with him by dressing in black. We understand that he was there to speak to the commissioners and that was a point of contention, that he has NOT held a Town Hall meeting here since being elected. In his defense Ms. Boebert didn't either during her entire term!

On Wednesday the 23rd, I got an email from a couple of folks who are transcribing the commissioners meetings and sending them out to those who cannot or do not attend. In that email, they related some discussion with you about you being irritated about our presence , about your wife being afraid to come downtown for the meeting, that you think our group should not call out of town people to come (you should remember that this was a COUNTY meeting so there SHOULD be constituents from "out of town" attending!). You said this was not the community you have known since 1997. John, this is NOT 1997! It is 2025! If you are going to live in the past, then maybe you should resign and move somewhere else where you can escape the past! You can be part of the problem or you can be part of the solution! You decide!

You said you don't think local people are concerned with national issues! I can tell you that EVERYONE in that room was concerned with the national issues! EVERYONE, including Mr. Hurd! Those national issues ARE local issues and if you aren't concerned with them and how they affect the people of Archuleta County, then you don't understand your con-

stituents and maybe you really should get out and listen to ALL of them!

I am sure you have seen the various demonstrations that have taken place here over the past couple of months. Those are just the beginning! We are just getting started!

We The People Are Pissed! The administration in DC is the most corrupt and misguided in the history of this country and EVERY ONE OF THE POLICIES being put in place has a significant and direct impact on EVERY citizen of Archuleta County. We are YOUR constituents! We expect you to listen to our grievances and act accordingly. That is what you were elected to do!

We are NOT going to back down so you need to lead, follow or get the hell out of the way!

Gary Hardin

Cancel culture

Dear Editor:

A friend tells me to write something positive. Here goes.

Thank you, Rep. Jeff Hurd and staff, for visiting Pagosa Springs last week. During his brief stop, the Congressman spoke individually with several people who came to share their concerns. There was no hint of violence or even loud outbursts. I hope the Congressman and his staff will return soon for a session that includes public Q&A.

The rest of my positive outline was, unfortunately, overshadowed by more Trump Administration moves to hide bad facts rather than deal honestly with them. They practice a sweeping variation of cancel culture that takes aim at entire organizations and fields of study.

On Monday, the Administration "released" (read: ended the work of) scientists and other experts from the Congressionally mandated National Climate Assessment. That report, compiled periodically since 2000 (under both Republicans and Democrats), is used by state and local governments and private companies to prepare for climate-related conditions, including heat waves, floods, and drought.

Canceling the National Climate Assessment is like refusing to see a doctor because you fear a bad diagnosis. Most of the time, bad diagnoses get worse when left untreated.

Earlier in the month, the Justice Department ended grants used to

■ See Letters A4

U.S. 160 reconstruction information

Week of May 5-9

Complex work

The complexity of the utility infrastructure currently under U.S. 160 necessitates continued potholing (small, drilled holes to locate utilities). This work can be slow and meticulous in an effort to not disrupt the current utility network. Once an area is potholed, the survey team follows to map the locations. As a result of this work, the Town of Pagosa Springs will have an accurate plan (these are called as-builts) for future utility repairs.

Work activity

- Underground water utility work begins in the 100-200 block of Pagosa Street. The first week will consist primarily of boring the current service lines under the south side travel lanes. In order to decrease the chances of rupturing an existing water main on the south side, traffic will be alternating one lane under flagger control. Delays should be expected. Work will continue into the second week of May and will include utility connections.

- Businesses that may experience water service outages on the south side will be contacted by the project team to discuss the scheduled work.

- 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 will remain open.

- 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 about drones

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.

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 can.

- 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 see you.

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 workers extra room and be prepared to stop.

- Stop before a crosswalk, not in it.

- Obey all traffic signals. All light signals are operational and must be obeyed.

- Put your cellphone down. Never drive distracted or 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 east-bound 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 project

- Call the project information line: (970) 335-9230.
- Email the project team: Pagosa160reconstruction@gmail.com.

- Visit the project website: www.codot.gov/projects/us160pagosasprings.

- Subscribe to project updates: subscription.cotrip.org.

Information provided by Colorado Department of Transportation

Letters

The SUN welcomes letters from readers.

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

All letters must:

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

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

Letters quoting other people must contain proper attribution.

There is no guarantee letters will be published.

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

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

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



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■ Continued from A3

train and offer technical assistance to lawyers who support survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. The DOJ wrote “all grants were terminated because DOJ had determined they no longer effectuate agency priorities.”

April was Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Our County Commissioners recognized it with a Proclamation offered by Rise Above Violence. According to that Proclamation, 53% of women, 29% of men, and 33% of adults with disabilities have experienced sexual violence in their lifetime. In Archuleta County, Rise Above Violence served 49 victims of sexual assault last year. The Commissioners noted this year’s theme: “Together We Act, United We Change,” highlighting “the power of collective action in creating safer, more respectful environments and building a future free from sexual violence.”

Ironically, the President also recognized Sexual Assault Awareness Month, though his Proclamation touted border security, not the power of collective action. So why did the DOJ stop funding lawyer training and technical assistance to help victims of sexual violence? Probably because that work was being done by the American Bar Association, an organization the President is working mightily to cancel.

If there’s a positive in these developments, I hope it is that reasonable people can join in calling on the Administration to stop its version of cancel culture and start dealing objectively with serious challenges facing the nation. We need leadership willing to engage in effective policymaking instead of the “pay to play” and “shoot the messenger” approaches we’re getting from the White House.

Candace Jones

Firearms

Dear Editor:

My father graduated from Annapolis Naval Academy and served in World War II as Commander on a Battleship in the Pacific Ocean. He taught us proper care and use of firearms when we were growing up in Colorado Springs. I accompanied him on hunting trips in Colorado in my youth. My husband served during two wars as captain of fighter plane squadrons and then served at Area 51, a top secret military research installation.

I became aware of homeland terrorism and violence when my brother-in-law was working at Columbine High School in Denver as a teacher 20 years ago, and the massacre occurred there, which destroyed so many lives. Crime has gotten so much worse; domestic violence, single parents having to work and are unable to supervise their adolescents’ activities are the norm. Angry, homeless, hungry, uneducated, and jobless people have multiplied everywhere across the country.

My husband who was a member of National Rifle Association, advised me to have protection with me because I was self-employed and traveled. I have had a PCCW for much of my adult life. When I first moved to Pagosa Springs I inquired about a shooting range and was told that there was none; “We just go out in the hills and practice shooting.”

I agree with the remark, “Guns don’t kill people—people do. People need to be brought up to be responsible.” That’s the point. Unfortunately, the reality is something else. We can’t just blame the problems on any specific group of people or immigrants. In many countries it is unlawful for civilians to have firearms. We fuss about increasing taxes to cover police and facilities, courts, and prisons. Better education and accurate records of ownership of weapons could reduce monetary and emotional costs to the people.

Any law abiding citizen should not need an automatic assault weapon. If

you have one, please take the training required and apply for a license. Someone who resents complying with common sense laws probably has subversive and criminal intent. People who get defensive about their 2nd Amendment rights to bear arms, need to read carefully the amendment and the recent law proposed.

Nobody is banning anybody’s rights to protect family and property. Everyone is entitled to feel safe in their community and their home. We should feel thankful to have the freedoms we have. In colonial times there were no telephones, running water or electricity. Roads need to be built. Taxes pay for public works by employing local workers. We have access to resources that are privileges because of a system of cooperation.

I consider paying taxes my contribution to society. With freedom comes the responsibility to be true Americans. If jobs were provided for more people, they wouldn’t have to steal for food and shelter. It is written in scripture “to be charitable, kind, and giving to your fellow man.”

Blessings,

Judithubb

LPEA’s evolution

Dear Editor:

As a graduate of Colorado School of Mines (B.S. Electrical Engineering, 1989; M.S. Mining Engineering, 1992) and a resident of this area since 1977, I have watched La Plata Electric Association’s evolution with growing concern.

The administrative overhead at LPEA has ballooned from roughly \$9.7 million in 2021 to over \$15.6 million in 2023; an increase of more than 60%. Executive salaries, including the CEO’s, have more than doubled, even though LPEA has not expanded its territory or added significant new service obligations.

With my technical training, I understand the complexity of energy procurement and delivery. It’s clear that the current board and leadership, while well-meaning, do not have the in-house expertise necessary to manage volatile energy markets and complex contracts like those with Mercuria. Instead, they are heavily relying on costly consultants, lawyers, and advisors at significant expense to members.

Leaving Tri-State may have sounded appealing, but it exposed LPEA to a level of market risk and operational complexity that few on the board or staff are equipped to manage alone. The result is skyrocketing administrative costs with little assurance of price stability or improved reliability.

As a long-time member of this community, I urge greater transparency, fiscal responsibility, and a serious reassessment of where LPEA is heading before more damage is done.

James Lane

Voodoo economics

Dear Editor:

In 1980, Ronald Reagan came to office bent and determined to improve the US economy with his brand of “trickle-down” economics. His objectives were to increase defense spending, balance the federal budget, slow the growth of government spending, reduce federal income taxes, and tighten the money supply.

After eight years, those policies resulted in widening the income gap, a decline in real wages, tripling the national debt in eight years, and forcing many more Americans below the poverty level. At the end of his second term, Reagan dismissed the burgeoning homeless problem by claiming that most of “those” people “chose” to be on the streets. This is how we think when we glorify greed and ridicule compassion.

Voodoo economics makes the rich richer and the poor poorer. As a young parent during the Reagan era, I witnessed the death of the one-income family and the attendant rise in societal problems as mothers

were forced to return to work, leaving their children in day-care centers or to fend for themselves. Forty-five years later, we have a society of poorly educated young people, broken families, drug abuse, chronic health issues, and previously unimaginable levels of obscene wealth and crippling poverty. Economic stupidity has consequences.

Today, we’re seeing the same failed policies on steroids. Before Reaganomics, there were very few billionaires, but moms were able to be at home to monitor their kids’ emotional growth, social development, and educational experiences. Can we even imagine what will become of our country and our families if Trumponomics is allowed to evolve unchecked? Feel free to shudder. Or, call your representative.

Sincerely,

Kathy Muth

Consequences

Dear Editor:

Imagine: Before downtown construction and before last summer’s tourists, shop owners are busily preparing, making things just right. Finally, you’re going to open your new china shop filled with your beautiful collections of hand-thrown pottery and imported art. Though the shelves are loaded, they’re not set for display. You’ve got to get-er-done!

Help! Light bulb! So, you grab your two bulls, the fat old orange one and the impetuous musk ox. Dragging them by their nose rings, you get ‘em through the door - and let ‘em go! “Rearrange with efficiency, boys! You know, like you’ve never seen anything like it before!” Good idea?

That’s the Trump madhouse that we’ve elected. Elections have consequences. Now we’re in this together, no matter who you are or how you voted. Or not voted. So now what?

In the early days of these first 100, I was scared, dazed, and intimidated by the constant barrage of lies, norm-smashing, law-breaking, with threats to anyone he could cow, and much more. Just the way an aspiring dictator loves it!

So, I knew I needed to do something! But what? “I can do very little by myself,” I desperately pondered. I sought help as best I could and searched. Several things slowly came to me. Among them, the book “From Dictator to Democracy” by Gene Sharp, and clear guidance on “non-violent action” from his website, “The Albert Einstein Institution” at www.aeinstein.org, with books, articles, videos, and more. Plus, more books from our Ruby Sisson Library, many YouTube videos, and deep conversations with close local friends. I also joined community members with deep insight and awareness, for marches and holding signs.

Please understand that we are in this together! This is NOT about which party you adhere to, your religion, your ethnicity, what philosophies float your boat, etc.. This is about “We The People” saving our Democracy and Country from dictatorship, and staying free!

I’m amazed at the variety of thoughts, life stories, and aspirations we each have. Everyone must be honored and respected. We all fail and make mistakes at times. The greatest goal remains: to learn to love as we walk this earth journey.

I have been a registered Republican, a Democrat, or an Independent through the years. Even though I’ve hated politics, especially when they fail to be fair and honest, or worse e.g. heartlessly cruel, vindictive, and self-serving, things changed when I became a grandfather. I needed to understand much more history, politics, and human nature. I/we need to protect their future.

I see all things as a gift, even hard things. How we choose to respond is what sets us apart. Armed with choice gives us power and defends us from being victims. Being a victim is a choice and an attitude.

Donald Trump is serving mankind

by giving “We The People” a stark clarity of choice. And the majority of us do not want what he’s trying to shove down our throats!

Mitch Nielsen

Time to impeach

Dear Editor:

Everything that our laws state that are grounds for impeachment, namely, abuse of power, conduct incompatible with the function of the office, and misuse of office for improper or personal gain – President Trump has/is continuing to violate every single day.

Below are only some of the actions that point to corruption, attempts to subvert the constitution, or point to abuses of power –

The use of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEAPA) is clearly suspect. Using fentanyl as his scapegoat justification is arbitrary and should only be used to cover one or two countries (if at all); and should not justify imposition of tariffs worldwide. Additionally, the IEEAPA only authorizes specific emergency actions such as sanctions or freezing of assets. Congress never authorized Trump the power to levy tariffs.

The use of the Alien Enemies Act (1798) to expedite deportations is questionable. This act was applied to countries we are at war with. We are not at war. Additionally, the deportations have been enforced without regard to proof and judicial due process of individuals.

His contriving the excuse of “Antisemitism” within campuses across the nation is also questionable, there is a war in Gaza and many people who are not antisemitic are protesting war and genocide. Universities allow the free speech of students. That does not justify the president to take away funds, tell them to change who they hire, what they teach, etc.

Declaring an energy emergency. There is no energy emergency! We

■ See Letters A5

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Obituaries

Sharon Case

Sharon Case, 88, passed away on April 25, 2025, in Pagosa Springs, Colo.

Born to Cecil and Hazel Dimond of Little River, Kan., Sharon was the eldest of three children. Sharon married her high school sweetheart, Kermit Case, and farmed alongside him until 1967, at which time they left the farm and moved to town. The couple, along with their five children, resided in midwestern Kansas until moving to Pagosa Springs, Colo., in 1991.

Throughout her life, Sharon was known to be an energetic and enthusiastic worker. She enjoyed working in banking, bookkeeping, property management and managing a photography store. When she wasn't working, Sharon could be found in her beautiful summer garden or diligently planning next year's "crops." Sharon will be remembered for her warmth and kindness, and how she could effortlessly prepare meals for large gatherings of family and friends; everyone was welcome.

She is survived by her brother, C. Richard Diamond (Diane); her children: Kathy Holthus, Alan Case (Deb), Janet Boyer (Russ), Joyce Parsons (Dave), Karen Bunning (Tracy); many beautiful grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Anyone that knew Sharon knows she is happily dancing with the love of her life once again.

The family extends a heartfelt thank you to the BeeHive and Pine Ridge employees for the caring support provided over the past few years.

Josephine Rivas

Josephine Rivas, 86, of Pagosa Springs, went home to be with the Lord on April 19, 2025.

Josephine was born to Sulema and Alberto Archuleta on Oct. 28, 1938. Josephine was a lifelong resident of Archuleta County.

She is survived by her children

and loving family. Thelma (Donnie) Valdez, Patricia Candelaria, Genevieve Rivas, Luis (Christine) Rivas, Ernest (Ruby Archuleta) Rivas, Daniel (Antoinette) Rivas.

Grandchildren: Holly, Eric, Justin (Devon), Lucas, Nicki, Jared (Michaela), Catlin (Brandon), Daniel (Brooke), Isaiah, Cera. Great-grandchildren: Adrianna, Marisol, Mia, Lila, Ethan, Keshawn, Rudy, Avery, Ayla, Killian, Marley-Mae, Milo.

And, the many who called her Mom and Grandma.

Josephine is proceed in death by her son, Rudy Candelaria, and many other loved family members.

The rosary will be at 6 p.m. on May 2 at Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Funeral Mass will be at 10 a.m. on May 3 at Pope John Paul II, followed by burial at Hilltop Cemetery.

All are invited to join the family meal following services at Pope John Paul II.

Lois Jene Zuege

Lois Jene Zuege (née Van Horn), age 94, passed away peacefully on Jan. 4, 2025, in Pagosa Springs, Colo. Born on April 27, 1930, in Wray, Colo., Lois lived most of her long and meaningful life in Haigler, Neb., with her husband, Stan. Her life was rooted in family, hard work and the enduring spirit of her country lifestyle.

Raised in the open spaces of Colorado, Lois developed a deep love for ranch life from an early age. She often shared fond memories of riding horses to the country school — stories that reflected both her adventurous nature and her deep connection to the land and family heritage. Her early years were shaped by responsibility and compassion; as a young

girl, she helped raise her siblings with unwavering devotion.

Lois began her working life as a telephone operator in Wray before moving to Denver to run the switchboard at Miller Stockman's. Her career path reflected her adaptability and strong work ethic. Later, she found joy in serving others as a waitress at the Friendly K Cafe in Haigler. She also worked at Tri State Distributors in Wray for Thayne and Ester Johnson, and later contributed her talents at the local pharmacy. In every role she held, Lois brought warmth and dedication.

Family was always at the heart of Lois' life. She was foremost a mother and grandmother whose kindness touched generations. She shared many cherished moments with her husband, Stanley L. Zuege, during camping trips with their children — a time filled with laughter, stories around campfires and lasting memories.

Lois is lovingly remembered by her son, Stanley Dale Zuege; grandchildren Rikki Jene, Jeremy and Joshua Zuege; great-granddaughters Isabella Jene and Alexa Lynn Zuege; sister Betsy Zimmerman; brothers Roger and Larry Van Horn; and cousin Evelyn Stover; as well as numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

She now joins those who passed before her: her beloved husband, Stanley L. Zuege; daughter Lori Jene; parents Raymond L. and Gertrude Van Horn; stepmothers Blanche Van Horn and Mercel Tiff; brothers Frank, Link, Ralph "Buddy" Van Horn, Thayne Johnson and Rick Van Horn; sisters Edith Roundtree, Mary Van Horn and Ellen Meents; her Uncle Charlie and Aunt Lizzie Van Horn, who helped raise Lois after the passing of her birth mother.

Lois found joy in simple pleasures — reading books that transported her to other worlds and listening to old-time country music that echoed the rhythms of her own life. Riding Harley Davidsons with her cousin Marvin was an especially fond memory. Her kind heart left an indelible mark on all who knew them.

May their memories bring comfort to those who knew her and continue to inspire love across generations.

Archuleta County Democratic Club to meet May 12

By Lynn Frederick

Archuleta County Democratic Club

The Archuleta County Democratic Club will meet for lunch at Coyote Moon at 11:30 a.m. on Monday, May 12.

Archuleta County Commissioner Veronica Medina will speak about the county's strategic plan.

The Archuleta County Democratic Club meets every month with a

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

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

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

Letters

■ Continued from A4

are in a climate emergency! The existential threat that we should all be concerned with is not being addressed. By withdrawing from the Paris Climate Accord, withdrawing EPA standards and attacking renewable energy, the president is not interested in the protection of the health of the people, nor the environment he should be protecting. To him it is more important to rape and loot the Earth and sell it abroad than to think about the needs of generations and what they may or may not have for their needs.

Violation of the Emoluments Clause. I hope that someone has kept an accounting of the numerous violations that occur with every golf outing in which he abused this clause for

personal gain. Other instances of graft are latently visible by the people and administration that he has created.

The president has attacked judges and is defiant of court rulings. The president recognizes no limits on his power, no law he must obey, no right he must protect. The president as well as Congress, swore to preserve, protect and defend the constitution.

It is now time that Congress step up and do what is necessary to protect and defend the people, the laws, and democracy. If Congress does not call out, identify, and begin articles of impeachment, then they too are not living up to their oath: and they too are complicit in perpetuating this constitutional crisis. Time to impeach.

Carson Vicenti

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Business

BoCC discusses options for managing business assistance funds

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

During its April 15 work session, the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) discussed options as to how the grant portion of its business assistance funds will be managed and distributed.

Pagosa Springs Community Development Corporation (PSCDC) Executive Director Emily Lashbrooke explained the business assistance program is a partnership between the Pagosa Springs Main Street Advisory Board, PSCDC and Region 9 Economic Development District of Southwest Colorado.

Region 9 and the PSCDC have earmarked a total of \$150,000 available to businesses through a low-interest loan program during the U.S. 160 reconstruction project.

Lashbrooke also explained that she was requested to present the structure and process of having the county's grant portion be managed under the same structure as Region 9's low-interest loan option.

"Please know that we in no way, shape or form want to manage the county's money — ever," Lashbrooke said, adding, "The funding will always remain within the county."

She noted that she was presenting the process of how the applications will be received and awarded.

She noted the county could also create its own separate process specifically for the grants.

Lashbrooke explained that, for the process through Region 9 and the PSCDC, applications will be available on the PSCDC's website and possibly on Region 9's, "if that is up in time."

Once a month, a committee of five local stakeholders will review applications, Lashbrooke explained, noting the application is a "duplication" of the one used during the COVID-19 pandemic, "However, it does require to show the financial need and distress of the business before any funds are awarded."

Lashbrooke also noted the members of the committee reviewing applications will include Shelly Cox, Sherry Waner, Pennie DeClark and two Region 9 representatives.

Lashbrooke went on to explain the loan program will provide \$1,000 to \$10,000 per business with a zero percent interest rate for the first six months, followed by a 1 percent interest rate the second six months before returning to a "regular loan."

She added the loan committee will accept and award applications every month until November, when construction shuts down for the winter, or until the funds run out.

"They will assess the need," Lashbrooke said of the loan committee, noting that the business will be asked to write a narrative "on their situation and why they need this funding."

She then explained that businesses would have three options when applying for funds: loan, grant or for a "50/50" mix of a loan and a grant.

She mentioned that after the com-

mittee approves an application, the county would then be notified, explaining that businesses would need to provide documents such as balance sheets for the current and previous year "to show us the financial distress."

Lashbrooke added, "Or, you are completely welcome to set up your own process. We're just trying to reduce duplication and confusion."

Commissioner Warren Brown commented that the process is "one of the most important pieces here," expressing the need for a "real fairness across the board" while noting these funds were "never intended to be a business subsidy."

Commissioner Veronica Medina explained that she had spoken with the County Finance Director Chad Eaton and County Manager Jack Harper about other options as far as the county managing the grant portion of the assistance funds in house.

"When we originally talked about it, I never envisioned this to be a joint venture," Medina said, noting that she has heard from multiple businesses, many times, that "they're really not looking for loans."

She explained that having the loans as an option is "great," but expressed concerns in having the loans and grants managed jointly.

Commenting on the makeup of the application committee proposed by Lashbrooke, Medina stated, "I feel like this is a county thing."

She continued, "It should stay in house," adding, "I don't think it needs to be a joint thing."

Commissioner John Ranson commented, "I think it's important to keep this out of our hands, politically."

He explained that if the county is involved in the decision-making process it "could be political," while expressing support for the three options presented by Lashbrooke.

"I'd like to see it outside of here," Ranson added.

Lashbrooke weighed in, stating, "It's OK if it doesn't mend together," and if the county decides to keep its portion separate, businesses will have two processes to go through.

Lashbrooke also mentioned the First Southwest Community Fund "is looking at contributing an additional \$100,000 to the loan fund."

Medina commented that the decision ultimately comes back to the BoCC, noting, "We're involved already," with the county having the idea to set aside funds for this program.

"This is something that this board took on and wanted to do, and I think we should continue with it," Medina said, adding that she would like to use some of the funds to be more "proactive" in finding ways to generate business downtown.

"I would really like for us to see it out," Medina said.

"I completely respect that," Lashbrooke replied, asking for direction and noting she was receiving "mixed signals" from the commissioners.

Lashbrooke also noted that the loan program will be launched on May 15.

Brown indicated the BoCC may vote on how its grant funds will be managed during its regular meeting scheduled for Tuesday, May 6, at 1:30 p.m. at the county's administration building.

Interviews

In a later interview, Medina explained that the process in which the county would review and make its decisions for awarding grants is "still something that we have to figure out," adding that she was unaware of what the PSCDC was asked to do and "didn't realize that was the direction they were going."

Medina indicated that Harper was working with the Main Street Advisory Board to create an application for the county's use.

Medina also explained that the \$100,000 set aside for downtown business grants was discussed during the county's 2025 budgeting process, noting that before Ranson took office he mentioned the idea of having funds put aside to help businesses during the reconstruction project.

Medina explained that keeping in the spirit of all the departments "tightening our belt," the \$100,000 in funds set aside came from the commissioners' budget, adding it's what the county could do as "a starting place."

Medina added that the county is not going "to be able to solve all the issues that may arise," but that it is there to help, "whatever that might look like."

Medina restated that a portion of the funds could be used for more "proactive" measures in generating more business downtown.

"Entrepreneurs in our community have great ideas," she said.

In a separate interview, Brown explained that the business assistance grants were factored in when the 2025 budget was approved.

As far as how he would prefer those funds be managed, Brown explained he could agree with either option.

Brown mentioned that it "makes sense" with Region 9 already having a process in place, noting the decision-making committee will feature three people from the community as well two Region 9 representatives.

"That would be my preference," Brown added, explaining that he does not feel it is necessary to duplicate efforts.

He also explained that he expects a performance clause to be included with the grants and loans so that taxpayers know a business is getting funds and not "closing up same day, and they're just taking the money and going."

Brown explained again that as long as the BoCC has a say in awarding the grants he would prefer to not duplicate efforts.

Brown also mentioned that "we have a lot of needs in our community," and that it could be argued to use the funds elsewhere.

He explained that, in his view, "We have a tremendous amount of tax dollars that are generated from our downtown business," and that this is an "opportunity for the county to help our businesses stay in business and continue to be profitable for themselves and to continue to submit

revenues in form of taxes to both the county and the town."

He explained that the county's operations are supported through tax dollars and that the county does not generate its own funds.

"We have tax dollars," Brown said, adding, "I think we are actively participating in the well-being of our entire community by dedicating these funds for this use."

In a separate interview, Ranson stated that his preference would be to keep the grant procedure with the PSCDC, Main Street and Region 9.

"I really don't care to see this be in any way, shape or form political," Ranson said, noting it could be viewed as the county making a decision to give taxpayer money to people "we know."

Ranson reiterated that he does not want to see any kind of politics involved and avoid "any smell of helping friends."

Ranson also explained that the idea for earmarking funds for this program has been discussed for "quite a while," explaining that before he took office he expressed the idea of having a program for the downtown business "that wasn't just a loan."

He explained that struggling businesses experiencing financial difficulties likely do not want to borrow money.

Ranson added that he envisions these funds being used in an emergency-type of situation and that it's not "free money" for a business to use to expand.

He noted that however the funds are managed, he hopes it goes to businesses that need it in order to get through this "more difficult period."

When asked about the amount of funds set aside for grants, Ranson stated, "I believe we have more available if we can come up with a good thought process."

He added that he's "not a fan of spending," but that this is "investing in our people and our community," mentioning he hopes the county can do more over the two-year construction period.

clayton@pagosasun.com

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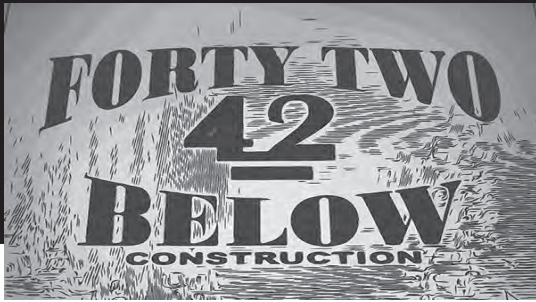
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Region 9 Economic Development District announces new executive committee members

Region 9 Economic Development District of Southwest Colorado

The Region 9 Economic Development District of Southwest Colorado Board of Directors recently filled two vacancies on its Executive Committee.

Rico Town Administrator Chauncy McCarthy and Cassie Alexander, vice president and senior loan officer for First National Bank of Cortez, were approved at the April 24 meeting.

McCarthy represents the town of Rico on the board, and Alexander is a Montezuma at-large member. They fill the vacancies of Kelly Koskie from the city of Cortez and Todd Weaver from Archuleta County, who have both taken jobs out of the area.

McCarthy and Alexander join five other executive committee members:

William Tookey, San Juan County administrator, chair; Mary Jo Coulehan, Pagosa Springs Area Chamber of Commerce director, vice chair; Dan Fernandez, Dolores at-large member, secretary; Colleen O'Brien, La Plata at-large member, treasurer; and Clyde Church, La Plata County.

For more information on Region 9, please visit www.region9edd.org.

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Photo courtesy Early Childhood Council of Archuleta County

The Early Childhood Council of Archuleta County, along with other local entities, recently came together for the annual Early Childhood Educator Appreciation Dinner, which celebrated and honored the work and dedication of more than 30 early education teachers and home providers in the community.

Chamber prepping for summer

By Mary Jo Coulehan
Pagosa Springs Area Chamber of Commerce

April is a tough month here in Pagosa Springs. This month has been even harder with the start of the U.S. 160 construction project.

However, April is now behind us, and there is so much opportunity in front of us. Let's start with the downtown businesses. There will be lots of activity and opportunities coming up this summer for you to support our downtown merchants. I continue to hear about avoiding downtown completely. That is not the attitude to take.

Commit to coming downtown at least once a week to shop, eat, see a movie or check out the construction progress.

The downtown Chamber businesses will host their annual Business Happy Hour on May 23. This event is tons of fun with lots of giveaways from the stores, and participants have the opportunity to visit the new stores and see what is happening in the established stores.

Support our downtown businesses by attending this event if you are a Chamber member or work for a Chamber member business. The businesses are also working on a number of ways to encourage you to shop downtown. Stay tuned for some exciting promotions and events. Coming soon will also be more de-

finitive signage about where to park, where to cross the highway safely and where to access the businesses. Commit to supporting, not avoiding.

The Chamber still has 12-inch hanging baskets available for sale.

While many people think we sell out quickly, we have increased our order almost every year. So, if you did not get in to order when the announcement was first made, you're still in luck and can order these beautiful baskets. Visit www.pagosachamber.com and click on the flower graphic to take you to the registration page.

A number of nonprofit agencies are also using this spring season to host their annual fundraising banquets or parties.

On May 2, Build Pagosa will host its annual auction at the Ross Aragon Community Center. There will be fabulous food, as well as unique live and silent auction items on the auction block. You can purchase tickets at www.buildpagosa.org/annual-auction/.

Build Pagosa is the community's career and technical education support program. It is in the final stretch to start building the new regional workforce center. Support its efforts and thereby the community's efforts to increase availability to career education and advancement.

On May 17, you can relive or revamp your high school prom memories by attending the Pagosa Commu-

nity Initiative's Second Chance Prom.

This organization supports community after-school and summer programming, family services and emergency funding. This fun event is themed Denim and Diamonds this year, and you can vote for your favorite king and queen of the Second Chance Prom, even if you can't attend the event. Go to <https://www.pagosacommunityinitiative.org/event-details/second-chance-prom-2025> to purchase tickets or vote for one of the team royalty members.

The Chamber is preparing for our traditional summer events with the Car Show occurring on South 5th Street at Yamaguchi Park June 13 and 14, the Park to Park Artisan Market downtown at the town parks over the Fourth of July holiday from July 3-6, and ColorFest, which will also be held in Yamaguchi Park Sept. 19 and 20.

We will also be producing a new event on Aug. 23 called Grillin' and Distillin'. This will be a BBQ cook-off for commercial and backyard BBQers and tasting distilled spirits from around Colorado and New Mexico. Stay tuned for more news about this exciting event to be held at the Archuleta County Fairgrounds.

There is a lot to prepare for this upcoming spring/summer season. Make sure you get out there to support one of the many great programs and fun events hosted by our nonprofit and business community.

County's unemployment rate falls in March

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

Archuleta County's unemployment rate fell to 4.5 percent in March after rising to 5.4 percent in February, according to a recent report from the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE).

Archuleta County's rate of 4.5 percent in March compares to 4.0 percent in March 2024.

Archuleta County's labor force totaled 6,901 in March, according to the report, with 310 unemployed. That compares to a February labor force of 6,735 and 364 unemployed.

Colorado's unemployment rate rose from 4.7 percent to 4.8 percent for the month.

According to the survey of households, the number of unemployed individuals in Colorado increased by 1,200 to 156,500 from February to March. The state's labor force decreased by 2,400 in March to 3,280,800. The share of Coloradans participating in the labor force decreased to 67.8 percent in March, compared to 67.9 percent the month prior.

Costilla County continued to have the highest unemployment rate in the state in March at 7.6 percent, with Huerfano following at 7.3 percent.

Regionally, the data shows La Plata County with a 4.6 percent unemployment rate in March, San Juan County at 4.2 percent, Mineral County at 5.8 percent, Rio Grande County at 5.2 percent and Conejos County at 5.0 percent.

The national unemployment rate also increased by one-tenth of a percentage point from February to March to land at 4.2 percent, the report indicates. The U.S. labor force participation rate increased one-tenth of a percentage point to 62.5 percent in March.

Job growth

Employers in Colorado gained 6,800 nonfarm payroll jobs from February to March for a total of 2,972,800 jobs, according to the survey of business establishments. Private-sector payroll jobs increased by 5,800, while government added 1,000 jobs.

The press release accompanying the report notes, "February estimates were revised down to 2,966,000, and the over the month change from January to February was a decrease of 11,600 jobs rather than the originally estimated decrease of 8,900 (monthly revisions are based on additional responses from businesses and government agencies since the last published estimates)."

Nonfarm payroll jobs estimates are based on a survey of business establishments and government agencies, and are intended to measure the number of jobs, not the number of people employed.

The private-industry sectors with significant over-the-month job gains in March were in trade, transportation and utilities at about 7,700 (partially reflecting the return of workers from a strike within the retail sector), and professional and business services at about 1,000.

The private-industry sectors with

significant over-the-month job losses were in education and health services at about 2,400 jobs, and leisure and hospitality at about 1,800.

Since March 2024, nonfarm payroll jobs have increased 2,300, with the private sector declining by 11,500 and government adding 13,800 jobs, according to the report.

The largest private-sector job gains were in educational and health services at about 1,500, and leisure and hospitality at about 1,400.

During that same period, payroll jobs declined in professional and business services by about 8,400 jobs; trade, transportation and utilities at about 1,900; information at about 1,300; financial activities at about 1,300; construction at about 1,100; and other services at about 1,100.

"Colorado's rate of job growth over the past year is 0.1 percent, below the U.S. rate of 1.2 percent," the press release states.

Over the year, the average workweek for all Colorado employees on private nonfarm payrolls increased from 32.8 to 33.5 hours, while average hourly earnings grew from \$37.74 to \$39.20 — \$3.20 more than the national average hourly earnings of \$36.

randi@pagosasun.com

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The Springs Resort is excited to host the 10th Annual Pints, Pools, and Paddles Craft Brew Fest, happening May 9 through 10. This event isn't just a beer festival. It's a spring tradition that brings our community together to celebrate what makes Pagosa special: mineral-rich waters, craft brews, whitewater adventure, and the spirit of gathering in a place we all love.

Friday, May 9: Start with Flavor and Fun

Kick off the weekend with a Beer, Chocolate, and Cheese tasting session, hosted by Pagosa's own Riff Raff Brewing Company. Each session offers an intimate setting where just 30 participants gather to discover the art of pairing craft beer with rich chocolates and carefully selected cheeses.

This experience isn't just delicious; it's educational and fun. You'll learn how the flavors of a well-crafted brew can complement or contrast with sweet and savory notes, deepening your appreciation for both. Whether you're a seasoned beer enthusiast or just curious to learn more, this event is designed for you.

These sessions always sell out quickly, so be sure to secure your spot early. Two sessions are available, at 3 p.m. and 5:30 p.m., for \$50 per person. Don't miss

the chance to kick off Pints, Pools, and Paddles in the most flavorful way.

Saturday, May 10: A Day for the Community

Saturday is the heart of the festival and a perfect chance to gather with friends and family.

Combo tickets for all-day soaking and beer tasting are \$99, or you can join the tasting-only event for \$49. Local residents within a 60-mile radius can enjoy a \$39 tasting ticket and add a soaking pass for just \$27 with a valid ID.

Spend the day relaxing in the geothermal pools while watching the exciting Pagosa Paddle Whitewater Races on the San Juan River, just steps from the resort. These races, featuring raft teams, kayakers, and stand-up paddleboarders, are a cherished local tradition. The day wraps up with a lively downriver parade full of costumes and good cheer.

From 3 to 6 p.m., sample craft beers from 28 breweries across Colorado, New Mexico, and beyond. Connect with fellow beer lovers and help crown the winner of the Favorite Brewery Award. Past champions Big Beaver Brewing from Loveland and La Cumbre Brewing from Albuquerque may return to defend their titles, but new contenders could take the top spot.

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Pints, Pools, and Paddles is more than craft beer and soaking. It's a celebration of our river, our town, and the people who care for both. Proceeds from this event support Friends of the Upper San Juan River, a local nonprofit dedicated to protecting the San Juan River and community parks through education, recreation, and environmental stewardship.

Their work includes hosting community races and whitewater competitions that raise funds for vital projects, like securing public river access south of town and allowing boaters to continue enjoying the beautiful Mesa Canyon stretch.

The Springs Resort is proud to contribute the proceeds from this event to help continue their efforts. When you join us, you're not just having fun — you're giving back to the heart of Pagosa Springs.

Whether you've lived here for years or are visiting for the first time, this festival is a chance to soak, sip, cheer, and connect with the community. Tickets sell quickly and prices increase as the event approaches. Don't wait to reserve your spot.

Visit pagosahotspings.com for tickets and full event details.

Local reporting that matters.

Rezone

■ **Continued from front** es are, essentially, a grant of authority for a property owner to use property in a manner that deviates from the regulations.”

O'Dell explained the Troxtells summarized their variance request with six points about the property and their plans to run a THV, which were:

- Directly addresses the affordable housing crisis in Archuleta County.
- Aligns with previous expectations set regarding paving requirements.
- Has already been approved by the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) with the existing 50-foot apron.
- May not fall under county jurisdiction due to access from a state highway.
- Ensures that the development remains financially feasible and accessible to those in need.
- Maintains the character and intent of the LUR “with compromising public safety or infrastructure integrity.”

O'Dell clarified that the applicant is not providing the housing units, only the space for a unit to be placed, noting the first point is “misleading.”

O'Dell's report also notes the Planning Department does see this project as a “viable option” for the community to provide affordable housing.

As for the claim that this project aligns with previous expectations set in regard to paving requirements, O'Dell's report states the Planning Department finds “no evidence to support this claim.”

It adds, “The applicant alluded to the fact that they are constructing their Single-Family Residence (SFR) on this parcel and they were not required to pave the driveway. The paving requirement comes from the multi-family development of this parcel, not an SFR. Further, according to Section 5.4.5.2 of the Archuleta County Land Use Regulations: Multi-family parking areas shall be paved, when required by the Archuleta County Road and Bridge Design Standards at the discretion of the County Engineer.”

The report notes the planned development will feature 40 units.

O'Dell's report explains the applicant received an access permit from CDOT for the development with the condition they pave a 50-foot apron.

The report goes on to explain this property is within Archuleta County jurisdiction and that “CDOT did not request this development be paved, because they do not have the authority to make a request outside of their jurisdiction.”

According to O'Dell's report, the Troxtells have claimed that the paving requirement will increase the project's overall cost by 30 to 40 percent.

Citing Section 2 of the LUR, O'Dell's report states, “Under no circumstance shall a variance be granted on the sole basis of personal convenience, profit or special privilege.”

The report goes on to state, “Allowing this variance would be considered personal convenience based on profit and special privilege.”

O'Dell's report also adds, “This is a business venture for the applicants,

while staff does find they are targeting a need, they are not facilitating, in the truest fashion, affordable housing units,” in response to the claim that the variance ensures that the development remains financially feasible and accessible to those in need.

In O'Dell's conclusion of his report, he states, “While the Planning Staff does believe this will bring a more versatile housing option to Archuleta County residents, Staff does not find this to be within the standards for the granting of the Variance. In past requests for variances from engineering requirements, the Variance has only been granted to non-profit organizations or farming operations off of existing dirt roads. Staff could possibly recommend the approval if the applicant was to enlist a percentage of their units as Affordable Workforce Housing, but without that delineation, Staff would not recommend approval.”

Commissioner Warren Brown stated that he would be in favor of holding off on a decision that day due to not having legal counsel.

Commissioner John Ranson asked for clarification on the different requests and permits being associated with this property.

O'Dell explained that the THV permit was approved administratively as it is a use-by-right permit.

Commissioner Veronica Medina commented, “I would like to table this,” also citing the lack of legal counsel as her reasoning.

She added, “I find it disturbing, quite a few things, because based on what your report says, it's all about the paving.”

She then commented that, according to the LUR, the property is currently zoned as agricultural ranching and that the property has been taxed as vacant land.

Medina also commented on the previous use of the property, which was also considered by the planning commission during its March 27 meeting.

Medina explained that, to her, the previous designation of what the property was more than 20 years ago “doesn't play any relevance to what we're doing today.”

The Planning Department has explained in previous meetings that the Troxtells' property was used as a mobile home park prior to the county adopting its LUR in 2006, at which time the mobile home park was non-operational and the parcel was zoned in accordance to surrounding properties — agricultural ranching.

Medina also expressed concerns of illegal spot zoning that would be created by the rezoning of the property from agricultural ranching to a mobile home park designation.

O'Dell explained that the concern of spot zoning is more related to the rezone request, and that there are “a lot of moving parts here.”

Medina also mentioned that it is important for the BoCC, acting as the Board of Adjustments, to have legal counsel on this matter, while expressing concern with the process in which these requests are being dealt with, noting it “just does not seem seamless.”

O'Dell mentioned that these requests are similar to the rezone request for the Sharp property that the

BoCC approved in March, and that there is “no practice in the book” for staff to follow for these requests.

Medina mentioned that she also requested the BoCC table the Sharp request, “because we're setting a precedent, and here we are again and we still haven't figured out what we're supposed to do or how we're supposed to do it.”

She acknowledged that staff are following the book and regulations, “but there's other details that need to be figured out.”

Development Director Pamela Flowers interjected, stating that the matter was technically a public hearing and that the commissioners needed to hear from the applicant and the public before making a decision.

Sarah Troxtell explained that her family recently moved to Pagosa Springs from suburban Dallas, Texas, after running a short-term rental here.

“We understood the housing crisis and wanted to be part of the solution,” she said, explaining that she and her husband, Travis Troxtell, sold their home in Dallas to invest in a property and the Pagosa Springs community.

“The reason that we're doing this is not for our own profit. If we cared only about that we wouldn't be doing it,” she added.

Sarah Troxtell also noted that the cost of paving would be passed on to the residents, and that the Troxtells “won't be making a lot of money” from this project.

Travis Troxtell also noted there is another property being advertised as a “mulch factory,” as well as a wildlife park operating in the area.

“Appreciate your passion,” Brown stated, explaining the community needs “more of this in general.”

Ranson explained the county needs time to obtain legal counsel on the matter.

Medina echoed the comments of her fellow commissioners while adding that this project “definitely would benefit some of the residents, or people that live here.”

She also mentioned that there are “gonna be some struggles,” urging the Troxtells to take into consideration that the commissioners are not “trying to fight against you ... we want to work with you.”

Medina also commented that the county needs to figure out where else the project could be allowed if it is not allowed in this area, and how that will affect the community.

“I'm not saying I don't want this,” Medina added, explaining that similar projects have worked successfully in nearby communities like Bayfield and South Fork.

Public comment both in support and against the Troxtells' project was heard, with Bill Hudson pointing out the property was used as a mobile home park before, and since he has been in the community, “our governments have frowned upon affordable housing.”

Hudson also mentioned the Troxtells are not receiving any government subsidy for their project and are only asking for a variance to help keep the project affordable.

Hudson also noted that the Loma Linda subdivision is “right across the

street from this development,” which does not have paved roads.

Another community member, Jared Wirth, spoke in opposition of the project with concerns of water availability in the area, along with the financial impacts the development would place on the community's emergency response agencies.

The BoCC then unanimously voted to table its decision on the variance request, with no future date picked to reconsider the matter, noting legal counsel needs to be obtained first.

Land use hearing

Following the decision on the variance request, the BoCC convened a land use hearing for the Troxtells' rezone request, ultimately voting unanimously to table the matter for the same reason cited for the variance request decision.

Medina inquired with staff as to how long ago the property in question was last used as a mobile home/RV park, with O'Dell indicating that it may have been more than 20 years since the park was last operational.

O'Dell also noted the county adopted its LUR in 2006.

Medina also asked if the former use of the property influences the matter.

O'Dell explained that “it doesn't really” and that it was something to reference as the planned development would not be “a drastic change to landscape.”

He also explained the previous mobile home park was not permitted as it was established prior to the county adopting its LURs.

Flowers added that the park was nonoperational at the time of the LUR being adopted and was zoned based on the general activity and size of properties in the area at that time.

O'Dell added that La Plata Electric Association has been informed of the planned development and has no concerns with providing service.

Wirth offered additional public comment on the matter, expressing concerns that people wouldn't be owning the property their tiny home is on.

He also expressed concerns about situations that might arise if a tenant needed to be evicted.

“We've seen what was left behind,” Wirth said, noting that until recently abandoned mobile homes were left on the Troxtells' property.

Sarah Troxtell explained that once they purchased the property, they had the abandoned mobile homes cleared out.

O'Dell also explained that the units on the Troxtells' property have to be residential dwellings, noting they would not be able to operate short-term rentals under this rezone.

Support for the project and opposition to the project were both shown when asked by the commissioners.

Brown noted that he was “torn here,” noting his concern for the county's constituents and their housing options, while also weighing keeping the character of the community.

“I'm torn on this as well,” Ranson added, noting that the community needs housing, but that he is “just struggling with, is this the right place?”

Flowers informed the BoCC that under its commitment to the Proposition 123 grant, the county has to provide a certain number of housing units and the Troxtells' units would count toward that as “naturally occurring affordable housing.”

“I am not against this project,” Medina added, echoing Ranson's concern about the particular location of the planned project.

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THE SPRINGS RESORT

Medical center posts strong March

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

Pagosa Springs Medical Center (PSMC) had the biggest March in its history, according to a financial report given to the Upper San Juan Health Service District Board of Directors on April 22.

The board oversees PSMC.

“March was a very good month for PSMC,” a written report to the board states. “PSMC had gross charges of \$7,809,899 ... this was a record for PSMC.”

In her report to the board at the meeting, Chief Financial Officer Chelle Keplinger explained the March gross charges were \$534,891 more than the March budget and \$1,374,892 more than in March 2024.

The written report also notes that payer deductions to the gross charges were “significant,” with Keplinger's report showing net patient revenue for the month at \$3,836,839. That figure is \$891,364 higher than was budgeted for March.

Expenses for the month of March, Keplinger reported to the board, totaled \$4,276,079 — \$166,689 more than was budgeted.

PSMC ended March with a bottom line of \$595,925, which compares to a budgeted deficit of \$210,875 for the month. The 2025 total net income was \$148,017 more than March 2024.

Leading to that bottom line were record volumes for March in some departments, the report and Keplinger informed the board.

“The Rural Health Clinic and Ra-

diology had their highest March volume in PSMC history,” the written report states. “The Emergency Department also had very high volume (except for a period during COVID, March 2025 was the highest volume for the ED in its history).”

Keplinger explained the district also received more property tax revenue in March than anticipated.

At the end of March, PSMC's net income of for the year totaled \$484,528 — \$978,448 more than budget but \$3,409 less than the same period in 2024.

Board president Kate Alfred highlighted the positive bottom line, pointing out that PSMC never used to have a positive bottom line before July.

randi@pagosasun.com



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La Plata Electric Association clarifies member data privacy during board election season

La Plata Electric Association

La Plata Electric Association (LPEA) is committed to protecting member privacy and ensuring transparency during its annual board of directors election.

In response to recent questions regarding how candidates can contact members — particularly via email and text — LPEA is issuing the following clarification.

Recent concerns

LPEA has recently been made aware of campaign-related text messages sent on behalf of a candidate. LPEA did not provide phone numbers to any board candidates.

If you received a text message from a candidate, the text distribution list used did not come from LPEA.

Because a list obtained from an outside source was used, this was not a violation of LPEA's board policies.

Members with concerns about unsolicited campaign texts should contact the candidate directly.

What information is shared with candidates

Under Colorado state law, Colorado Revised Statute (CRS) 40-9.5-110(1)(b), each verified candidate is legally entitled to receive a membership list that includes the names and addresses of all members, as recorded in LPEA's system.

CRS 7-90-102 (1), which applies to

nonprofit corporations and cooperative associations, defines an “address” as “a mailing address, a street address, or an address for delivery of an electronic transmission.”

Therefore, member email addresses may also be provided when available. Phone numbers are not included in the list provided to candidates.

Safeguards to protect member privacy

LPEA has implemented strict protocols to ensure that any shared information is used responsibly, in accordance with Colorado law, solely for election-related communication and must be returned to the cooperative or destroyed immediately after the election:

- Candidates must qualify by submitting a valid petition as approved by the Election Supervisory Committee.
- Each candidate is required to sign both a nondisclosure agreement and an affidavit of purpose, limiting the use of the member list to the distribution of campaign or position statements as required by CRS 40-9.5-110 (1)(b), which states, “Candidates shall use such lists only for purposes of the election and shall return or destroy them immediately after the election.”
- Per Policy 108 (II)(C)(1)(b)(4), candidates are strictly prohibited from using the member information obtained from LPEA in computerized auto dialer systems, defined by the Federal Communications Commission

as an “automated telephone dialing system” and including robocalls or automated text messages (often referred to as “robotexts”).

LPEA and board candidates

LPEA does not endorse candidates, and candidates cannot use cooperative resources.

Under Policy 105(II), “The Cooperative’s resources, including its logo, trademarks, and brand elements (e.g., fonts, colors, graphics, etc.), shall not be used to support or oppose any candidate for election. For the purposes of this policy, ‘resources’ are defined as any assets owned, funded, or maintained by the Cooperative, such as email addresses, electronic devices, printing services, postage, mailing systems, employee time, or any other financial or physical assets of the Cooperative.”

Commitment to transparency and privacy

LPEA values both the integrity of its election process and the privacy of its member-owners. This communication process is designed to foster fairness and openness while ensuring that contact information is protected and used appropriately.

For additional questions or concerns regarding campaign communications or member privacy, please contact LPEA at boardcandidate@lpea.coop.

County planning commission recommends changes to public notice requirements

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

On Thursday, April 24, the Archuleta County Planning Commission unanimously recommended approving changes to the county’s Land Use Regulations relating to public notice requirements.

Those changes include adding language to specify that posted signs on properties with public hearings be no less than 12 square feet in size and changes to mailed notice requirements.

In relation to mailed notice requirements, the planning commission proposed adding language stating that a minimum of 15 neighbors must be notified, beginning with a reach of 500 feet from the properties boundary.

If the minimum number of neighbors is not reached initially, the distance will increase by 500 feet until the minimum number of neighbors are notified, planning manager Owen O'Dell explained.

O'Dell also noted that applicants may be required to notify more than the minimum number of 15 if there are more properties within the 500-foot range.

Included in the proposed changes is also the addition of language outlining that the county shall provide additional courtesy notices of land use hearings on social media platforms the county is engaged in.

Development Director Pamela Flowers explained that these changes

will be presented to the Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) for final approval, noting that anyone currently in the process of land use hearing will not be subject to the new notice requirements.

Prior to the planning commission voting on the matter, O'Dell explained that the changes were being presented at the request of the planning commission following concerns about the number of neighbors notified for two recent rezone request hearings.

Planning commissioner Peter Vecvangs expressed support for identifying a minimum number of neighbors required to be notified compared to the current requirement of just whoever is within 500 feet of the property.

O'Dell commented that large properties surrounded by other larger properties may need to go significantly further than 500 feet from its boundary to meet the minimum requirement of 15 neighbors.

Planning commissioner Mont McAllister initially suggested a minimum 20 to 30 neighbors be required to be notified.

Planning commissioner Matt Nobles commented, “To me, the minimum needs to be pretty low then,” when taking into consideration projects located closer to high-density areas.

O'Dell indicated that, according to his research in other regulations across the state, “more often than not it was just adjacent property owners” that are required to be notified.

Vecvangs commented that projects in denser areas need to have more people be notified.

Planning commissioner Andre Redstone mentioned the commission was initially only considering one element of a “three-prong notification system” and that the other two ways of publishing notices could also be reviewed and modified, such as increasing the size of posted signs and using social media outlets to inform the public of these hearings.

“There’s nothing wrong with over-notifying, but clearly we’ve experienced ... under-notifying,” Redstone said.

He explained that the current signs are only about 2 feet by 3 feet, suggesting that increasing the sign size is “a simple fix without a big cost,” noting a larger sign might be considered “invasive,” though it would only be temporary.

Flowers indicated the current code does not specify a required size for posted signs.

Redstone also explained that the hope is that a larger sign will make it more noticeable for neighbors and passersby that “something” is happening at that property.

The planning commission ultimately agreed on a minimum sign size of 12 square feet and a minimum number of 15 neighbors required to be notified.

McAllister added that the minimum number of neighbors required to be notified can always be changed at a later date.



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Sports

TRACK



Photo courtesy Jessica Carr

Abigail Nehring prepares to launch a shot at the Pine River Invitational on April 26 in Bayfield. Nehring finished first in both the shot put and discus at the meet.

Pirates earn conference honors, will host Terry Alley Invitational Saturday

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

Ten members of the Pagosa Springs High School track and field team earned Intermountain League honors with their performances at Saturday's Pine River Invitational in Bayfield.

Fourteen teams competed at the meet, which also served as the conference meet for IML teams, with IML athletes who won their event earning all-conference honors.

Earning all-conference honors on the girls' side, according to coach Connie O'Donnell, were Abigail Nehring in the shot put and discus; Lexi Campbell in the triple jump; and the 4x100-meter relay team of Sienna Rose, Molly Washburn, Campbell and Rylie Carr.

Earning all-conference honors on the boys' side were Colton Lucero in the 100- and 200-meter dashes; Creede Dozier in the long jump and high jump; Emile Schneider in the discus; and the 4x100 team of Lucero, Tommy Nigro, Alex Pacheco and Dozier.

O'Donnell notes in an email to The SUN that while Pagosa didn't win the meet on either side, the team had "a really good day" with a number of personal records (PRs) set.

"There were many PRs and we made more advances in who might qualify for the state meet," O'Donnell

wrote.

Lucero, O'Donnell wrote, "had another stellar day."

Lucero won the 100 with a time of 10.88 seconds and the 200 with a time of 22.12 seconds.

"He is ranked 1st in the 100 in 3A and 2nd in the 200 in 3A," O'Donnell wrote, adding, "He broke the Bayfield stadium record in the 100."

She also notes the 4x100 relay was close to breaking the school record with its 43.80-second first-place finish and is ranked in the top 10 in 3A.

She adds, "Colton runs the opening leg of our 4x1 because he has a locked in start. He is so fast out of blocks and it is fun to watch him make up the stagger in the race on one corner before he hands off to Tommy. He's successful because he works hard and has confidence."

Also running the 100 for the Pirates were Nigro, who finished ninth in 11.92 seconds; Pacheco, who finished 10th with a time of 11.97 seconds; Gavin Carter, who finished 14th in 12.12 seconds; and Jonathan Baker, who took 17th with a time of 12.23 seconds.

Also running in the 200 were Baker, who finished seventh with a time of 24.58 seconds, and Jeremiah Dean, who took 12th with a time of 24.90 seconds.

Nigro took eighth in the 400-meter dash, running a time of 55.48 seconds. Jacob Castaneda followed in

12th with a time of 58.52 seconds.

Eli Nehring finished 14th in the 1,600-meter run with a time of 5:39.25 sixth in the 3,200-meter run with a time of 12:34.96.

Jeremiah Jones finished fourth in the 110-meter hurdles with a time of 17.43. Xavier Haynie took 14th with a time of 20.54 seconds.

Jones took eighth in the 300-meter hurdles with a time of 45.57 seconds. Jaxten Schiel followed in 10th with a time of 46.01 seconds, and Haynie finished 12th in 46.54 seconds.

Jones also took third in the high jump with a height of 6 feet, 1 inch. Gage Sams tied for 11th with a height of 5-5. Milo Deitemeyer and Koen Pitcher tied for 18th with heights of 5-1.

O'Donnell also highlights Dozier's jumps on the day, with the Pirates winning the long jump and triple jump.

Dozier won the long jump with a jump of 21-8.5 and the triple jump with a distance of 42-8.5.

"Creede Dozier also had a great day," O'Donnell wrote. "He jumped a PR in the triple jump on Saturday. He continues to be ranked 2nd in both long and triple jump in the state and 4th in high jump. Creede takes his training very seriously. I think it's his attention to detail that makes him perform so well at meets."

Schiel followed Dozier in the long jump, taking second with a distance

of 20-4.5.

"Jaxten Schiel finally broke through the 20 foot barrier in the long jump," the coach highlights. "His jump on Saturday puts him in the top 18 in the state, but we know that he has more in him."

Also competing in the long jump ■ See Track A12

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Terry's Ace Hardware Donates Tools to Habitat Archuleta to Support Local Affordable Homeownership

In a generous act of community support, Terry's Ace Hardware has donated a wide range of essential tools to Habitat Archuleta, a local affiliate of Habitat for Humanity, to aid in the construction of affordable housing throughout Archuleta County.

The donation includes a variety of battery operated power tools and ladders—critical items that will help Habitat Archuleta volunteers and staff build homes for families in need. This contribution reflects Terry's Ace Hardware's ongoing commitment to giving back to the community it calls home.

Habitat Archuleta expresses deep gratitude for the donation, emphasizing how it will directly impact the nonprofit's ability to expand its services and lower operational costs.

"This support from Terry's Ace Hardware is a game-changer," said Madeline Bergon, Construction Project Manager with Habitat Archuleta. "With these tools, our volunteers can hit the ground running on multiple build sites this season. It's partnerships like these that



truly make a difference."

Habitat Archuleta invites the public to get involved by volunteering,

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Track

■ Continued from A11

was Dean, who finished fifth with a jump of 20 feet.

Jones finished behind Dozier in the triple jump, taking second with a distance of 40-3, with the coach explaining, “Jeremiah Jones bettered his triple jump enough to make him a possible contender in the event at state as well.”

Schiel followed in third in the triple jump with a result of 39-9, and Castaneda took 11th with a result of 35-8.

Schneider won the discus with a throw of 124-4, with Aidan Vega following in sixth with a distance of 112-0 and Davian Coss taking 14th with a throw of 91-9.

Vega led the Pirates in the shot put, finishing 11th with a throw of 33-6.5. Coss took 15th with a distance of 32-6.5. Schneider followed in 17th with a throw of 31-10. Lincoln Butler took 23rd with a distance of 29-11.5.

On the girls’ side, O’Donnell highlights the work of Abigail Nehring in the throwing events.

Abigail Nehring took first in the discus with a throw of 129-0 and first in the shot put with a throw of 34-8.25.

“Abigail Nehring had a great day in the throwing events,” O’Donnell wrote. “She threw for a PR in the shot. She is currently ranked 1st in 3A in the discus and 7th in the shot. Her work ethic, positive attitude and leadership have been key to not only her performance, but the performance of the entire throwing crew.”

Malorie Morton took second in the discus with a distance of 105-5 and sixth in the shot put with a throw of 27-10.5.

In the 100, Rose took third with a time of 12.99 seconds, Carr followed in fourth in 13.12 seconds, Campbell took fifth with a time of 13.42 seconds, Washburn finished in 12th with a time of 14.18 seconds, and Amber Snarr finished 22nd in 14.74 seconds.

Snarr took 14th in the 200 with a time of 31.17 seconds.

Rose garnered third in the 400 with a result of 1:01.79.

Madisen Stretton finished 13th in the 800-meter run with a time of 3:02.68 and seventh in the 1,600 with a time of 6:28.24.

Honestye Sweet followed in eighth in the 1600 with a time of 6:30.19.

Eden Connor finished 11th in both the 100-meter hurdles and the 300 hurdles with times of 20.80 seconds and 1:00.47, respectively.

The Lady Pirate relay team won the 4x100 with a time of 1:49.33 and finished second in the 4x200 with a time of 54.41 seconds.

“While the girl’s 4x2 won with ease, it was a battle for the 4x1,” the coach wrote. “It came down to the wire and a photo finish with Rylie and the Alamosa team. I was so impressed by Rylie’s determination to compete in the last leg of the relay. She and the Alamosa girl really pushed each other to the end. Even though our team got second, they improved their time for state qualifying.”



Carr finished 11th in the high jump with a height of 4-5, with Dawson Iverson taking 16th with a height of 4-1.

Campbell won the triple jump with a distance of 31-2.5, with Stretton following in ninth with a distance of 27-10.

O’Donnell also points out Pirate track and field has a “bright future and it’s exciting,” highlighting that Pagosa Springs Middle School’s Rylan Ash won the mile at the day’s middle school meet with a time that would have put him winning the same event at the high school meet.

This week, the Pirates will host the

Terry Alley Invitational.

The Saturday meet will be a small meet, according to O’Donnell, and is slated to include Dove Creek, Monte Vista, Sanford and Moffat in addition to the Pirates.

“If you come to watch, you will see many Pagosa athletes excelling on the track and the field,” the coach wrote. Field events will start at 9 a.m., with the running events beginning at 11 a.m.

On Tuesday, May 6, the Pirates are scheduled to go to the Centauri Invite in La Jara, with action beginning at 3 p.m.

randi@pagosasun.com



Good luck, Pirates!

Photo courtesy Jessica Carr

Creede Dozier eyes his landing in the triple jump at the Pine River Invitational on April 26 in Bay-field. Dozier won the event with a distance of 42 feet, 8.5 inches.

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The Pagosa Springs SUN

BASEBALL

Pirates look to control destiny as postseason approaches

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Pirate baseball team moved to an 8-8 record on the season after going 1-2 over the last week, making the Pirates the No. 29 team in Colorado 3A baseball heading into the final two weeks of the season.

The playoff bracket is slated to be released May 11, with coach Ben Garcia noting the team is still trying to battle for the opportunity to play in the postseason.

"I know we've kind of put ourself in a position where ... we just need to win some games and make it to the tournament. We're capable of playing one really good game, so anything can happen, ... but we've gotta get there. We've gotta finish up Saturday and Tuesday and try and get that taken care of."

The Pirates will host what could be the final four games of their regular season over the next week, though Garcia noted he is trying to schedule another game to help fill the gap between the team's current schedule and the beginning of playoffs.

The week's action will begin with Saturday's league doubleheader against the Bayfield Wolverines.

The Wolverines are 5-10 on the season and are the No. 42 team in 3A baseball.

"It's a big game," Garcia said, indicating the games could control the team's destiny in terms of making the playoffs or not. "We've gotta come out and play our type of baseball and execute."

He noted the team has set some team goals, which include to keep motivating each other, put the ball in play, score more than seven runs, and keep strikeouts and errors down.

"We're set for a good two games," the coach said. "We've just got to be able to finish the first game and carry it over to the second game."

He added winning both could give the team good momentum heading into the postseason.

He added, "We don't control destiny if we lose."

The games will begin at 11 a.m.

On Tuesday, the Pirates will draw the season to a close with a doubleheader against the 2A Ignacio Bobcats.

Garcia noted the Pirates' goals for the game are largely the same as against Bayfield.

"They've had a really good season this year," Garcia said, noting the Bobcats are gearing up for their playoffs.

The Bobcats are 12-4 on the season and are the No. 21 team in 2A.

Garcia added the Pirates need to make routine plays and take advantage of playing at home, indicating he wants the team to send its seniors into the postseason on a high note during their last home game.

"If we play the way we're capable, we should be OK," Garcia said.

Action is set to begin at 3 p.m.

The Pirates' first game of the last week resulted in a 10-0 loss to the Cedaredge Bruins on Friday, April 25.

The Bruins are the No. 6 team in 2A.

The Bruins picked up one run in the first inning, five in the second, two in the fourth and two in the fifth.

Garcia noted the Bruins have two pitchers who are "very good," with the team's No. 1 — who the Pirates faced — throwing upward of 90 mph with good command of his pitches.

Despite the strong pitching, Garcia indicated the Pirates had opportunities, such as when the team had the bases loaded in the third inning with no outs, but got picked off at third base.

Garcia called it a "great opportunity against a very good pitcher."

The coach noted the two teams were alike in ways, but the Pirates made some errors.

He added the Pirates made some big errors after they weren't able to score, which gave the Bruins the momentum back.

"Their pitcher had 12 strikeouts and he was dealin' pretty well, he really was," Garcia said. "He threw the ball well, good hitter, really a good ballplayer. So, they kind of depend on him. They've got a really good team. ... They were legit."

Garcia indicated the Pirates would have had a good chance of logging a victory had they faced Cedaredge in a doubleheader, but they were unable to play a second game against the Bruins due to having a league doubleheader the following day.

The Bruins did what they needed to do and made some nice plays, the coach said.

"They were a better team, no doubt, for that day," he said.

The Pirates had two hits in the matchup — one from Zach Pouyer and the other from Chris Young-Martinez.

Sebastian Gonzalez drew a walk, and Cooper Ralston reached after be-



SUN photo/Randi Pierce

Pirate Sean Ryan crosses the play after hitting a game-ending grand slam against the Centauri Falcons on Saturday, April 26. The Pirates won the game 12-2 and split the day's doubleheader.

ing hit by a pitch.

Charles Washburn started the game, with Kaeden Iguchi coming in in relief. The pair combined to allow 10 runs, three of which were earned, on eight hits and five walks while striking out three over five innings.

"Charles ... threw the ball well," Garcia said.

The Pirates committed five errors, while Cedaredge committed one.

The next day, the Pirates welcomed the Centauri Falcons to town for a league doubleheader.

"The first game, again, we seemed to play very well. We played a very solid game. Defensively, we did some good things. Cooper was in command for the most part the whole game," Garcia said, adding it was topped off by a grand slam from Sean Ryan.

The Pirates were victorious in the first game, winning 12-2 in five innings.

Centauri took a 1-0 lead in the top of the first, but Pagosa countered with three runs in the bottom of the inning, two in the second, and one in the third to take a 6-1 lead.

Centauri brought one around in the top of the fourth, but Pagosa again countered, this time with two in the bottom of the fourth and a game-ending grand slam by Ryan in the fifth.

The Pirates tallied 11 hits in the matchup.

Young-Martinez had three hits in the matchup — all doubles — as well as a walk, a run scored and an RBI.

Ralston, Kyler Henderson and Angelo Medina each had two hits in the game. Ralston also had three RBIs and was hit by a pitch. Henderson, who hit a double, also drew a walk, scored three runs and had an RBI. Medina was hit by a pitch, scored a run and logged two RBIs.

Pouyer had a hit and three runs scored after reaching on errors three times.

Ryan's hit came in the form of the grand slam, giving him a run scored

and four RBIs. He also drew a walk.

Gonzalez and Washburn reached on fielder's choices, and Noah Bellina drew a walk.

Kasen Limebrook scored three runs while serving as courtesy runner for the pitcher.

The second half of the doubleheader ended in favor of the Falcons, who won 8-4.

The Falcons put up three runs in the top of the first, with the Pirates fighting back to score two.

The Falcons put up two more in the second and on in the fourth, with Pagosa picking up a run in the fourth and another in the fifth, leaving the score at 6-4.

The Falcons brought around two more in the top of the sixth, giving them the 8-4 lead they would ultimately return home with.

Garcia noted the game was 4-2 for a long time, with the Pirates having a lot of opportunities, but that they left a lot of runners on base, including leaving the bases loaded.

He added that Centauri made some nice defensive plays in the game and threw out players in scoring position.

"Plays like that change the complexity of the game," he said.

The Pirates logged eight hits in the game.

Gonzalez logged two hits, including a double, as well as a run scored and an RBI.

Wells and Henderson each hit a double, with Henderson also scoring a run and reaching on an error. Young-Martinez logged a hit, an RBI and a run scored. Angelo Medina had a hit and scored a run, and Ryan had a hit.

Richie, who reached on a fielder's choice, logged an RBI.

Seven Pirates drew walks: Gonzalez, Iguchi, Richie, Pouyer, Medina, Young-Martinez and Ryan.

Ralston and Young-Martinez took the mound in the game, with Young-Martinez pitching 6.2 innings. The

pair combined to allow eight runs, five earned, on nine hits and two walks while striking out seven.

Garcia noted Ralston started the game after he believed Ralston had fewer pitches in the first game than he ended up having, stating he wanted Ralston to continue with his good momentum.

"I wish I would have had that to do over," he said, noting Young-Martinez pitched a good game, but that the Pirates were unable to get their momentum back.

The teams committed one error each in the game.

Garcia noted that the team averages 6.6 errors in games that it loses, compared to 2.3 or 2.4 in games they win.

He noted the Pirates also tend to win games where they strike out five or fewer times.

"We've gotta be able to put the ball in play and make them beat us from the standpoint of defense," he said.

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Triple Impact Student-Athlete of the Week

Karsyn Shahan

Basketball



Comments from coach Sarah Osborn:

"Karsyn has been a cornerstone of our program the last 4 years of her high school career. Karsyn has been a varsity starter since her freshman year, and has had major contributions on both sides of the floor in each and every season. Karsyn has been a huge contributor to our offense by being one of our point guards, averaging double digit points this season, and leading the whole team each game both on and off the court. But in a game where points often steal the spotlight, you have built a legacy in this program with your dedication, your leadership, and being the rock of our defense. Karsyn leads our team this year in EVERY defensive stat (rebounding, steals, blocks). Karsyn is a great example that defense is not only about grit and determination, but also about intelligence and never backing down. You have set the standard that will last long after you are gone. We can always count on Karsyn to lock down the other team's best player, she is the player to step up in the big moments to keep us in the game, and to take pride in every rebound, steal and hustle play. You carry this team with your hard work, sacrifice, and dedication to going the extra mile. Your commitment to this program

and the sport has pushed everyone around you to rise to a higher level. Since your freshman year you have set the tone for those around you and those that come after you by giving your best effort everyday, by making your teammates match your intensity, and by being the teammate that we know will always rise to the occasion. Being a great defensive player is all about having a great mindset, it's usually a thankless job and doesn't always show up in the stat sheet. These qualities are what make Karsyn such a great teammate to have both on and off the court. Karsyn is also involved in the community here in Pagosa; she is not only a great basketball player, but is involved in rodeo and 4H. Karsyn on top of all of this has maintained a 4.0 while in her high school career. I have gotten the privilege to coach Karsyn since she was in 4th grade, and watching her grow into all of these great qualities is truly remarkable. She is a player every coach would love to coach and hate to see leave. But I know you have so many great things ahead of you, and I can't wait to see what the next step in life holds for you. I know you will take every challenge head on and never back down!"

Soccer

Lady Pirates look to ‘sneak’ into playoffs in final home games

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Lady Pirate soccer team will draw the regular season to a close over the next week with the hope the season will continue into the playoffs.

The Lady Pirates are entering their final week of play as the No. 30 team in the 3A standings and with a 5-5 record.

The team went 1-1 over the last week, falling to the No. 7 Alamosa Mean Moose on Thursday, April 24, and defeating the No. 50 Bayfield Wolverines on Tuesday, April 29.

The Lady Pirates took on the Mean Moose on Thursday, April 24, at Golden Peaks Stadium, with the Pirates falling 3-1 to their visitors.

“That was a great game,” coach Trevor Gian said, adding it was “fantastic” and that even though the Lady Pirates lost the game, it felt like a win. “Against that team, that day, we came out with such great attitude and effort and fight.”

Gian added he thinks the Lady Pirates “kind of shocked” the Mean Moose for a while and let them know they would be in for a bit of a fight and not just cruise to a win.

“It was awesome,” he said. “There were so many moments in that game that I couldn’t be more proud of the team and who they were in that time and that moment.”

Alamosa took a 1-0 lead in the first half, but the Lady Pirates tied the game early in the second half.

“When we tied it ... early in the second half with [Adison Johnson’s] free kick goal, that was just a really special moment I think for the team,” Gian said, explaining it let them know they could be in it with a top-10 team. “To know that we could play with a team like that, be right in there with them with the opportunity to win ... it was a phenomenal game.”

The Mean Moose ultimately scored two more goals in the second half to secure the win.

Lady Pirate keeper Keira Davis logged 18 saves on the day.

“It was just a phenomenal game,” Gian said, calling it a representation of what they’re looking for in the program and that it’s about the effort and “showing what we’re made of,”

not the wins and losses.

Alamosa remains undefeated on the season with a 10-0-2 record.

On Tuesday, April 29, the team traveled to Bayfield for a conference matchup and returned home with a 1-0 victory — its second win over the Wolverines this season.

The game’s sole goal came off a corner kick early in the game.

“We got an opportunity, had a short corner. Adi played it over to Hailey Sams. Hailey had a ton of space there to kind of ... break in towards the edge of the box and put one back post, and it came off a defender and went in,” Gian relayed.

Johnson earned the assist on Sams’ goal.

“Obviously the goal’s nice, but to do it off of something we’ve been workin’ on is ... really cool,” Gian said.

The coach added the goal was a good start, and the Lady Pirates had an opportunity to go up 2-0 early off another free kick, but it hit the crossbar.

Then, he noted, the game sort of settled down.

Gian indicated the Wolverines had a coaching change between matchups with the Lady Pirates, and he noticed a change.

“He definitely had them kind of ready to roll,” Gian said. “I think they recognized it as an opportunity to get a win on the season for them. They haven’t had too many of those, so their fight and their drive was ... kind of reminiscent of what we were doing with Alamosa.”

Davis logged six saves in the game, with Gian noting she had at least two “very, very quality saves.”

He added the Wolverines came out ready to win and “gave us a run for our money,” with the Lady Pirates not being as organized and structured during the game.

“We were in a fight ... the whole game through until that final whistle blew,” he said, adding that while it wasn’t the prettiest game, the team showed heart, tenacity, grit and progress.

The Lady Pirates also wanted the win, he noted, adding that win and another could potentially help the team “sneak” into the playoffs.

He added a chance to go to a playoff game would be “huge” for the



SUN photo/Randi Pierce

Adison Johnson plays the ball forward against the Alamosa Mean Moose on April 24. Johnson scored in the 3-1 loss.

program and the Lady Pirates.

The Lady Pirates will wrap up the regular season over the next week with a pair of home games.

Today, Thursday, May 1, the Pirates will host the 2A Del Norte Tigers at 4 p.m. at Golden Peaks Stadium.

The Tigers are 3-6 on the season.

“We’re really hoping to just come out strong, set the tone in that one,” Gian said, adding the hope is to not only win, but also be able to move the team’s seniors and defensive players around to different positions and have fun.

On Friday, also at 4 p.m., the Pirates will host the 4A Fruita-Monument Wildcats, who are 7-3-3 on the season, for their last home game.

Gian stated he doesn’t know much about the Wildcats, but that it’s a bigger school that has had “some good results.”

“I anticipate that being a very, very tough matchup,” he said. “If we show up with the same kind of attitude and effort we showed against Alamosa, I’m gonna be extremely happy regardless of the result.”

randi@pagosasun.com

Public Notices

DISTRICT COURT,
ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO
Court Address: 109 Harman Park Drive
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
Tel. 970.264.8160

Teal Landing Vacation Owners Association, Inc.

Plaintiff

v.

Defendants

Joy Nichole Goodie, et al.

Case No.: 2025CV30010

Attorney for Plaintiff:

Christopher B. Conley (51651)

Eck, Conley & Richardson, PLLC

700 South 21st Street, Fort Smith, AR 72901

Tel. 479.242.5906

Email: ir@ecrlegal.com

SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

TO THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

TO THE FOLLOWING DEFENDANT(S) : Robert G

McGowan, Trustee of the McGowan Revocable Trust,

dated July 16, 1999, Magdalene E McGowan, Trustee

of the McGowan Revocable Trust, dated July 16, 1999,

Brittan Rojas, Martin Rojas, John Nazar Jemelian,

Trustee of the John Nazar Jemelian Family Trust of

2001, U/T/A dated October 28, 2001, Rose Jemelian,

Trustee of the John Nazar Jemelian Family Trust of

2001, U/T/A dated October 28, 2001, Debora A Crane,

James Bradley Shepherd, Shawn Kirkland, Rebecca

Dunn, Doug Hooten, Judy V Hooten, Joe Shadid, Mar-

the Shadi, Christine Howe, Paul Grainger Jr., Joyce L

Forde, Jean Simmons, Sheri L Burnham, Michael D

Kelley, Stella M Kelley, Avery Lee Conley II, Manuel U

Montoya

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to ap-

pear and defend against the claims of the complaint

filed with the court in this action, by filing with the clerk

of this court an answer or other response. You are

required to file your answer or other response within

35 days after the service of this summons upon you.

Service of this summons shall be complete on the day

of the last publication. A copy of the complaint may be

obtained from the clerk of the court.

If you fail to file your answer or other response to the

complaint without further notice.

This is an *in rem* action of judicial foreclosure on your

timeshare interest(s) located at Teal Landing Condo-

miniunits for failure to pay assessments to Teal Landing

Vacation Owners Association, Inc.

Published in the *Pagosa Springs Sun*

First Publication: May 1, 2025

Last Publication: May 29, 2025

/s/ Christopher B. Conley

Christopher B. Conley

Published May 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29, 2025 in *The Pagosa*

Springs SUN. (263228)

DISTRICT COURT, ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLO-

RADO

Court Address: 109 Harman Park Drive

Pagosa Springs, CO 81147

Tel. 970.264.8160

Wyndham Vacation Resorts, Inc.

Plaintiff

v.

Defendants

LARRY WAYNE CONNALLY,

CARISSA DAWN CONNALLY

Case No.: 2025CV30016

Attorney for Plaintiff:

Christopher B. Conley (51651)

Eck, Conley & Richardson, PLLC

700 South 21st Street, Fort Smith, AR 72901

Tel. 479.242.5906

Email: ir@ecrlegal.com

SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

TO THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

TO THE FOLLOWING DEFENDANT(S) : Larry Wayne

Connally and Carissa Dawn Connally

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to ap-

pear and defend against the claims of the complaint

filed with the court in this action, by filing with the clerk

of this court an answer or other response. You are

required to file your answer or other response within

35 days after the service of this summons upon you.

Service of this summons shall be complete on the day

of the last publication. A copy of the complaint may be

obtained from the clerk of the court.

If you fail to file your answer or other response to the

complaint in writing within 35 days after the date of the

last publication, judgment by default may be rendered

against you by the court for the relief demanded in the

complaint without further notice.

This is an *in rem* action of judicial foreclosure on your

timeshare interest(s) for failure to pay the Monthly Pay-

ments to Wyndham Vacation Resorts, Inc.

Published in the *Pagosa Springs Sun*

First Publication: May 1, 2025

Last Publication: May 29, 2025

/s/ Christopher B. Conley

Christopher B. Conley

Published May 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29, 2025 in *The Pagosa*

Springs SUN. (263205)

DISTRICT COURT, ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLO-

RADO

Court Address: 109 Harman Park Drive

Pagosa Springs, CO 81147

Tel. 970.264.8160

Peregrine Property Owners Association, Inc.

Plaintiff

v.

Defendants

James M Kaufmann, et al.

Case No.: 2025CV30007

Attorney for Plaintiff:

Christopher B. Conley (51651)

Eck, Conley & Richardson, PLLC

700 South 21st Street, Fort Smith, AR 72901

Tel. 479.242.5906

Email: ir@ecrlegal.com

SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

TO THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

TO THE FOLLOWING DEFENDANT(S) : James M

Kaufmann, Norma K Kaufmann, Dennis M Paterson,

James H Caid, Trustee of the James and Donna Caid

Revocable Trust, dated January 23, 1996, Donna J

Cleid, Trustee of the James and Donna Caid Revocable

Trust, dated January 23, 1996, James B Wiley, Jr., Sur-

viving Joint Tenant with Right of Survivorship of Sharon

D Wiley, deceased, Geneva Robinson, Surviving Joint

Tenant with Right of Survivorship of C George Robin-

son, deceased, Clifford Magie, Arlan Robert Green-

ing, G Owen Clark, Surviving Joint Tenant with Right

of Survivorship of Maria L Clark, deceased, Charles

S Watts, Jane Jaramillo, Meyler R Anderson, Joyce

M McCullough, Isabel M Pacheco, Surviving Joint

Tenant with Right of Survivorship of H Paul Pacheco,

deceased, Sandra E Kennedy, Surviving Joint Tenant

with Rights of Survivorship of Jess Scott Kennedy, de-

ceased, Frank Grandinetti, Kristina Anne Larson, Wil-

lard A Dunn, Billy H Thompson, Warren W McCane,

Maxine V McCane, Donald G Bomer, Lucille Marie

Aiken, Mark Ketterman Brockett, Tara Christina Brock-

ett Jones, Rex L Hickman, Patricia C Ewen, William E

Ewen, Aditha Cher Taylor, Jack J Taylor III, Edwin L Put-

nam, The Terry J Lutz Living Trust dated January 10,

2012, and any Amendments Thereto

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to ap-

pear and defend against the claims of the complaint

filed with the court in this action, by filing with the clerk

of this court an answer or other response. 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

Attorney for Plaintiff:

Christopher B. Conley (51651)

Eck, Conley & Richardson, PLLC

700 South 21st Street, Fort Smith, AR 72901

Tel. 479.242.5906

Email: ir@ecrlegal.com

SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

TO THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

TO THE FOLLOWING DEFENDANT(S) : James R

Vines, Sharon L Stockton, John Anthony Cianci, Jr.,

Loretta E Gilbreath, Surviving Joint Tenant with Right

of Survivorship of Norman L Gilbreath, deceased, Kimber-

ly Eileen Vaughan Cornelius, Gloria C Burton, Barbara

Overbey, Judith Hahn, Robert Hahn, Pearl D Means,

Norman Sampson, Patricia Sampson, Donna Masch-

meyer, Robert Maschmeyer, Kevin L Kirk, Michael H

Valencia, Rebecca T Valencia, James G Mook, Velma

C Hickman, Vikki Morris, Toni M Hurt, Alonzo Hurt, Mary

A Wilk, D Virgil Willett, Jr., D V Willett, Jr., Stephanie

Sue Johnson, Mary B Lloyd, Surviving Joint Tenant with

Right of Survivorship of P B Lloyd, deceased, Joyce A

Bolyard, Lena F Bolyard, Gordon J Benesh, La Rue Be-

nesch, Judith A Nottrott, Sue E Montoya

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to ap-

pear and defend against the claims of the complaint

filed with the court in this action, by filing with the clerk

of this court an answer or other response. You are

required to file your answer or other response within

35 days after the service of this summons upon you.

Service of this summons shall be complete on the day

of the last publication. A copy of the complaint may be

obtained from the clerk of the court.

If you fail to file your answer or other response to the

complaint in writing within 35 days after the date of the

last publication, judgment by default may be rendered

against you by the court for the relief demanded in the

complaint without further notice.

This is an *in rem* action of judicial foreclosure on your

timeshare interest(s) located at Peregrine Townhouses

for failure to pay assessments to Peregrine Property

Owners Association, Inc.

Published in the *Pagosa Springs Sun*

First Publication: May 1, 2025

Last Publication: May 29, 2025

/s/ Christopher B. Conley

Christopher B. Conley

Published May 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29, 2025 in *The Pagosa*

Springs SUN. (263276)

DISTRICT COURT, ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLO-

RADO

Court Address: 109 Harman Park Drive

Pagosa Springs, CO 81147

Tel. 970.264.8160

Peregrine Property Owners Association, Inc.

Plaintiff

v.

Defendants

Deborah L Downing, et al.

Case No.: 2025CV30008

Attorney for Plaintiff:

Christopher B. Conley (51651)

Eck, Conley & Richardson, PLLC

700 South 21st Street, Fort Smith, AR 72901

Tel. 479.242.5906

Email:

Fire

■ **Continued from front**
(PFPD) Chief Robert Bertram and Archuleta County Sheriff Mike Le Roux indicated in separate interviews that area agencies who deal with fire met Tuesday to discuss the weather and upcoming season.

Bertram explained that, earlier in the year, officials were comparing this year’s conditions to 2018, but that the area is looking better than 2018 thanks to recent moisture and that green-up has started earlier this year than it did in 2018.

“We’re better right now in May” than in May of 2018 possibly, Le Roux stated.

“Initial predictions look like it’s supposed to get, you know, drier. May’s going to be kind of a tell-tale sign, but they are predicting the monsoons to come in on time,” Bertram said.

He added that the early fire season is where more of the concern in and what they’re watching.

Le Roux indicated while there could be more moisture coming, the fire season will also depend on what the area sees with the dry lightning storms that come through.

Le Roux noted the recent thunderstorm resulted in a single-tree strike and may have caused another fire that showed up days later.

“Our bigger issue right now is the people problem and the lack of responsible burning we’ve had by people,” Le Roux said.

Le Roux noted there have been a number of legitimate agricultural burns get out of control in the Arboles area, as well as a couple of pile burns and other controlled burns that got out of control.

He added the sheriff’s office has already enforced multiple noncompliant burns.

Bertram also discussed that there have already been some fires this spring.

According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, all of Archuleta County is currently in drought.

Most of Archuleta County is in severe drought, with portions of eastern Archuleta County in extreme drought, according to the most recent drought map — a factor Le Roux pointed out.

Area snowpack is also below normal.

As of Wednesday, April 30, the San Miguel, Dolores, Animas and San Juan River basins were at 28 percent of the day’s median snowpack, according to SNOTEL data published by the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

The Upper San Juan SNOTEL site was at 4 percent of the day’s median snowpack, with the site having 1 inch of snow water equivalent (SWE) as of April 30. The April 30 median SWE at the site is 23.8 inches.

The median peak SWE at the site is 29.7 inches, with a median peak date of April 9.

The nearby Wolf Creek summit SNOTEL site was at 32 percent of the day’s median on April 30, with 11.2 inches of SWE. That compares to a median of 34.6 inches of SWE.

The median peak for the site is 35.5 inches, with a median peak date of April 29.

Le Roux noted that he would rather have a monsoon season than a huge winter, noting that 2022-2023 was a pretty big snow year, but the area still had several large fires.

“At the end of the day, it still melts off here,” he said, adding if there’s no monsoon, everything dries out.

Preparing for fire

“In Colorado, we are no stranger to the impact of devastating wildfires,” said Gov. Jared Polis via an April 24 press release from the state. “We remain focused on aggressively implementing effective mitigation efforts to prevent wildfires and ensure our brave firefighters have the resources needed to protect us and our communities when a wildfire starts. We understand that wildfire season is year-round, and that is why our mitigation efforts and investments in new technology, aerial equipment and first responders are so important to the safety of the entire state. The federal cuts to wildfire services are troubling, and we continue to urge the administration to remain at the table with states.”

“The 2025 Wildfire Preparedness Plan outlines a comprehensive approach to wildfire management that includes suppression and response, fuels and forest management, and mitigation activities,” explained DFPC Director Mike Morgan via the press release. “Colorado, in partnership with local, state and federal agencies, is prepared to respond to wildfires by focusing on early detection and rapid initial response to minimize fire size, duration, impact and costs.”

Le Roux highlighted that the state has a lot of resources in the region, including aerial assets.

He added that he has not seen a reduction in federal firefighting resources, stating the “boots-on-the-

■ See Fire A16



NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Archuleta County Airport - Stevens Field
Pagosa Springs, Colorado
Parking Lot and Access Road for PSO
AIP Project No. 3-08-0066-028-2025

Project Re-Bids, subject to the conditions contained herein, for improvements to the Archuleta County Airport - Stevens Field, Pagosa Springs, Colorado, AIP Project No. 3-08-0066-028-2025 will be received by Archuleta County Airport - Stevens Field, Attn: Airport Manager, FBO Conference Room, 61 Aviation Court, Pagosa Springs, Colorado, 81147, until Thursday, May 15, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. (local time). Bids to be mailed shall be addressed to the attention of the Archuleta County Airport - Stevens Field, Attn: Airport Manager, FBO Conference Room, 61 Aviation Court, Pagosa Springs, Colorado, 81147, and will be clearly marked "Sealed Bids: Parking Lot and Access Road for PSO. DO NOT OPEN". At the time listed above, the received sealed bids will be publicly opened and read aloud immediately in the aforementioned location that they were received.

The bidding documents are available at <https://woolpert.com/bid> and/or www.questcdn.com - Reference Quest Number 9555670. To be considered a plan holder for bids, register with QuestCDN.com for a free Regular membership and download the bidding documents in digital form at a cost of \$22. Downloading the documents and becoming a plan holder is recommended as plan holder’s receive automatic notice of addenda, other bid updates. Contact QuestCDN Customer Support at 952-233-1632 or Support@QuestCDN.com for assistance in membership registration or downloading digital bidding documents. Interested parties may view the contract documents at no cost prior to deciding to become a plan holder.

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

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

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

P-152a	Unclassified Excavation	2,300	CY
P-152c	Subgrade Preparation (6")	3,750	SY
D-754a	4’ Wide Concrete Pan	270	LF
D-754b	Concrete Curb and Gutters	300	LF
CDOT-403	Hot Mix Asphalt (4")	880	Ton

Pre-Bid Conference. Not applicable.

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

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

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

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

All questions regarding the bid are to be directed to Mark Lovato, 720 South Colorado Boulevard, Suite 1200-S, Glendale, CO 80246, Mark.Lovato@Woolpert.com by Monday, May 12, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. local time.

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

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

FEDERAL LANGUAGE REQUIRED FOR SOLICITATIONS:

FAA BUY AMERICAN PREFERENCE:

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

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

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

TITLE VI SOLICITATION NOTICE:

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

TRADE RESTRICTION CERTIFICATION:

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

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

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

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

Public Notices

Contractor if at any time it learns that its certification was erroneous by reason of changed circumstances.

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

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

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

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

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

FEDERAL FAIR LABOR STANDARDS ACT (FEDERAL MINIMUM WAGE):

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

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

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

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

Timetables

Goals for minority participation for each trade: 10.2
Goals for female participation in each trade: 6.9%

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

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

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

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

PROCUREMENT OF RECOVERED MATERIALS:

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

DBE PARTICIPATION:

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

Information Submitted as a matter of bidder responsiveness:

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

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

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

OTHER FEDERAL PROVISIONS:

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

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

Archuleta County
Pagosa Springs, Colorado

Published May 1 and 8, 2025 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (263048)

NEW PUBLIC NOTICE/ LEGAL ADVERTISING DEADLINE NOON FRIDAY

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

Requirements

■ Continued from front

fire flow below the International Fire Code standards in writing.

He stated that he would like a written document indicating that the PFPD accepted the lower fire flow.

“If somebody’s building burns down, they’re going to sue everybody, including us,” Ramsey said, “and I could just see the fire department throwing that back in our face that we had a written document saying we needed 2,000 and you guys let these guys build with only a thousand and we said we needed two. And, so, I’m just concerned when they do the slap-on-the-back, good-ol’-boy thing that we’re get held ... holding the bag.”

Lock commented that he agreed that these documents needed to be in writing to prevent lawsuits and make the responsibilities of the two districts clear.

PAWSD board member Gene Tautges proposed that the district refuse to provide a letter to the Town of Pagosa Springs or Archuleta County planning departments offering the district’s approval for a project until PAWSD receives a letter from the PFPD.

Ramsey expressed concerns about how this approach might make PAWSD the “bad guy” and stated that he would prefer a rule change.

PAWSD board member Glenn Walsh expressed his “longer-term concerns” about the fire department being “too cooperative” with developers and questioned if the district wants to accept that “good enough is good enough.”

He questioned if PAWSD should enforce the fire code standards.

Ramsey commented that he does

not believe PAWSD has the expertise to do this and highlighted that the fire code allows a fire district to require lesser fire flows.

Walsh expressed his concerns that PAWSD would be blamed and made responsible for fixing low standards regardless of what documentation it receives from the PFPD, but stated his support for Tautges’ proposal.

He added that he would want a letter from the PFPD to call out the fire code standard, explain that the district was willing to accept a lower standard and provide a rationale for why this lower standard is acceptable.

PAWSD board member Alex Boehmer asked if the issue of fire flows should be included as a topic of discussion for the joint meeting with the PFPD board that the district is trying to arrange.

Boehmer added that PAWSD should explain that the district needs clear guidance from the fire marshal, who oversees these approvals, and should demand that the board direct the fire marshal to give this guidance.

Walsh commented that, in the case of inclusions into PAWSD, the district could potentially require included properties to comply with the fire code since it has wide discretion over inclusions.

Tautges explained that fire flow standards could conflict with standards for water potability in outlying areas, since the larger lines and tanks needed for fire flow could make water quality more difficult to maintain.

Walsh emphasized that the district could set a variety of standards for inclusions and demand that included

projects meet these standards.

Tautges noted that meeting fire flow standards in many outlying areas would be impossible due to water potability issues.

“Well, then it can’t be built,” Walsh said.

Tautges noted that he would want people to understand that these developments could not be built because the district must satisfy its responsibilities to provide potable water.

Walsh commented that, if fire flows and prevention are a top priority in the community, then it may be justified to use the district’s powers to stop the construction of certain developments where fire flow requirements cannot be met while keeping water potable.

Lock expressed concern about PAWSD deciding what adequate fire flows are due to that not being the district’s “call” or expertise.

He proposed that the district could require that inclusions meet fire flow standards provided by the PFPD.

Tautges commented that many members of the public, including some firefighters, believe that providing fire flow is PAWSD’s responsibility.

Walsh asked if the consensus was that the district needs to get clear direction from the PFPD, which several board members confirmed.

Lewis commented that the working relationship between the districts is “getting better” and that the district recently received a letter from the PFPD signing off on an aspect of a project where the achievable realities of water flow are lower than the fire code requirements.

She stated that she would like to

send this letter to Lock to get his opinion of where this letter might need to be “firmed up.”

Walsh commented that he would like to see the format of the letter and would want it to be “very strong.”

He added that, until the district receives such a letter, he would support not moving forward with providing approval.

Lewis noted that this approach leads to PAWSD holding up developments, which can cause the district to “take a lot of heat.”

She stated that she does not mind, but that this displeasure would be transferred to the board.

She also explained that, with the current arrangement, the burden for the issue falls on PAWSD and the district becomes the “bad guy who’s holding up your development.”

PAWSD board member Bill Hudson commented that Lewis should not be the bad guy and that she should encourage displeased developers to come to the PAWSD board meetings.

“We like being the bad guys; that’s our job,” Hudson said.

“I would love to be the bad guy in a circumstance where public figures who have stated that fire safety is the highest priority and that money is no object and they walk in that door and say, ‘We want to approve this new development with half the recommended fire flow,’ because growth and sales tax revenue is really the highest priority,” Walsh said.

Lewis concluded the discussion by stating that she was trying to get the issue “to a place where it can be well presented to all of you.”

josh@pagosasun.com

Metro

■ Continued from front

trict’s standing as a government entity allows it to finance a project with “low-interest loans,” which a private developer would not have access to. This debt is paid back through future property taxes on parcels sold within the district.

Property owners within a metro district usually pay higher property taxes than those who own property in non-metro districts, with those taxes going toward the debt incurred by the district to pay for the public infrastructure installation or maintenance, Cole explained.

Planning commissioner Mark Weiler asked “who actually benefits” from a metro district’s ability to “utilize lower-interest rate capacity to fund the improvements.”

He asked if it is the community or the future homeowner who might pay a lower purchase price.

“Or, is this just an alternative funding model to benefit the developer and put the financial liability ... on somebody else’s shoulders, as opposed to the developer’s?” Weiler asked.

He added that he is concerned that the “burden” to pay off the debt service of the metro district would be placed on the future property owners in the district.

This concern was shared by the majority of the commissioners and council members, with most expressing that they wanted to see specific protections for homeowners written into the town’s policy on metro districts.

Cole explained that state statute has in place protections for owners in metro districts, but that the town could choose to go further than the state’s regulations to limit the burden on and increase transparency for future property owners.

He explained that the town could carefully “craft a policy” so that all

the benefits don’t flow to the “greedy developers.”

Council member Brooks Lindner expressed concern that members of a metro district may become tax-averse voters since they’d be paying more in property taxes, and this could hinder the town’s future chances of raising town taxes to pay for important repairs and improvements.

Cole agreed, saying that one of the cons of metro districts is that you can create “pockets of resistance within metros to new town taxes.”

Cole, who would draft the policy alongside Dickhoff, sought direction about any other specifics on what limitations the council and commission would want to see in the policy.

There was general consensus that the installation of public infrastructure is a priority that the council and commission would want to see from metro districts.

Both entities also reached consensus that they don’t want to see metro districts last in perpetuity, and that once the infrastructure is installed and the debt is paid off, the district should “dissolve” and any public improvements — streets, sidewalks, curbs and gutters — should transfer to the town’s ownership and maintenance.

It was also agreed that there should be a time limit policy on a metro district to get “the ball rolling” on a development.

A five-year limit was agreed upon, so if a district is formed and “it just sits there for five years with no action,” as Cole stated, then it would automatically dissolve.

When discussion moved into the territory of what “strategic goal,” or “extraordinary benefit,” the town would like to see achieved through allowing metro districts, the council and planning commission reached a general consensus that the building of workforce housing should be the

top priority.

Both entities also agreed that installing public trail connections and a secondary road network are also major goals that the town would like to see metro districts help achieve.

Planning commissioner Julie Guller asked if the town “can legally tell the metro district” to build workforce housing, with Cole replying, “I believe so.”

“The powers given to a municipality over these metro districts by statute is a little bit different than in counties, and the additional power that Pagosa Springs has as a home rule municipality that can legislate on any matter regarding local and municipal control, and how development happens in your town, has historically been a matter that the Supreme Court has said is a matter of municipal and local control,” Cole said.

Lindner referred to the county- and town-adopted 2025 Regional Housing Needs Assessment that points to certain area median incomes (AMIs) that any new housing inventory should target.

“Let’s make the ‘extraordinary benefit’ be targeting those specific AMIs that the needs assessment has shown us that we need,” he said.

Weiler suggested that the “extraordinary public benefit” that the town should use metro districts for, as a tool to help address, “is the lack of workforce housing” in the area.

“We do not have a good solution for workforce housing ... and if this extraordinary benefit is gonna be workforce housing, [we can say], ‘You can have your gas station, your car wash, your whatever, but we want places where people can afford to live,’” he added.

It was ultimately decided that both the council and planning commission needed another work session to further dive into the details of a potential

Fire

■ Continued from A15

ground ability to engage hasn’t been curtailed.”

He also noted the area has lightning-mapping capabilities, allowing resources to go to areas where fires may be suspected due to lightning quicker.

Bertram and Le Roux also discussed local improvements that will help with fires.

The PFPD, Bertram explained, increased its staffing this year to five paid firefighters per shift, up from four, with continued 24/7 coverage.

Le Roux noted the PFPD didn’t have 24/7 coverage in 2018 and that it also puts the area ahead of where it was in 2018.

The PFPD also recently purchased a wildland truck that Bertram noted is already in service.

The sheriff’s office restructured its Office of Emergency Management, Le Roux explained, with Roy Vega now leading the division.

Vega, Le Roux highlighted, has at least 18 years of wildland fire experience and comes from a federal background, including work with the San Juan Hotshots.

Stanley Okazaki has moved into the

deputy director’s role, Le Roux added, and Carson Laverty, who would have been starting his fifth fire season as a seasonal firefighter with the county, is joining the staff on a full-time basis.

Le Roux explained the sheriff’s office deputies have also done training, with the deputies now carrying hand tools and 5-gallon buckets of water and responding to every fire.

That, he noted, in addition to helping more quickly, “gives incoming resources situational awareness” and can help deal with the law enforcement side quicker in the event of an illegal burn or arson.

The sheriff’s office can also now employ drones to help with thermal and other imaging to help determine the location and status of a fire to allow officials to respond more efficiently, he indicated.

“We’ve used our drone ... primarily on fires,” he said.

He also highlighted that six members of the Archuleta County Road and Bridge staff have earned their red cards, which makes them eligible to work on federal fires and to run heavy equipment for fires.

“To have six red-carded Road and

Bridge personnel, that’s a force multiplier,” he said, noting the county’s water trucks each have a capacity of 4,500 gallons.

Le Roux indicated the area agencies have a really good working relationship and will all be involved when fires start.

“Everybody is gonna be involved in every way, shape or form we can this season,” he said.

The state’s 2025 Wildfire Preparedness Plan is available at <https://bit.ly/2025-DFPC-WPP>.

The San Juan National Forest was unable to comment for this story, citing a seven-day turnaround for media requests.

County alert system

Le Roux encouraged all citizens to sign up for Nixle, the county’s community notification system.

For more on Nixle and to sign up, visit <https://archuletacounty.org/569/Citizens-Alert---NIXLE>.

Le Roux also noted that, in the event of an emergency, he has the ability to send out a message to everyone in Archuleta County, similar to how Amber Alerts are pushed to every phone within an area.



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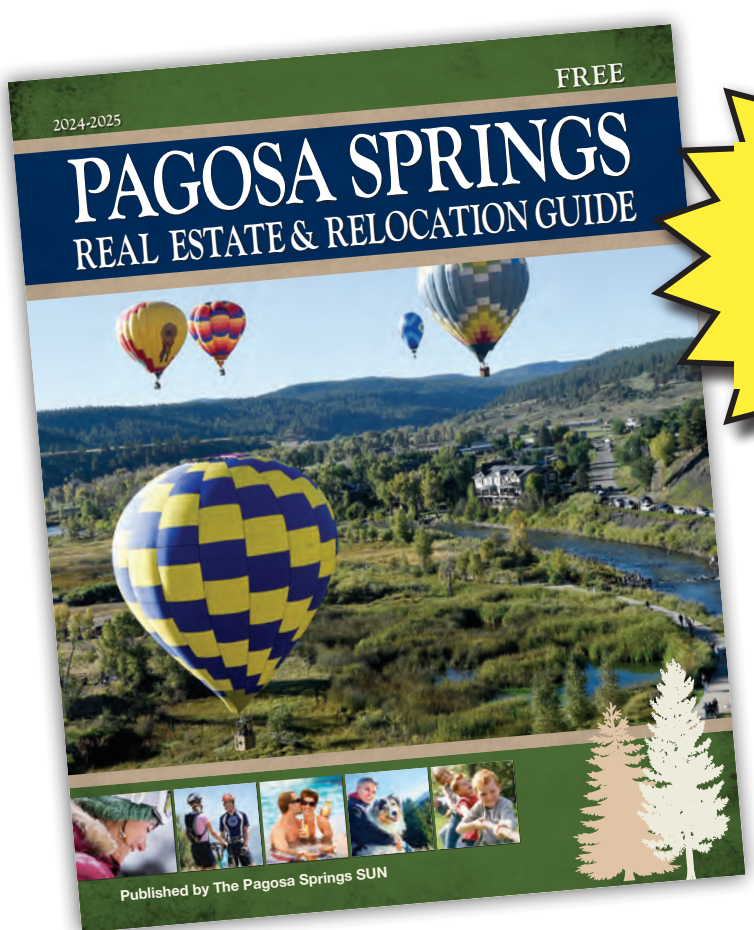
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Overview

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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preview

ARTS & LIFE

Supermom 5K

8 a.m. • Saturday, May 10 • Yamaguchi Park



Photo courtesy Michelle Clark

Supermom 5K to bring families together for morning of fun and celebration

By Nicole Cotts
Aspire Medical Services and Education

Get ready to lace up your running shoes and channel your inner superhero at Aspire’s Supermom 5K. Taking place on Saturday, May 10, at Yamaguchi Park, this beloved community event is all about movement, laughter and celebrating the incredible moms who inspire us daily. Participants can choose between a 5K run, a mile walk or the Kids Fun Run, ensuring fun for all ages and abilities. All registrants will receive a swag bag with coupons and goodies from our sponsors. Check-in begins at 8 a.m., with festivities kicking off shortly after. We are so proud to have our local Vets for Vets and the Daughters of the American Revolution volunteering at our event. We will also have the honor guard starting off our morning in addition to a flyover by the San Juan Squadron at 9 a.m. Fuel up with free breakfast burritos made by our board of directors and enjoy complimentary coffee. Those craving something extra special can purchase “fancy” coffee from the coffee truck. Families can also look forward to a bounce house for the kids, making it a day of fun for everyone. This year’s event brings an extra dash of excitement with a superhero costume contest. Prizes will be awarded for the best family/group superhero costumes and the

top individual costume, so break out your capes, masks and creative spirit. While T-shirts are no longer available, the heart of the Supermom 5K remains unchanged: a chance to celebrate moms, strengthen community bonds and make lasting memories together. Whether you’re running, walking or cheering from the sidelines, your participation makes this event special. Register today and be part of this fun tradition. All proceeds go directly to help offset costs and keep our prenatal care affordable to everyone in the community, as well as provide evidence-based parenting, baby/toddler classes and prenatal education programs. For more information or to sign up, visit aspirepagosa.org/supermom5k or call Aspire at (970) 264-5963.

About Aspire Medical Services and Education

Based in Pagosa Springs, Aspire provides prenatal care, parenting education, parent/toddler enrichment classes, affordable prenatal care, pregnancy testing, ultrasounds, STI/STD testing and treatment, as well as a baby boutique. We aspire to empower individuals and families to thrive physically, emotionally and socially by providing medical services and education in a safe, supportive environment. Aspire is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Our main source of income is through events and the generous support of individuals, churches and organizations.

Live Performers

Thursday	Coyote Moon Lounge: Karaoke with DJ Marcus, 6 p.m. The Pagosa Bar: Karaoke, 7:30 p.m.
Friday	Coyote Moon Lounge: Rock ‘N Rebels, 6 p.m. The Springs Resort lodge atrium: Jason Rose, 5 p.m.
Saturday	Coyote Moon Lounge: 3Man Cult, 7 p.m. The Springs Resort lodge atrium: Maxwell Miller, 5 p.m.
Sunday	Coyote Moon Lounge: Christopher Cody Meacham, 5 p.m.
Monday	Coyote Moon Lounge: San Juan Mountain Boys, 5 p.m.
Tuesday	The Springs Resort lodge atrium: Dustin Burley, 5 p.m.

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Peggy Bergon to present about arborglyphs at Saturday meeting

Carolyn Paschal
Pagosa Peak Genealogical Society

The Pagosa Peak Genealogical Society will hold its regular monthly meeting this Saturday, May 3.

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

Our presenter this month will be Peggy Bergon.

During the latter part of the 19th century and into the early part of the 20th century, thousands of sheep were raised in Colorado. The Hispanic shepherd, away from loved ones for months at a time, expressed his loneliness and boredom on the vast canvas available to him, the soft white bark of the aspen tree. These carvings are known as arborglyphs, which means literally "tree-writing." Visions of home, hearth and missed loved ones adorn thousands of trees throughout the forest.

Bergon is a Pagosa Springs resident who began photographing and researching this unique piece of Colorado and forest history and now has a collection of more than 4,000 photographs.

The genealogical society meets on the first Saturday of each month. It

hosts guest speakers on a wide range of topics relating to genealogy and history, including the rich history of our local area. We are a member of the Colorado Council of Genealogical Societies, where we have access to professional speakers from across the state. Our society has also partnered with the Town of Pagosa Springs in

its ongoing efforts to research and improve our local cemeteries.

Visitors are encouraged to attend our meetings, so please join us as we hear from Bergon about this fascinating part of our local history.

For more information, please contact Carolyn Paschal at carolyn-paschal@gmail.com.

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SILVER DOLLAR LIQUORS

Veterans for Veterans annual golf tournament filling up fast

By Ted Eckerson
Veterans for Veterans of Archuleta County

The Vets4Vets Memorial Golf Tournament on May 24 at the Rio Grande Golf Club in South Fork is filling up fast.

We have about 20 spots left places for single players, pairs and foursomes as of May 1. The cost is \$125 per player.

We also are taking donations to support veterans in Southwest Colorado. What better way to honor a veteran than by helping support veterans in need? Prayers are also welcome.

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



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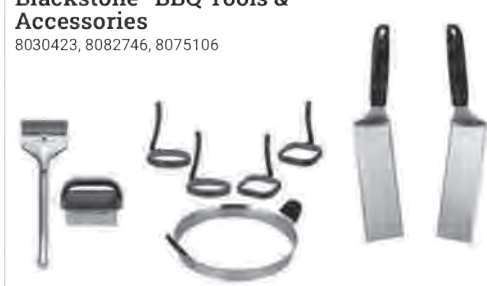
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Build Pagosa annual dinner, auction to be held May 2

By Doug Hershey
Build Pagosa

Since 2017, the local nonprofit organization Build Pagosa has been supporting fun, meaningful educational experiences for Pagosa Springs High School (PSHS) students while addressing the skilled labor shortage in Pagosa Springs and Southwest Colorado.

Local businesses face ongoing challenges in finding skilled workers to meet their needs, which hampers economic growth and limits opportunities for community development.

At the same time, many young people in our region lack access to the training and resources needed to pursue fulfilling careers in high-demand fields, making career and technical education (CTE) a vital pathway to equip students with technical skills, industry connections and an entrepreneurial spirit.

In response to these challenges, Build Pagosa is spearheading the creation of a regional workforce center.

The regional workforce center will serve as a transformative resource for PSHS and the broader community.

Designed as additional classroom space for the high school's CTE programs, the center will strengthen

PSHS's offering of hands-on learning opportunities in fields such as building trades, metal fabrication, automotive, health sciences, culinary, agriculture and more.

Beyond high school, the facility will also serve as a hub for the greater community, including colleges, workforce training organizations, public utilities and other educational providers, ensuring year-round use and broader impact.

Thanks to the incredible support of many stakeholders, we have made significant progress toward bringing this vision to life. We are thrilled to announce we have raised approximately \$2.8 million in funding for the project. Notable contributions include generous funding most recently from the El Pomar Foundation, and previously from the King Family Foundation, Boettcher Foundation and Gates Family Foundation. The Colorado Department of Local Affairs, in partnership with the Town of Pagosa Springs, has provided a \$600,000 grant. Additionally, a Congressionally Directed Spending grant, managed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, has contributed \$1 million.

Finally, the many private donations from generous community members make up the rest of the

\$2.8 million. This highlights the grassroots support that has been vital to our progress. The success of this project would not have been possible without this incredible community support.

As we look ahead, Build Pagosa is thrilled to be planning to break ground on this much-anticipated project by spring of next year.

The regional workforce center is more than just a building; it's a vision for a stronger, more resilient Pagosa Springs where students and community members build the tools to grow with our changing economy.

If you're interested in learning more about Build Pagosa, the new regional workforce center facility, and connecting with the community of CTE supporters, you're invited to our annual auction on Friday, May 2, at 5:30 p.m.

Located at the Ross Aragon Community Center, this event will include a full catered BBQ dinner and drinks, both a live and silent auction, music provided by Americana students and fun. Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door.

Check out our ad in this Pagosa SUN and PREVIEW, or visit Events at BuildPagosa.org. We can also be reached at director@buildpagosa.org. We hope to see you there.

TARA Food Pantry to hold fundraising plant sale

By Susan Halkin
TARA Food Pantry

On May 7 and 10, the TARA Food Pantry will be holding a plant sale from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The TARA Food Pantry is located in the lower level of the TARA Community Center at 333 Milton Lane in Arboles.

This event will serve as a fundraiser for the TARA Food Pantry.

In addition to helping out the TARA Food Pantry, it will also help families become self-sufficient in growing their own vegetables. One of the goals of the pantry is to "Stay Happy — Eat Healthy." The joy of growing your own food can be very gratifying and fun.

The Economic Research Service

of the U.S. Department of Agriculture estimates food prices will increase by 2.2 percent in 2025. With the rising cost of food, this will assist families with more quality, healthy food options while saving a substantial amount of money by growing their own food.

Since the end of January there has been an executive order to freeze all existing and future federal funding. In 2024, the TARA Food Pantry depended on these grants and others along with donations for sustainability.

Therefore, the pantry is looking to be creative to help keep the shelves full of food for the community. The plant sale is one of the ways that will help with purchasing healthy foods for local families.

At this time the TARA Food Pantry serves between 65 and 70 families per week.

Some of the plant choices are: tomatoes, peppers, squash, honeydew, pumpkins, garlic and more. Other choices are aloe vera, spider plants, chick and hens, salvia, asparagus fern, creeping Charlie, mint, wandering Jew, amaranth, hollyhocks, African violets, cactus, marigolds, sunflowers, moon flowers, pothos, zebra haworthia and much more.

It would be a good place to pick up a Mother's Day gift also.

In addition to plants, there will be Arboles homegrown compost for sale along with containers and seeds.

Man 2 Man Prostate Cancer Support Group to meet virtually May 6

By Dion Hollenbeck
Man 2 Man Prostate Cancer Support Group

The Man 2 Man Prostate Cancer Support Group will meet May 6 at 7 p.m. via Zoom.

Our group consists of survivors of prostate cancer and men who have

been diagnosed with prostate issues, including BPH and cancer.

We discuss experiences with resources, diagnosis and treatments for the disease. Anyone is welcome.

For more information and a Zoom invite, please contact prostategroupdro@gmail.com.

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Save the date: Dancing with the Pagosa Stars to benefit Seeds of Learning

By Cory Henderson
Seeds of Learning

It is time to pick out your Pagosa Springs finest dress threads, dust off the bling and mark your calendar to attend the star-studded event of the summer, Dancing with the Pagosa Stars.

On Aug. 16, local celebrities will slip into their costumes and dance their hearts out, competing to raise critically needed funds for Seeds of Learning.

These generous celebrities are all people that are recognized as leaders in our community. They will partner with professional coaches to present a dazzling night of dancing and fun.

You will be able to buy tickets to support your favorite dancers and vote as many times as you want, with each vote costing \$1. The celebrity raising the most money from sponsorships, ticket sales and voting will get bragging rights and take home the coveted Mirror Ball Trophy at the end of the night.

The identities of the chosen celebrities are under wraps until the big reveal on May 22, when voting for your favorite stars will be officially open. You are not going to believe who we have dancing this year.

For the most up-to-date news on the event, follow Dancing with the Pagosa Stars Facebook at facebook.com/Dancingstarspagosa/ or visit our website at growingseeds.org, where tickets for this much-anticipated event will go on sale June 30 at 9 a.m.

Jason Cox and Heather Simpson will be returning as the emcees for this year's event, providing endless entertainment leading up to and during the performance. Cox was a star dancer in 2019, and Simpson was a star in 2021.

Seeds is extremely pleased to welcome our amazing director, Kylie Ross, who is working hard to make this night special.

Ross has 27 years of dance experience and has been teaching since 2010. With a passion for the stage, she has had countless opportunities to be involved with productions as a teacher, choreographer and performer. She moved to Pagosa in 2018 and has been ecstatic to find dance opportunities here in productions such as Dancing with the Pagosa Stars.

This month, 22 children will graduate from Seeds and attend kindergarten in the fall. History tells us these children will excel among their peers because of Seeds' age-appropriate education programing and curriculum.

Many children have been able to attend Seeds because of the generosity and support from this event. Seeds offers a sliding-scale tuition based

on each individual family's income; with 100 percent of families receiving financial assistance. The future of our community's 2.5- to 5-year-olds lies in the hands of generous individual donors and local businesses.

More details about this incredible evening will follow. Mark your calendar for Aug. 16 to support your favorite Pagosa celebrity and help educate the future leaders of Pagosa Springs.

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May 1st Only

Sexual Assault Awareness Month: Work toward creating a safer tomorrow continues

By Phoebe Schroeder
Rise Above Violence

As Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) comes to a close, we reflect with deep gratitude on the powerful conversations, awareness campaigns and community efforts that took place throughout April.

Yet, the work of creating a safer tomorrow does not end with the turning of the calendar.

At Rise Above Violence, we know that real change happens year-round, through everyday actions, continued education and a shared commitment to building a community where everyone feels safe, supported and heard.

This year’s SAAM theme — “Together We Act, United We Change” — reminds us that each voice and action matters.

Ending sexual violence takes more than awareness; it takes daily choices rooted in respect, accountability and empathy.

We are especially grateful for the incredible support received from our community throughout April.

From the Womens’ Clothing and Gear Swap to everyone who participated in the Push-Up Challenge to raise awareness, fun-raise and “Push Up” Survivors, to those who marched on Denim Day — your dedication showed that together, we are stronger. Your willingness to stand with survivors and advocate for change inspires all of us to keep pushing forward.

As we step into May, we also honor Mental Health Awareness Month, a time to recognize that healing from trauma and building safe communities must include mental and emotional well-being. Supporting survivors means not just responding in moments of crisis, but walking alongside them through their journeys of healing and resilience.

At Rise, we believe prevention and healing go hand in hand. Every time we model consent, offer a listen-

ing ear, challenge a harmful joke or advocate for supportive services, we are planting seeds of change. Creating a safer tomorrow starts with the choices that we make today.

How you can continue to make a difference

- Volunteer your time: Our volunteers are the heart of our mission. Whether staffing hotlines, assisting with events or providing support to survivors, your time makes a real difference. We are immeasurably grateful for all our volunteers do.

- Educate yourself and others: Keep learning about the realities of sexual violence and mental health.

- Share your knowledge: Conversations lead to change.

- Support survivors: Believe survivors. Respond with compassion. Healing happens in spaces built on empathy.

- Speak Up: Small actions — like challenging harmful language or promoting consent education — create lasting impact.

- Donate or fundraise: Financial support ensures Rise can continue providing critical, often lifesaving services at no cost to survivors.

As SAAM ends, we invite you to stay connected and stay involved. Together, we can continue building a community where safety, dignity and hope are not reserved for just one month, but are part of the fabric of our everyday lives and our community.

Thank you for standing with us, believing in this work and helping us create a safer, stronger tomorrow. Together we rise.

For more information about getting involved, please visit RiseAboveViolence.org or call (970) 264-1129.

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Photo courtesy Shanna Robb

More than 50 people attended Sunday's Divine Mercy service led by Guiseppe and Maureen Margiotta at Pope John Paul II Catholic Church. Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, the Margiottas have organized both the service and reception for the past 24 years.

Musicians invited to join Community Band

By Michelle Chapman

Pagosa Springs Instrumental Music Society

The Pagosa Springs Instrumental Music Society (PSIMS) is seeking musicians to join the Community Band. Do you have a neglected band instrument calling softly to you, "Remember me? I want to come out and play?"

Here is your chance to waken sleeping music talent. Bring your instrument to the Pagosa Springs High School band room next Sunday from 2 to 4 p.m. as we gather to rehearse for our upcoming Band-O-Rama concert on May 19.

We will have rehearsals each Sunday until the dress rehearsal on May 18. The Community Band will play two songs on their own and join the combined middle and high school bands for the grand finale with everyone on stage.

PSIMS is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization formed to support music in our schools and community. Our motto is "Music for Life."

We believe that music gives us all a richer experience of life. People of all ages can learn and improve their skills. To give musicians a reason to practice, to entertain the community, and to gather your generous donations, we put on three other free concerts each year, aside from the Band-O-Rama.

This year's Fourth of July concert will be on the lawn by the The Springs Resort. In the fall, our concert highlights the Community Band with challenging pieces from many genres. Then, before Christmas, our members form small ensembles and join with vocal students in the area for a winter-themed concert in the lovely sanctuary of St. Patrick's Episcopal Church.

The past two years we have been able to provide two \$1,000 scholarships to our high school graduates continuing in music, and last year we purchased a beautiful set of chimes for the high school band. Your donations stay in the community and help promote and facilitate music education for all.



Pints, Pools, and Paddles 2025

A Community Celebration of Craft Beer, Hot Springs, and the San Juan River

The Springs Resort

The Springs Resort is excited to host the 10th Annual Pints, Pools, and Paddles Craft Brew Fest, happening May 9 through 10. This event isn't just a beer festival. It's a spring tradition that brings our community together to celebrate what makes Pagosa special: mineral-rich waters, craft brews, whitewater adventure, and the spirit of gathering in a place we all love.

Friday, May 9: Start with Flavor and Fun

Kick off the weekend with a Beer, Chocolate, and Cheese tasting session, hosted by Pagosa's own Riff Raff Brewing Company. Each session offers an intimate setting where just 30 participants gather to discover the art of pairing craft beer with rich chocolates and carefully selected cheeses.

This experience isn't just delicious; it's educational and fun. You'll learn how the flavors of a well-crafted brew can complement or contrast with sweet and savory notes, deepening your appreciation for both. Whether you're a seasoned beer enthusiast or just curious to learn more, this event is designed for you.

These sessions always sell out quickly, so be sure to secure your spot early. Two sessions are available, at 3 p.m. and 5:30 p.m., for \$50 per person. Don't miss

the chance to kick off Pints, Pools, and Paddles in the most flavorful way.

Saturday, May 10: A Day for the Community

Saturday is the heart of the festival and a perfect chance to gather with friends and family.

Combo tickets for all-day soaking and beer tasting are \$99, or you can join the tasting-only event for \$49. Local residents within a 60-mile radius can enjoy a \$39 tasting ticket and add a soaking pass for just \$27 with a valid ID.

Spend the day relaxing in the geothermal pools while watching the exciting Pagosa Paddle Whitewater Races on the San Juan River, just steps from the resort. These races, featuring raft teams, kayakers, and stand-up paddleboarders, are a cherished local tradition. The day wraps up with a lively downriver parade full of costumes and good cheer.

From 3 to 6 p.m., sample craft beers from 28 breweries across Colorado, New Mexico, and beyond. Connect with fellow beer lovers and help crown the winner of the Favorite Brewery Award. Past champions Big Beaver Brewing from Loveland and La Cumbre Brewing from Albuquerque may return to defend their titles, but new contenders could take the top spot.

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More Than a Festival. A Celebration of Community and Water.

Pints, Pools, and Paddles is more than craft beer and soaking. It's a celebration of our river, our town, and the people who care for both. Proceeds from this event support Friends of the Upper San Juan River, a local nonprofit dedicated to protecting the San Juan River and community parks through education, recreation, and environmental stewardship.

Their work includes hosting community races and whitewater competitions that raise funds for vital projects, like securing public river access south of town and allowing boaters to continue enjoying the beautiful Mesa Canyon stretch.

The Springs Resort is proud to contribute the proceeds from this event to help continue their efforts. When you join us, you're not just having fun — you're giving back to the heart of Pagosa Springs.

Whether you've lived here for years or are visiting for the first time, this festival is a chance to soak, sip, cheer, and connect with the community. Tickets sell quickly and prices increase as the event approaches. Don't wait to reserve your spot.

Visit pagosahotspings.com for tickets and full event details.

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Catholic community offers Healing Prayer Ministry

By Shanna Robb

Pagosa Springs Catholic Community

May is Mental Health Awareness Month. It was founded in 1949 by Mental Health America, a nonprofit that has been a leader in mental health awareness since 1909. This year is the 75th consecutive year of this nationwide movement focused on mental health, well-being and prevention.

Mental health is how a person functions in daily activities. Statistics indicate that there is a widespread mental health crisis in the United States, especially among our youth.

According to the latest statistics from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), “one in five American adults experienced symptoms of anxiety and depression in 2023 (and) two in five high school students reported struggling with persistent feelings of sadness and hopelessness.”

Many are struggling to find meaning and stability, which has fueled the introduction of artificial intelligence digital therapies and new drugs. The problem is that both traditional and new techniques are not necessarily healing the cause of anxiety, sadness, hopelessness or loneliness.

The missing link is the need of a community — more specifically,

a community rooted in prayer. As stated in the Gospel of Matthew 18:20, “For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there I am in the midst of them.”

This is where healing prayer ministries, guided by the Holy Spirit, offers another path toward healing.

In 2022, a healing prayer ministry was formed at Pope John Paul II Catholic Church. The ministry is a spiritual practice and an organized effort focused on inviting God’s presence and power into people’s lives for mental, emotional, physical, spiritual or relational healing.

What goes into this ministry is a biblical foundation based on scriptures that support healing and prayer. Theological clarity, along with understanding the role of healing within God’s time, helps the members maintain a strong personal relationship with God.

Meeting weekly, after spending an hour before Christ in silent adoration, the prayer team offers prayers for personal needs, for loved ones or for circumstances in one’s life that need healing. Advocated in both the Old and New Testaments, the Healing Prayer Ministry offers intercessory prayer, meaning its members pray for others and hand over the healing to God.

Members are led by the words

found in James 5:16 that underscore the importance of constant prayer for others. All healing is surrendered to God alone, who may heal them now, later or in a different way that is best for the individual.

To maintain confidentiality in all subject matters, the prayer team sets healthy spiritual boundaries. This includes asking attendees permission to pray for their intentions out loud and, if they wish, to place hands on them during prayer.

With May being Mental Health Awareness Month, as a community, let us offer prayers for those who need healing. As stated in 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, “Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.”

The prayer ministry meets every Wednesday from 1 to 2 p.m. in the Adoration Chapel located at Pope John Paul II Catholic Church at 353 S. Pagosa Blvd. Anyone who needs healing prayer for themselves or a loved one, or wishes to join the ministry members in prayer, is welcome to attend.

Send questions to healing-2@ihmjp2.org and visit ihmjp2.org for a full list of ministries.

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SpiritFire Inspirational Living Center announces upcoming events

By Shayla McClure

SpiritFire Inspirational Living Center

The SpiritFire Inspirational Living Center will hold an open house Sunday, May 4, from 1 to 4 p.m.

There will be refreshments and giveaways. Come meet our teachers and healing community.

There will be a special blessing at 3 p.m. with Shayla Azriel and Jenelle Syverson.

At 6 p.m. on May 4, the center will hold a Himalayan singing bowl and Finnish drumming concert with Shaman Scott Maki. The cost is a \$25 donation.

Upcoming events

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

- May 7, 14 and 21, 6 p.m.: Tarot classes. Sign up by calling (970) 264-7474.
- May 11, 11 a.m.: Sunday service on “Embracing Your Divine Journey with Intuitive Mind, Body, Spirit” with Azriel.
- May 23, 6 p.m.: Southwest Cowgirl Burlesque Dance Playshop with Sas-safras. Come celebrate with healthy refreshments, giveaways and more.

About us

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

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

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

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

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Unitarian Universalists detail May schedule

By De Anna Hoyle
Pagosa Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

The Pagosa Unitarian Universalist (UU) Fellowship invites life-long learners and those with curious minds and open hearts to join us any Sunday as we create a space for deepening community ties and growing our spirits.

Join us in-person at our services at 10:30 a.m. Sunday worship is held on the first and third Sundays of the month, with the second and fourth Sundays being the Sharing Circle and Action Sunday, respectively.

We are located in Unit B-15 of the Greenbriar Plaza, 301 N. Pagosa Blvd., on the north side facing the Pagosa Peak. We offer Zoom streaming of our service, and a link to join online can be found at PagosaUU.org, where you will find our current newsletter with information on all our programs.

The Pagosa UU Fellowship is a welcoming congregation, we believe that all of who you are is sacred, and all of who you are is welcome. Find out more at <https://www.uua.org/lgbtq>.

Following is this month’s schedule. Meditation practice is also listed, which occurs each week beginning at 9 a.m.

May 4

Meditation practice will be at 9 a.m., and the Sunday service will be at 10:30 a.m.

We will welcome Herb Grover to share his talk on “Threats to Biodiversity—Making It Personal,” after an

unforeseen accident kept him from speaking in March.

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

In this week’s talk, Grover, a retired university professor of ecology and environmental science, will bring the topic of threats to biodiversity home by reviewing the results of a bird monitoring project he helps coordinate through our local Weminuche Audubon Society, and through his personal efforts to observe, photograph and share with others the beauty of our surroundings.

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

May 11

Meditation practice and dharma talk will be from 9 to 10:15 a.m.

The Going Deeper Sharing Circle will be at 10:30 a.m.

We come together in this small-group setting to share with one another and practice deep listening. We explore themes of recent topics and leave space for reflection and for

whatever else is on our hearts. Come make friends and practice the art of listening with others. Light refreshments will be offered.

May 18

Meditation practice will be at 9 a.m., and the Sunday service will be at 10:30 a.m.

The service will be “Mystics on the Front Lines: Integrating Spiritual Perspectives and Resources into Social Activism” with presenters Janess and David Sheets.

The Sheets are ordained ministers of the Sufi Universal Worship, spiritual retreat guides and senior teachers in the Inayatiyya, a Sufi path of spiritual liberty.

May 25

Meditation practice and dharma talk will be from 9 to 10:15 a.m.

Action Sunday will be at 10:30 a.m.

Join us for Action Sunday as we put our values and doing good into practice.



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One more time: Free tax help available at your library

By Carole Howard
PREVIEW Columnist, and the library staff

Katherine from VITA Tax Help will return to your library one more time next Monday, May 5, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. to help patrons who are filing returns late. But, you need to do some homework before you take advantage of her generous offer to provide face-to-face help.

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

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

Lifelong Learning Lectures

Your library’s free Spring Lifelong Learning Lectures take place every Wednesday 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:

- May 7 with Peggy Bergon will go back into history when Hispanic shepherders expressed their loneliness and artistic talents with arborglyphs carved on aspen trees.
- 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

■ See Library on next page

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Friday May 2, doors open @ 5:30 pm

Ross Aragon Community Center

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More at Events on [Buildpagosa.org](https://www.buildpagosa.org)

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\$30 AT THE DOOR

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Library

■ continued from previous page

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.

Online author talks

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

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

Wednesday, May 7, at noon will showcase “Thriving with Anxiety” with Dr. David Rosmarin.

On May 14 at 5 p.m. we’ll interact with Liann Zhang, author of “Julie Chang is Dead,” on writing a brilliant, dark and diabolical thriller.

May 21 at noon will feature Rachelle Bergstein on “The Genius of Judy,” exploring how Judy Blume rewrote childhood for all of us.

Teen/tween takeover tomorrow

We are setting aside the large meeting room and some of the computers for tweens and teens to use and spend time with friends Friday, May 2, from 2 to 3 p.m.

LEGO play Saturday

Kids aged 6-11 are invited to the free LEGO Club on Saturday, May 3, from 11 a.m. to noon. Bring your own LEGOs or use ours to free build.

Brain fitness program Monday

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

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

Music fun Monday

Pagosa Unplugged is free from 4 to 6 p.m. Monday, May 5, for amateur musicians who would like a safe, supportive, non-bar setting to play, sing or both with other people. For information, contact Susan at (970) 946-3396.

High school math tutoring

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

Family storytime

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

Elementary tutoring

Children ages 6-11 are welcome

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

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 from 4 to 5:30 p.m. for a free after-school adventure.

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

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

Writers Guild

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

Tech Time schedule change

Free in-person slots are available from 2 to 4 p.m. only on Thursdays beginning this month.

Judy helps you with basic questions relating to computers, smart-phones and tablets, and also provides assistance in accessing the library’s online resources.

No appointment is needed for these drop-in sessions, but please bring your device’s charger and passwords with you.

Note: There will be no Tech Time May 29.

ESL classes

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

Pagosa Adult Learning Services (PALS)

Join Mark or Sally for free PALS sessions Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:30 to 8 p.m. to help with high school equivalency, GED, college prep, financial aid, tutoring and more. No appointment is necessary.

Downloadable books

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

Short story collections

“The Problem You Have” by Robert Garner McBrearty contains stories

■ See Library on next page

The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

- 1 Hires competition
- 5 Basil, e.g.
- 9 Quick summary
- 14 Bridle strap
- 15 Pitcher in a still life
- 16 Words of wisdom
- 17 Conclusion preceder
- 18 With two-party support
- 20 Floating, as dust
- 22 Cafeteria-goers
- 23 Fiddle-de-___
- 24 Fail to keep up
- 26 Throng
- 28 Buffalo Bill sported one
- 33 Firecracker parts
- 35 Overly prim
- 37 Lena of "Chocolat"
- 38 Star in Orion
- 39 Moon goddess
- 40 Bar window fixture
- 42 Fudd of cartoons
- 43 Saying it's not so
- 44 "Big Mouth" Martha
- 45 Freudian concerns
- 48 Sound at the door
- 51 Garb
- 55 Hot weather woe
- 57 Police show, say
- 59 Palindromic emperor
- 60 Pago Pago's place
- 61 "Ad Astra" star
- 62 Any time now
- 63 Make changes to
- 64 Sickly-looking

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
14					15					16				
17					18				19					
20				21					22					
23				24				25						
			26	27				28			29	30	31	32
33	34					35	36							
37					38						39			
40				41						42				
43									44					
				45			46	47				48	49	50
51	52	53	54				55				56			
57							58				59			
60							61				62			
63							64				65			

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65 Coastal raptor

DOWN

- 1 Apprehension
- 2 Lofty abode
- 3 Detour
- 4 Nose-in-air type
- 5 Temple talk
- 6 "Dallas" family name
- 7 Throw off
- 8 Car protector
- 9 Knock
- 10 Correct, as text
- 11 Docket item
- 12 Petri dish gelatin
- 13 Parker and Waterman
- 19 Shrink back in fear
- 21 Wallet wad
- 25 White heron
- 27 Squiggy's pal
- 29 "___ ho!"
- 30 Census taker
- 31 One, in Bonn
- 32 Wound mark
- 33 Dear, as memories

- 34 1997 Peter Fonda title role
- 35 Word with bank or back
- 36 Sound of disgust
- 38 Freed of suds
- 41 "Hear" without hearing
- 42 Right on the map
- 44 Lots to buy
- 46 Evans or Pine
- 47 Toffee bar choice

- 49 ___ Martin (007 auto)
- 50 Conversation piece?
- 51 Recessed area
- 52 Disneyland transport
- 53 Hefty volume
- 54 Screen symbol
- 56 Kennedy matriarch
- 58 Kick ___ fuss

Answers to Previous Crossword:

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

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Library

■ continued from previous page

about a diverse group of characters encountering turning points in their lives, some with dark themes and all with compassion and humor. They include a minor criminal seeking warmth on a frigid night, an over-the-hill pitcher refusing to leave the mound and a young couple meeting a couple they never want to become.

How-to and self-help

“Parent Yourself First” by marriage and family therapist Bryana Kap-padakunnel offers advice on how to address common woes like tantrums. “Knitted Animal Friends” and “Knitted Animal Toys” by Louise Crowther contain patterns for animal dolls, clothes and accessories. “Advanced Home Wiring” is the updated sixth edition of this Black and Decker guide. “The Science of Cleaning” by Dr. Dario Bressanini is a guide to cleaning everything in your home in a sustainable way. “Parents in Recovery” by Sarah Allen Benton is a personal guide to coping wisely.

“Working Mother” by Rachel Morris offers simple coaching strategies for success at work and home. “Ultimate Guide to Plumbing” is the updated sixth edition of this Creative Homeowner guide. “Love the Foods That Love the Planet” by Cathy Katin-Grazzini features low-carbon recipes from around the world. “Selling Your House” and “Effective Fundraising for Nonprofits” are Nolo guides.

Other nonfiction

“Pay the People!” by John Driscoll, Morris Pearl and a group calling themselves The Patriotic Millionaires documents why fair pay is good for business and great for America. “Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania,” “Australia” and “The Netherlands” are Insight travel guides. “Carbon: The Book of Life” by Paul Hawken explores the most versatile element on the planet. “Cadillac Desert” by Marc Reisner is a history of the American West and its disappearing water. “What Rivers Know: Listening to the Voice of Global Waterways” by Basia Irland explores what rivers would say about climate change and interactions with humans if they could talk.

DVDs

“Mufasa” is the Disney movie about the rise of the Lion King. “Tulsa King” starring Sylvester Stallone is season two. “Your Honor” starring Bryan Cranston are season one and two on two discs. “Dog Man” is a Dreamworks animation film. “Ex-husbands” is a comedy drama. “Prey” is an action thriller set in the Comanche Nation. “Regular Show” is the complete animated series. “The Night Agent” is season one. “Great Migrations: A People on the Move” hosted by Henry Louis Gates Jr. looks at the powerful influence of Black migration on America. “The Room Next Door” stars Julianne Moore and Tilda Swinton. “One of Them Days” is a comedy about two friends racing to avoid eviction. “Whistle-bell Pearl” is the mystery series set in

seaside England.

Mysteries and thrillers

“Girl Anonymous” by Christina Dodd is a dark romantic thriller “Nobody’s Fool” by Harlan Coben features Det. Sami Kierce, now a PI. “The Wharton Plot” by Mariah Fredericks is based on a true story about Edith Wharton. “Murder Road” by Simone St. James begins when a young couple picks up a hitchhiker.

“Rosarita” by Anita Desai is a mystery about a mother’s past set in San Miguel, Mexico. “House of Bone and Rain” by Cabino Iglesias follows three young men intent on vengeance after one of their mothers is murdered. “The Forger’s Requiem” by Bradford Morrow brings readers inside the world of expert forgery involving Mary Shelley’s letters. “Haunting of Room 904” by Erika Wurth features a paranormal investigator.

Other novels

“Everybody Says It’s Everything” by Xhenet Aliu features adopted twins separated by divergent interests as teens. “The Filling Station” by Vanessa Miller follows two sisters coping with the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre that destroyed Oklahoma’s Black Wall Street. “Too Soon” by Betty Shamieh tells of a woman, her mother and grandmother fleeing war-torn Jaffa, chasing the American dream and daring to stage a show in Palestine.

Donations guidelines

The Friends of the Library have guidelines for donations to the library. Books on time-sensitive topics that can quickly become out of date are wanted only if they have been published within the last five years. These subjects include politics/current events, health and medicine, sports/exercise, business, technology, science, education, and travel guides. Not accepted are reference materials, textbooks and nonprint material like CDs, DVDs, Blu-ray, VHS or cassette tapes because they do not sell at Friends of the Library sales.

When the library is open, high-quality used book donations are gratefully accepted at the front desk — not down the outside returns slot at the library or the drop box at City Market, please.

No more than two boxes at a time because of space constraints and all books should be in excellent condition, please.

Quotable quote

“Do anything you can to keep on an even keel with your family and friends, no matter what happens in your life. That’s all we have. Don’t hide things. You’ve got to get up every day thinking about how you’re going to make it easier for the people that you’re working with or that you love. ... Because it’s infectious; everybody starts feeling good.” — Danny DeVito, actor, producer and director who became famous for his role in the TV

sitcom “Taxi,” winning an Emmy and Golden Globe for his performance.

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>.

JIM GARRETT

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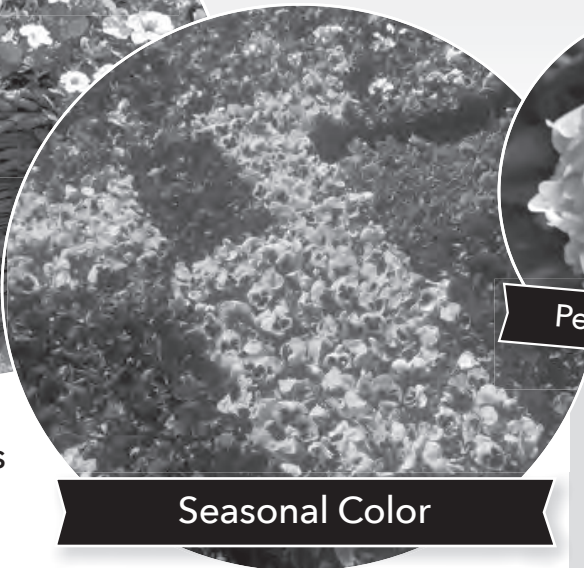
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Don't forget Mom!

Mother's Day
Sunday,
May 11



Preview Calendar

All events listed in The PREVIEW Calendar are free of charge unless otherwise noted.

Thursday, May 1

Ruby's Writers Guild. 9-11 a.m., Sisson Library. Ruby's Writers Guild welcomes writers who are looking for opportunities, support and camaraderie with other writers. Members will provide support, resources and guidance for each other.

Tech Time. 2-4 p.m., Sisson Library. Basic questions related to computers, smartphones, tablets, etc. Bring your device charger. We provide assistance with accessing any of the library's online resources. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information.

T'ai Chi Chih. 2:30-3:30 p.m., Senior Center. Free for those 55 and better.

Pagosa Springs Varsity Girls' Soccer. 4 p.m., Golden Peaks Stadium. Pagosa Springs High School vs. Del Norte.

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, May 2

Chimney Rock Interpretive Association Volunteer Orientation. 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m., Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St. CRIA's orientation program for both new and returning volunteers. For more information, visit www.chimneyrockco.org.

Tween/Teen Takeover. 2-4 p.m., Sisson Library. The large meeting room and some of the computers will be set aside for tweens/teens to use and spend time with friends.

Pagosa Springs Varsity Girls' Soccer. 4 p.m., Golden Peaks Stadium. Pagosa Springs High School vs. Fruita Monument.

Build Pagosa Auction. 5:30 p.m., Community Center. Join Build Pagosa for the organization's annual dinner and auction. Music will be provided by Americana Project students. Tickets are \$25 in advance or \$30 at the door. Visit BuildPagosa.org or email director@buildpagosa.org for more information.

Saturday, May 3

Chimney Rock Interpretive Association Volunteer Orientation. 9 a.m.-noon, Chimney Rock National Monument. CRIA's orientation program for both new and returning volunteers. For more information, visit www.chimneyrockco.org.

Fly-fishing Basics. 9 a.m.-noon, Pagosa Bible Church. Put on by Pagosa Bible Church. For more information, call (303) 828-6386.

Pagosa Springs Varsity Track: Terry Alley Invitational. 9 a.m., Golden Peaks Stadium. Field events will begin at 9 a.m., and running events will begin at 11 a.m.

Pagosa Peak Genealogical Society. 10 a.m.-noon, Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St. Peggy Bergon will speak about arborglyphs. For more information, email carolynpaschal@gmail.com.

LEGO Play. 11 a.m.-noon, Sisson Library. For kids 6-11 years old. Bring your own or use the library's LEGOs to free build. Contact the library at (970) 264-2209 for further information.

Pagosa Springs Varsity Baseball. 11 a.m., Pagosa Springs High School. Pagosa Springs vs. Bayfield doubleheader.

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.

Monday, May 5

Women's Fellowship. 9 a.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church classrooms.

VITA Tax Help. 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Sisson Library. You must pick up a tax packet at the library and complete it fully before calling Kathy for an appointment, (970) 553-9150.

Line Dancing. 9:30-11:30 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.

Women's Fellowship Book Study. 9:30-11 a.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church.

Senior Conversations. 1:15 p.m., Senior Center.

High School Math Tutoring. 4-5:30 p.m., Sisson Library. Math tutors are available for ages 14 and up. Registration is required.

Pagosa Unplugged. 4-6 p.m., Sisson Library. Musicians of all abilities are invited to jam and sing with others.

DivorceCare/DivorceCare for Kids. 6-7:30 p.m., Centerpoint Church, 2750 Cornerstone Drive. A 13-week program that provides a safe environment for people who have gone

through, are going through or are considering divorce and features experts on divorce and recovery topics. DivorceCare for Kids is for kids 5-12, with topics mirroring the adult sessions. For more information, email Jim Shook at jshookup@gmail.com or the church at admin@centerpointpagosa.com. You can register online at www.divorcecare.org.

■ See Calendar on next page

HUD Publisher's Notice



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All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or an intention, to make such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.

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.

SUDOKU

			5					
					3		9	
	4				6			5
8	2	5			1			
4	1						7	
		6		1	9		4	3
				4				6
9	5							1

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!

1	8	7	2	9	3	4	5	6
6	2	9	5	4	7	8	3	1
3	4	5	6	1	8	9	7	2
6	7	2	8	5	9	3	1	4
8	5	1	4	3	2	7	9	6
4	9	3	1	7	6	5	2	8
5	3	8	9	6	1	2	4	7
7	9	6	3	2	4	1	8	5
2	1	4	7	8	5	9	6	3

ANSWER:

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Preview Calendar

■ continued from previous page
Deepening the Faith Classes. 6-8 p.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church classrooms.

Tuesday, May 6

Veterans for Veterans of Archuleta County. 9 a.m., Pagosa Bible Church, 209 Harman Park Drive. Veterans and family members are invited to share experiences with vets of all ages. Find out about the latest in vets benefits, vets news and community-focused events. Contact (970) 880-8387 for more details.

Pagosa Springs Stitchers. 10 a.m.-noon, Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St. Bring your current stitching project and a snack/drink if you wish, and enjoy the fellowship of other stitchers. All are welcome.

Stretching and Mobility Class. 10-11 a.m., Senior Center. A stretching and mobility class for those ages 55 and up.

Bridge. 1:15 p.m., Senior Center.

Hand and Foot Card Game. 1:15 p.m., Senior Center. No experience is necessary, so come willing to learn.

Mahjong. 1:15 p.m., Senior Center.

Pagosa Springs Varsity Baseball. 3 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School. Pagosa Springs vs. Ignacio.

English as a Second Language. 4-7 p.m., Sisson Library. Your library offers English as a second language classes. These classes are free. Call (970) 264-2209 or email for more information. Beginning students are encouraged to attend from 4-5 p.m., intermediate students from 5-6 p.m. and advanced students from 6-7 p.m.

Conversational Spanish. 4:30-5:30 p.m., Sisson Library. Practice your Spanish conversation skills in a group setting. No minimum skill level required.

PALS Adult Education. 5:30-8 p.m., Sisson Library. Pagosa Adult Learning Services, or PALS, can help you with high school equivalency, GED, college prep, financial aid, tutoring and more. Mark can help you develop a plan to achieve your education goals. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information.

Men's Fellowship. 6 p.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church classrooms.

Wednesday, May 7

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.

Online Author Talk: Dr. David Rosmarin. Noon, virtual. "Thriving with Anxiety" with Dr. David Rosmarin. For details and to register, go to

<https://libraryc.org/pagosalibrary/> upcoming.

Lifelong Learning Lecture Series. 1-2:15 p.m., Sisson Library. "Arborglyphs: Art in the Aspens" with Peggy Bergon.

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. For those in grades 1-3. Registration required. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information.

Thursday, May 8

Ruby's Writers Guild. 9-11 a.m., Sisson Library. Ruby's Writers Guild welcomes writers who are looking for opportunities, support and camaraderie with other writers. Members will provide support, resources and guidance for each other.

Tech Time. 2-4 p.m., Sisson Library. Basic questions related to computers, smartphones, tablets, etc. Bring your device charger. We provide assistance with accessing any of the library's online resources. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information.

T'ai Chi Chih. 2:30-3:30 p.m., Senior Center. Free for those 55 and better.

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Seminar: Spiritual Health with the Rev. Debra Huffman. 6-7:30 p.m., Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St. The Rev. Debra Huffman will speak on "Nurture Your Spirit: Your Journey to Enhancing Spiritual Wellness."

Friday, May 9

Hora de Cuentos Bilingual Storytime. 10-11 a.m., Sisson Library. Join for an educational hour of reading and singing in Spanish, free play and building early literacy skills.

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.

Friday Flick. 2-3:30 p.m., Sisson Library. Participants will choose from a selection of PG-rated movies.

Saturday, May 10

Supermom 5K. 8 a.m., Yamaguchi Park. Check-in begins at 8 a.m., with festivities kicked off shortly after. Participants can choose from a 5K run, a mile walk or the Kids Fun Run. Proceeds go to Aspire Medical Services and Education. For more information or to sign up, visit aspirepagosa.org/supermom5k or call Aspire at (970) 264-5963.

Fly-fishing Basics. 9 a.m.-noon, Pagosa Bible Church. Put on by Pagosa Bible Church. For more information, call (303) 828-6386.

TARA Food Pantry Plant Sale. 9 a.m.-1 p.m., TARA Food Pantry, 333 Milton Lane, Arboles. A variety of plants and more will be for sale

■ See Calendar on next page



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Preview Calendar

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to support the food pantry.

GriefShare. 10-11:30 a.m., Centerpoint Church, 2750 Cornerstone Drive. A 13-week program to assist with the healing process, regardless of how long it is since your loved one passed. For more information, contact Marie Rasco at marierascoe67@gmail.com or Centerpoint Church at (970) 731-2205. You can also register and learn more at www.griefshare.org.

Pagosa Springs Scrapbook and Crafters Club. 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Senior Center dining room. Bring your creative and scrapbooking projects and share time with other crafters. Bring a dish to share for the potluck lunch.

Knitters Circle. 1-3 p.m., Sisson Library. Join new or experienced knitters to get help with your project, or sit and knit.

Monday, May 12

Women's Fellowship. 9 a.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church classrooms.

Line Dancing. 9:30-11:30 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.

Women's Fellowship Book Study. 9:30-11 a.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church.

Archuleta County Democratic Club. 11:30 a.m., Coyote Moon. Veronica Medina will speak about the county's strategic plan.

Senior Conversations. 1:15 p.m., Senior Center.

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@centerpoint-pagosa.com. You can register online at www.divorcecare.org.

Deepening the Faith Classes. 6-8 p.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church classrooms.

Tuesday, May 13

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.

Stretching and Mobility Class. 10-11 a.m., Senior Center. A stretching and mobility class for those ages 55 and up.

Bridge. 1:15 p.m., Senior Center.

Hand and Foot Card Game. 1:15 p.m., Senior Center. No experience is necessary, so come willing to learn.

Mahjong. 1:15 p.m., Senior Center.

English as a Second Language. 4-7 p.m., Sisson Library. Your library offers English as a second language classes. These classes are free. Call (970) 264-2209 or email for more information. Beginning students are encouraged to attend from 4-5 p.m., intermediate students from 5-6 p.m. and advanced students from 6-7 p.m.

PALS Adult Education. 5:30-8 p.m., Sisson Library. Pagosa Adult Learning Services, or PALS, can help you with high school equivalency, GED, college prep, financial aid, tutoring and more. Mark can help you develop a plan to achieve your education goals. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information.

Men's Fellowship. 6 p.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church classrooms.

Wednesday, May 14

Family Storytime. 10-11 a.m., Sisson Library. Join us for great stories, fun songs, and plenty of reasons to get up and move. It's a great way for kids to have fun while building the skills they need to become independent readers. For all ages. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information.

Bridge. 1:15 p.m., Senior Center.

Mindful Drawing. 1:15 p.m., Senior Center.

Elementary Tutoring. 3:30-4:30 p.m., Sisson Library. Build essential skills in core subjects. For those in grades 1-3. Registration required. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information.

Order of the Eastern Star Peace and Harmony Chapter #158. 7 p.m., Masonic Lodge, 277 Lewis St. Call Donna at (970) 946-8201 for more information.

Thursday, May 15

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.

Great House Tour. 10:30 a.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This tour goes to the top of the mesa ridge for a 360-degree panoramic view of the landscape and a close-up of the two pinnacles with stops along the way to learn about an-

cient Puebloan structures. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$6 for kids. For more information and tickets, visit www.chimneyrockco.org or call (877) 444-6777.

End of Life Education. 1 p.m., Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St. Dr. Pam Kircher will speak.

Tech Time. 2-4 p.m., Sisson Library. Basic questions related to computers, smartphones, tablets, etc. Bring your device charger. We provide assistance with accessing any of the library's online resources. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information.

T'ai Chi Chih. 2:30-3:30 p.m., Senior Center. Free for those 55 and better.

English as a Second Language. 4-7 p.m., Sisson Library. Your library offers English as a second language classes. These classes are free. Call (970) 264-2209 or email for more information. Beginning students are encouraged to attend from 4-5 p.m., intermediate students from 5-6 p.m. and advanced students from 6-7 p.m.

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Friday, May 16

Great House Tour. 10:30 a.m., Chim-

■ See Calendar on next page

Trinity Anglican Church



*Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd and know my sheep, and my sheep know me and I lay down my life for the sheep."
What did Jesus mean?
All are welcome to join us! Sunday, 10am.*

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Preview Calendar

■ **continued from previous page**

ney Rock National Monument. This tour goes to the top of the mesa ridge for a 360-degree panoramic view of the landscape and a close-up of the two pinnacles with stops along the way to learn about ancient Puebloan structures. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$6 for kids. For more information and tickets, visit www.chimneyrockco.org or call (877) 444-6777.

Stroll of the Three Sisters Tour. 1:15 p.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This tour along the Mesa Village Trail, where they will learn about an agricultural village and the crops and other foods grown and gathered there. Tickets are \$15 for ages 13 and up and \$8 for ages 5-12. For more information and tickets, visit www.chimneyrockco.org or call (877) 444-6777.

Saturday, May 17

Chimney Rock Through the Ages Tour. 8 a.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This tour explores both the natural and cultural history of the area through geologic time and incorporates the anthropology and archaeology of the Puebloan people. Tickets are \$20 for ages 13 and up and \$10 for ages 5-12, with those under 5 free. For more information and tickets, visit www.chimneyrockco.org or call (877) 444-6777.

Conversations in the Garden. 9-10 a.m., Pagosa Springs Community Garden.

Produce Box Program Informational Session. 9:30 a.m., Community Center. Seniors aged 55+ and their families are invited to learn about the produce box program and the basics of starting a garden at elevation.

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.

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A Night to Remember: Masquerade. 5 p.m., Our Savior Lutheran School. Step into a world of mystery and glamour while supporting Our Savior Lutheran School. Tickets

are available at auctria.events/ANighttoRemember, stopping by the school office or calling Lois at (970) 731-4668.

Pagosa Community Initiative Second Chance Prom. 7-10 p.m., Community Center. The theme is denim and diamond. For tickets or to donate, visit www.givebutter.com/2ndchanceprom2025.

Sunday, May 18

Great House Tour. 10:30 a.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This tour goes to the top of the mesa ridge for a 360-degree panoramic view of the landscape and a close-up of the two pinnacles with stops along the way to learn about ancient Puebloan structures. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$6 for kids. For more information and tickets, visit www.chimneyrockco.org or call (877) 444-6777.

Monday, May 19

Women's Fellowship. 9 a.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church classrooms.

Line Dancing. 9:30-11:30 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.

Women's Fellowship Book Study. 9:30-11 a.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church.

Senior Conversations. 1:15 p.m., Senior Center.

Great House Tour. 10:30 a.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This tour goes to the top of the mesa ridge for a 360-degree panoramic view of the landscape and a close-up of the two pinnacles with stops along the way to learn about ancient Puebloan structures. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$6 for kids. For more information and tickets, visit www.chimneyrockco.org or call (877) 444-6777.

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DivorceCare/DivorceCare for Kids. 6-7:30 p.m., Centerpoint Church, 2750 Cornerstone Drive. A 13-week program that provides a safe environment for people who have gone through, are going through or are considering divorce and features experts on divorce and recovery topics. DivorceCare for Kids is for kids 5-12, with topics mirroring the adult sessions. For more information, email Jim Shook at jshookup@gmail.com or the church at admin@centerpointpagosa.com. You can register online at www.divorcecare.org.

gmail.com or the church at admin@centerpointpagosa.com. You can register online at www.divorcecare.org.

Deepening the Faith Classes. 6-8 p.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church classrooms.

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TOBACCO AND HEART DISEASE

If tomorrow's health is the result of yesterday's habits and actions, then today is the day I need to begin making critical reforms.

Smoking puts one at risk for more than lung cancer. Read the excerpt below for further details. How Are Smoking and Exposure to Secondhand Smoke Related to Heart Disease and Stroke? Smoking is a leading cause of heart disease. Smoking can:

- Raise triglycerides (a type of fat in your blood)
- Lower "good" cholesterol (HDL)
- Damage cells that line the blood vessels
- Cause thickening and narrowing of blood vessels
- Cause clots to form, blocking blood flow to the heart
- Secondhand smoke also damages blood vessels and can trigger a heart attack or stroke. Smoking is a leading cause of stroke. Smoking can:
- Make blood thicker and more likely to clot
- Increase the buildup of plaque (fat, cholesterol, calcium, and other substances) in blood vessels leading to the brain
- Lead to pain in the hands and feet; it may be severe
- Damage blood vessels in the brain

How Can Heart Disease and Stroke Be Prevented? Heart disease and stroke are major causes of death and disability in the United States. Many people are at high risk for these diseases and don't know it.

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

"I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.." LP Revelation 21:6

A public service from your Adventist friends & neighbors at Pagosa Springs Seventh Day Adventist Church.
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The good news is that many risk factors for heart disease and stroke can be prevented or controlled. The federal government's Million Hearts™ initiative works to prevent 1 million heart attacks and strokes by 2017. Talk with your health care provider about your ABCS:

- Appropriate aspirin therapy for those who need it
- Blood pressure control
- Cholesterol management
- Smoking cessation (quitting smoking)

In addition to your ABCS, several lifestyle choices can help protect your heart and brain health. These include the following:

- Avoid breathing secondhand smoke
- Eat a healthy diet
- Maintain a healthy weight
- Exercise regularly

• Limit alcohol use

Source: "Heart Disease and Stroke." By CDC. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

PAGOSA SCENE . . .

EARTH DAY

PREVIEW photos/Randi Pierce

Scene ... Celebrating Earth Day on Saturday, April 26. The celebration, originally set for April 19, was originally snowed out, the rescheduled event was held under sunny skies, with locals and visitors able to visit with local organizations and take in live entertainment, among other activities.



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 western cattle egret.

Original ancestors of this egret lived in Africa. In North America, the cattle egret was first reported in Florida in 1941 and documented breeding there by 1953. In less than 15 years, its breeding range had expanded as far north as Canada. Today, breeding has been confirmed in pockets in almost all of the United States.

Two years ago, the cattle egret species was split into the geographically separated western type, which lives in Africa, western Asia, southern Europe and the Americas, and the eastern type, which lives in eastern Asia, Australia and New Zealand.

Unlike other herons and egrets, which are usually associated with water, this small tropical heron spends most of its time in fields. It is known to follow large animals or farm equipment and eat the invertebrates that they stir up. Its common name here is derived from its association with cattle. In other parts of the world they are known by the animals they associate with and are called elephant birds, and rhinoceros and hippopotamus egrets.

Part of their success is attributed to their broad diet. They eat insects, other invertebrates, fish, frogs, small mammals and birds. They will fly toward smoke to catch the insects fleeing fire. They forage alone or in large, loose flocks.

These egrets have shown an aptitude for dispersing to new areas and, after breeding, vagrants range widely. In addition to native grasslands, they will feed in fields, on lawns, in parks and at the edges of airport runways. They can become a nuisance when they build their large, noisy, smelly colonies in populated areas.

These all-white herons with yellow legs and a short, yellow bill develop golden plumes on the head, neck, chest and back in breeding season. For a short period, their bills and legs turn bright red to signal their readiness to mate. They are smaller and more compact than the other white herons that stop here.

Western cattle egrets are highly migratory. We have the chance to see them in spring in small numbers when they stop on their journeys between southern winter areas and summer breeding territories.

For information on events, visit www.weminuchaudubon.org and www.facebook.com/weminuchaudubon/.



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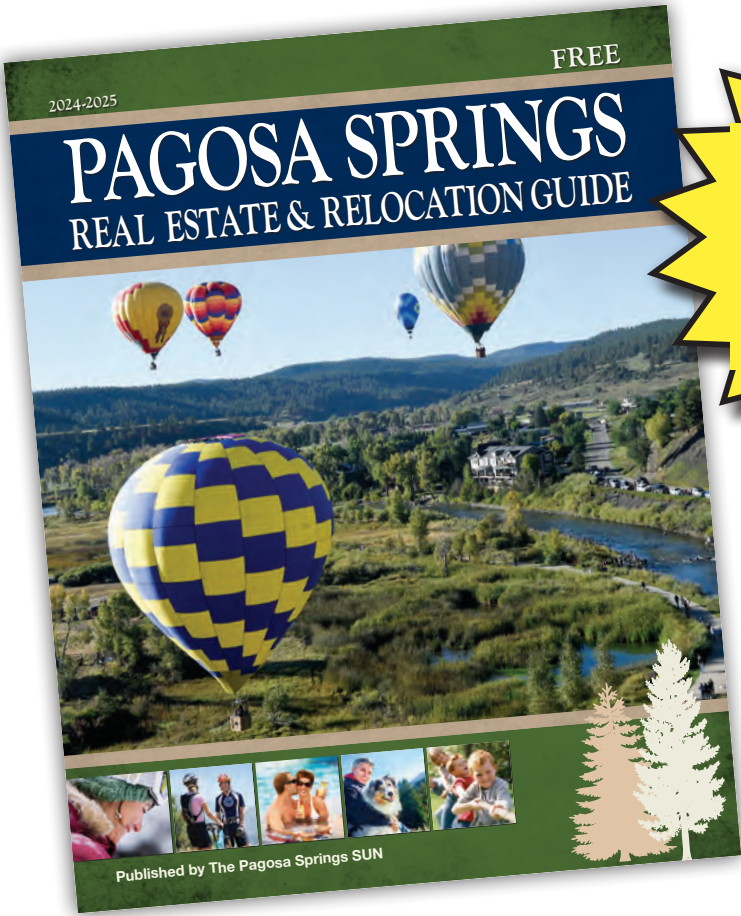
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Overview

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**

Call to place your ad today!

The Pagosa Springs SUN • 970-264-2100

Self-Sufficiency Food Series, produce box program for older adults announced

By Rose Chavez
PREVIEW Columnist

With great excitement and anticipation, Archuleta Seniors Inc. (ASI) and Terrawalk Farms announces their partnership with Nourish Colorado for a second growing season to bring low-income older adults (age 55 and older) in Archuleta County locally grown, seasonal, organic vegetable shares through Community Supported Agriculture (CSA).

CSAs, or farm memberships, are a means of creating a mutually beneficial connection between consumers and their farmers. These partnerships result in a bimonthly bounty of vegetables for the subscriber. If you are interested in participating in this free fresh produce program, you must meet one of the minimum requirements to be selected as a subscriber.

The criteria for being selected is either:

- Being a new or current client of ASI through our congregate, Meals on Wheels, or pick-up/Grab-N-Go meal program, or
- Be a resident of low-income senior housing communities (Socorro, Archuleta Housing for the Elderly, Casa De Los Arcos, Rose Mountain Homes or Lake View Estates).

If you don't meet either criteria and are a low-income individual, please make an appointment with the executive director (rosa@ps-seniors.org), who will discuss your situation and make a decision on a case-by-case basis.

Participating subscribers will receive a fresh, local, organic produce box alternating weeks throughout the growing season, which spans from approximately early June to mid-October.

Subscribers will pick up their bimonthly fresh produce boxes at the Ross Aragon Community Center on Tuesdays. Details are still being finalized and subscribers will be notified.

What's available each season?

Below is a sample list of possible vegetables you might expect in your share on a bimonthly basis. Note: This is not exactly what you will receive. By joining a CSA, you are recognizing that there are many factors week to week, season to season, that may challenge the well-devised production plan. Mother Nature does not always consider the crop plan.

Produce share 1: Spinach, radishes, garlic scapes, kale, parsley and arugula.

Produce share 2: Lettuce, turnips, baby beets, mustard greens and greens mix 1.

Produce share 3: Spinach, radish, summer squash, greens mix 2, basil, kale and beets.

Produce share 4: Swiss chard, mizuna, carrots, turnips, arugula, summer squash and cucumber.

Senior News

Produce shares 5-17: Greens of the week (kale, arugula, greens mix, Swiss chard, lettuce or Asian greens) and the following options that are subject to availability: tomatoes, carrots, turnips, cucumber, onion, beets, eggplant, summer squash, garlic and peppers (sweet and hot).

Produce share 18: Lettuce, carrots, tomatoes, cucumber, broccoli, leeks and cilantro.

In addition to your biweekly food, you will receive the following perks:

- A newsletter that includes simple, relevant recipes, musings and photos.
- The opportunity to directly support young farmers.
- Optional opportunities to learn and work on the farm.
- Free access to all the Self-Sufficiency Food series gatherings summer 2025.

Finally, we invite all seniors (55+) and their families to learn more about the produce box program coming up on May 17 at 9:30 a.m. at the Ross Aragon Community Center.

In addition to a Q-and-A about the produce box program, community members will also learn the basics about starting your own garden at elevation.

This first gathering kicks off our summer-long Self-Sufficiency Food Series, which will be held the third Saturday of each month starting in May at the Community Center from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. in the Pagosa Senior Center dining room with a variety of local talented instructors and individuals to further tantalize your palate, support your culinary skill development, connect you with local growers and get you excited about all the amazing, delicious, nutritious local foods you will be enjoying this growing season.

Self-Sufficiency Food Series topics

- May 17: Learn about the produce box program and starting a garden at elevation with farmer Chris Fredericks.
- June 21: Compost and soil. Join Brian Wattie and/or Wes Davies to dive into all things microbial and growing nutritious food with the use of homemade compost.
- July 19: Kitchen skills. Ana Smith will lead community members through preparation of a simple meal while demonstrating a variety of kitchen skills to help you master meal prep with ease and finesse.
- Aug. 16: Seasonal menu design. Rue Graham will provide an overview of how to feature and provide tips/

tricks on how to design and prepare seasonal menus based on what is coming out of the garden and available at your local farmers market.

- Sept. 20: Cultural foods. Rose Chavez will highlight a variety of local and regional cultural foods with an emphasis on green and red chile. The demonstration will include making red chile from a ristra as well as a traditional green chile demonstration and tasting.

- Oct. 18: Food preservation. Kendall McAllister and/or Cindi Galabota will provide the basics of what it takes to preserve a variety of foods and will lead community members through various food preservation techniques and demonstrations.

For more information, please call (970) 264-2167 or stop by the ASI office at 451 Hot Springs Blvd. to sign up to be considered for the produce box program. The first 40 interested clients who meet the minimum requirements will become subscribers and will be eligible to receive their fresh produce boxes throughout the growing season of 2025.

Monthly caregiver support group

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.

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: May 22, June 26, July 24, July 24, Aug. 28, Sept. 25, Oct. 23, Nov. 20 and Dec. 18.

All meetings will be held at the Ross Aragon Community Center in the West Conference Room (except the August gathering will be in a local park) from 10:30 a.m. to noon.

If you have questions or would like to be added to our announcement list, please contact Yeun Fiedler at (970) 946-5810 or Madeline Sutton at (970) 507-1574.

T'ai chi chih

The Senior Center is offering t'ai chi chih with accredited instructor Patti Popovich each Thursday from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. in the Senior Center dining hall located in the back of the Community Center.

■ See Senior on next page

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Senior

■ continued from previous page

The class is intended to support older adults who want to discover purpose and fulfillment in this transitional phase of life.

Tai chi is not a martial art, but rather a tool for self-healing. Softness, flow and effortlessness are the guiding principles in this practice.

All classes are free for older adults (age 55 and better) and class will last approximately 1 hour. No special clothing or equipment is required.

For more information, call (970) 264-2167.

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 Community Center, 451 Hot Springs Blvd., within the dining hall in the Senior Center.

This creative tradition has been happening since 2005, and we invite all creative individuals to come and share ideas, connect with new and old friends, learn/share creative techniques, share supplies and indulge in a potluck lunch together. Bring your scrapbooking projects — or any crafting project that you may want to work on with the group.

Help us create an intergenerational community. Those ages 18 and older are welcome. For those youth age 17 and younger, we kindly request an adult chaperone accompany them.

If you would like to be added to the mailing list, please send your request to copenhavercreative@gmail.com and you will receive notification each month of the upcoming meeting, along with handy tips and tricks for scrapbooking and more.

Stretching and mobility class

Community members are invited to attend free weekly classes every Tuesday from 10 to 11 a.m. at the Senior Center.

The stretching and mobility classes for older adults (age 55 and up) are designed to help build balance in the body through functional exercises that aim to improve mobility and flexibility.

Participants will have the opportunity to enjoy a variety of techniques that can help enhance overall movement efficiency.

Though not necessary, a mat is recommended for this class.

The program is instructed by local ballet dance instructor Dee Pitchon, who will provide modifications to ensure the safety and effectiveness of the exercises.

Bingo

The Senior Center continues to host free community bingo games twice a month on Friday afternoons from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Upcoming bingo dates include

May 9, May 23, June 13 and June 27.

Bring yourself and a friend for an hour of joyful fellowship. We will provide prizes from local businesses for all winners, and snacks will also be provided.

No RSVP is required. Help us create an intergenerational community.

All ages are welcome, but we ask those 18 and younger to come with an adult chaperone. Seats are first come, first served.

For more information, contact us at (970) 264-2167.

Senior Conversations

Join us Mondays at 1:15 p.m. for a series of Senior Conversations with local Bill Salmansohn.

Salmansohn brings to our conversations a variety of topics designed to stimulate discussions within a safe and comfortable environment as we explore our well-being and shared experiences.

This is a unique opportunity to connect with others living within the Archuleta community for friendship and togetherness.

Snacks will be provided.

Afterward, hosted by Robin Williams, is a get-together created for those who wish to continue the conversation. This opportunity is typically from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m., following Senior Conversations.

The group occasionally reconvenes as an informal gathering at various local restaurants.

Share lunch Monday through Friday

Open to all. Join us at the Silver Fox's Den, aka the Community Cafe, in person for daily hot/cold meals Mondays through Thursdays at the Community Center between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. It is open to all. Pickup is available all week.

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Tuesday, May 6 — Thai chicken

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■ See Senior on next page

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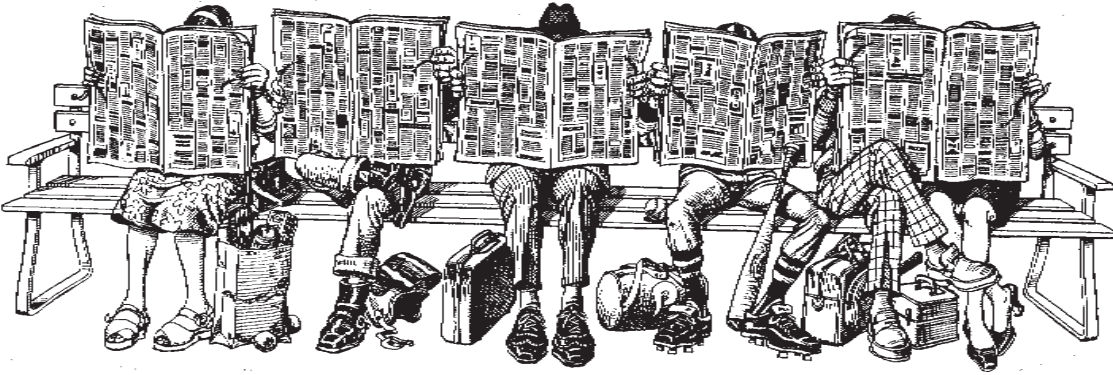
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Alzheimer's rates reach new high

By Jim Herlihy

Alzheimer's Association of Colorado

Alzheimer's rates continue to climb to an all-time high in the U.S., topping 7.2 million Americans over the age of 65 living with the disease, according to the 2025 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures Report released Tuesday by the Alzheimer's Association.

At the same time, adults participating in a nationwide survey as part of the report expressed a strong interest in exploring their Alzheimer's treatment options, even if those treatments have potential side effects.

The survey findings are included in an accompanying special report, American Perspectives on Early Detection of Alzheimer's Disease in the Era of Treatment. The survey of more than 1,700 Americans aged 45 and older examined awareness and attitudes about Alzheimer's disease, early detection and diagnosis, tests used to help diagnose Alzheimer's, and treatments approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) that can slow progression of the disease.

"Our survey finds that people want to know if they have Alzheimer's, and they want to know before it impacts their daily life," said Jim Hammelev, executive director of the Alzheimer's Association of Colorado. "We also heard loud and clear that Americans want disease-modifying treatments that can make a real positive difference in their lives, giving them more quality time with their loved ones, even when there is the potential of side effects to those treatments."

While there was some opposition in the medical community to the FDA's approval of two new medications (lecanemab and donanemab), which in clinical trials showed promise in slowing the progression of Alzheimer's in individuals in the early stages of the disease, adults surveyed showed a strong interest in having access to the medications:

- 58 percent of those surveyed said they would accept moderate to

very high levels of risk with taking medication to slow the progression of Alzheimer's disease in the early stages.

- Only 3 percent said they would accept no risk, allowing Alzheimer's, for which there currently is no cure, to run its course. Another 27 percent said they would accept a low amount of risk.

Advance warning of Alzheimer's

A majority of those surveyed — 79 percent — indicated that they would want to know if they had Alzheimer's, either before symptoms appeared (50 percent) or before they would affect the person's daily activities (29 percent).

The research community is making rapid progress in the development of blood tests that could be used for Alzheimer's diagnosis, and 90 percent of those surveyed said they would take the test.

If diagnosed with the disease, 92 percent said they would want access to medications to slow the disease progression. The biggest concern expressed about the blood tests was cost: 44 percent worry that insurance won't cover the cost.

Motivations for those interested in early testing for Alzheimer's include:

- Allowing for earlier treatment and care: 83 percent.
- Enable person diagnosed and family to plan: 76 percent.
- Encourage action to preserve existing cognition: 68 percent.
- Help person with the diagnosis to understand what's happening: 67 percent.
- Encourage person and family to seek support and education: 58 percent.

Key report statistics

The Facts and Figures Report provides some key metrics on the state of Alzheimer's disease in the United States, as well as the role that many family members and friends play in the care of loved ones living with the disease.

Following are several findings highlighted in the report:

- 7.2 million Americans ages 65 and older living with Alzheimer's disease (the first time exceeding 7 million for this age group) — plus about 200,000 under age 65 (younger-onset Alzheimer's).
- Nearly 12 million family members and friends provided loved ones living with Alzheimer's 19.2 billion hours of unpaid care in 2024 valued at \$413.5 billion — equal to nearly 16 times the total revenue of McDonald's in 2023 (\$25.9 billion).
- The total cost for caring for people living with Alzheimer's and other dementias in 2025 is projected to be \$384 billion (not including the costs of informal caregiving).
- Deaths from Alzheimer's disease, as recorded on death certificates, increased 142.4 percent from 2020 to 2022, while deaths from heart disease declined 1.1 percent.

Colorado statistics

- 90,800 Coloradans are living with Alzheimer's.
- In Colorado, 1,871 people are known to have died from Alzheimer's in 2022, the most recent figure available.
- More than 178,000 Coloradans are serving as unpaid caregivers, providing an estimated 309 million hours of support in 2024 valued at nearly \$8.2 billion.

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Terry's Ace Hardware Donates Tools to Habitat Archuleta to Support Local Affordable Homeownership

In a generous act of community support, Terry's Ace Hardware has donated a wide range of essential tools to Habitat Archuleta, a local affiliate of Habitat for Humanity, to aid in the construction of affordable housing throughout Archuleta County.

The donation includes a variety of battery operated power tools and ladders—critical items that will help Habitat Archuleta volunteers and staff build homes for families in need. This contribution reflects Terry's Ace Hardware's ongoing commitment to giving back to the community it calls home.

Habitat Archuleta expresses deep gratitude for the donation, emphasizing how it will directly impact the nonprofit's ability to expand its services and lower operational costs.

"This support from Terry's Ace Hardware is a game-changer," said Madeline Bergon, Construction Project Manager with Habitat Archuleta. "With these tools, our volunteers can hit the ground running on multiple build sites this season. It's partnerships like these that



truly make a difference."

Habitat Archuleta invites the public to get involved by volunteering,

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donating, or supporting its mission in other ways. For more information, visit www.habitatarchuleta.org.



Want to raise backyard chickens for eggs? Things to know first

By Jayme DeLoss and Cindi Galabota
PREVIEW Columnists

Recent egg shortages and the high price of eggs have some people wondering if the cost of raising backyard chickens might be worth it to have a steady supply of eggs on demand.

Colorado State University (CSU) Extension specialists Alison O'Connor and Bailey Schilling answered common questions and shared tips people should know before investing in their own backyard chickens.

Schilling is the 4-H and livestock specialist for Larimer County and O'Connor, a horticulture specialist for Larimer County, has kept her own flock for more than 10 years. They say the initial financial investment for birds and supplies can be significant — not to mention the time and effort of caring for chickens every day. Up-front costs can range from hundreds to thousands of dollars, making even the inflated price of store-bought eggs seem reasonable.

“Since egg prices are declining, purchasing eggs at the store is likely less expensive,” O'Connor said. “But part of having backyard chickens is the joy of having them as part of your household — they are entertaining, have fun personalities and are often considered to be pets.”

Here are a few things to consider before starting your own flock and some Extension resources should you decide to pursue a backyard brood.

1. Know the rules of the roost.
Municipalities set their own urban livestock regulations, so check the rules where you live. Most urban areas have limits on how many chickens are allowed. If your home is within town limits, you will often need to apply for a permit and pay a onetime fee.

Roosters often are not allowed within city limits, so be careful when buying birds. At farm and ranch stores, there's a 50 percent chance that chicks labeled as “straight run” will be roosters. Hatcheries generally try to identify the sex of the chicks, but it's a difficult, skilled process.

Many homeowners associations forbid backyard chickens, so if you have a homeowners association, make sure it allows them.

Pro tip: Have a conversation with your neighbors about your plans.

Most communities have space requirements and other regulations for backyard chickens. Chickens need a coop with nesting boxes and space to move around, ideally within an enclosed pen or run.

2. Space and shelter needs.
Chickens need protection from

Extension Viewpoints

predators, pets and the elements. Coops should be weather-proof, properly ventilated and provide a minimum of 2 square feet per bird. (Some larger coops may require a building permit.) Coops should include nesting boxes — 18 inches by 18 inches or slightly larger — where the chickens will lay their eggs.

Prevent attacks from dogs, cats, raccoons, skunks, foxes, birds of prey and other predators by shutting chickens in the coop at night.

For daytime, chickens also should have an enclosed and covered outdoor pen or run with a minimum of 5 to 8 square feet per bird. Enclosing and covering the run protects chickens from predators, the hot summer sun and infection from wild birds (see below for more on preventing avian flu). If chickens are allowed to “free range” in the yard during the day, make sure they always have access to food, water, shade and shelter.

Provide chickens with enough space so they don't get stressed or start picking on each other. The chicken pecking order is real, and it can be brutal and lead to health issues.

Chickens have natural insulation — they wear down parkas year-round — but they can get frostbite if it's extremely cold outside. Select the breeds that do well in your climate, and keep them in the coop on frigid days with negative temperatures.

Chickens require daily care, including food, water and shelter to protect them from predators, pets and the elements.

3. Backyard chicken care and supplies.

Chickens need to be fed and have fresh water every day, 365 days a year.

Provide them with a balanced diet of mostly chicken feed appropriate for their age (chick starter versus layer feed, which is higher in protein). Chickens can eat kitchen scraps, like vegetables and fruits, every day, but treats like scratch (corn and grains) and breads should be limited. Be sure to check that any kitchen scraps are safe for chickens.

In addition to shelter, protection and a nesting box with hay or straw, chickens need a place to exercise and dustbathe (typically with dirt or sand).

Keep the coop clean by scooping poop on a regular basis and control-

■ See Viewpoints on next page



Photo courtesy John Cline/CSU Photography

Recent egg shortages and the high price of eggs have some people wondering if the cost of raising backyard chickens might be worth it to have a steady supply of eggs.

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Viewpoints

■ continued from previous page

ling rodents, which are attracted to chicken feed.

Most daily chicken chores probably take less than 15 minutes unless you are cleaning the coop or run.

Raising chicks requires extra care and a heat lamp because they can't regulate their body temperature. Your local Extension office has additional resources on caring for chicks.

A 50-pound bag of layer feed can cost \$15 to \$20 and will feed four to six chickens for about a month, depending on how hungry the chickens are and how much they waste.

4. Prevent avian flu and other health issues.

Biosecurity is important, especially right now with the widespread outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza, or HPAI, which is a serious threat to backyard flocks.

Take precautions to keep your chickens safe by limiting their contact with wild birds and their droppings. Keep the coop clean, and wear shoes, clothes and gloves that are used only for chicken duties.

Watch your birds for any signs of illness. It can be difficult to find a veterinarian that works with poultry, so it's wise to identify one before you need it. CSU's Avian Health Hotline — (970) 297-4008 — can help answer general questions and explain disease testing options.

For your health, always wash your hands after collecting eggs, handling chickens, or cleaning the coop or run.

5. Egg production and safety.

Many laying hens will lay an egg a day, but it depends on the breed. Some chickens have been bred to produce a lot of eggs; others lay two to three eggs a week. Chickens lay the most eggs in spring and summer when the days are longer.

Egg size and color also vary by breed. Ameraucanas lay blue or green eggs, and Marans produce the darkest chocolate brown eggs. The white eggs commonly found at the grocery store are usually from white leghorns, which can lay 280-300 eggs per year.

Laying hens start producing eggs when they are about six months old and lay consistently until they are about 2 years old, then egg production declines. Chickens can live to be 8 to 10 years old.

When eggs are laid, they have a "bloom," a coating that protects them from bacteria and other contaminants. Washing this off makes the eggshell porous, which is why washed eggs need to be refrigerated. Wash eggs with warm water and dry with a clean towel before putting them in the fridge. The risk of salmonella is minimal with good hygiene. Eggs can be safely consumed 4-5 weeks after the date they were laid.

Do your research

Still interested in bringing chickens home to roost?

O'Connor and Schilling recom-

mend talking to other chicken owners and doing as much research as possible first.

Extension resources include:

- Bunning, M. Shackelton, E. Avens, J. (2021, February). Home-produced Chicken Eggs. <https://extension.colostate.edu/docs/pubs/foodnut/09377.pdf>.

- Enos, HL. (1974, January; revised 2019, December). Raising Poultry the Organic Way – Disease Control and Feeding. <https://extension.colostate.edu/docs/pubs/livestk/02507.pdf>.

- Deloss, J. (2025, April 10). Protecting the Flock: How to prevent avian flu and other diseases in backyard chickens. <https://source.colostate.edu/backyard-chickens-avian-flu/>.

Best backyard chicken breeds

O'Connor advises that some of the best breeds for backyard flocks are Orpingtons, Ameraucanas, Rhode Island Reds, Sussex, Plymouth Rock, Wyandottes and Australorps. All these breeds are friendly, quiet, good egg layers and tolerant to cold and warm weather. They also come in various colors, so you can keep track of individual birds.

However, as O'Connor pointed out, you can also identify them by their individual personalities.

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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.

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CPR and first aid classes

CPR and first aid certification classes are offered every other month at the CSU Extension office, generally

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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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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.

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ALPINE PORTABLE TOILETS is hiring a full-time toilet service driver to clean and service portable toilets. Call David (970)946-3692 or stop by 208 N. 14th St.

CATTLEMEN'S CAFE Now hiring cook and prep cook. Call or email (970)507-0758, misty@buckedoffboutique.com.

CDL DRIVER. Ponderosa Lumber is hiring a CDL Driver. This is a full-time position. Duties include deliveries, loading /unloading trucks, and helping customers. Requires the ability to drive a stick shift and have a Class B endorsement. We offer paid time off, medical, dental, vision, prescription, 401(k) and Profit Sharing. Please apply at Ponderosa Lumber 2435 Eagle Dr. (970)731-4111.

CITY HALL CAFE now accepting applications for servers and line cooks. Apply within.

HELP WANTED



We Are Hiring!

Elementary Teachers

We are hiring elementary school teachers for the 2025-26 school year. If designing curriculum and engaging students in Project-based Learning excites you, don't hesitate to apply.

Apply now!

Send your resume to:

emurphy@ppos.co

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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 dead-lines. Excellent communication skills on the phone and through all communication channels. High level of proficiency in MS Excel and other Microsoft Office applications.

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 SUN

an O'Rourke Media Group company

We are looking for reliable, motivated additions to our team!



WE'RE HIRING

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MULTIPLE POSITIONS MULTIPLE DEPARTMENTS

Starting at \$17 per hour, dependent on experience.

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Ponderosa Lumber is seeking a customer service oriented individual to assist contractors with purchasing building materials. Knowledge of building materials is necessary.

Responsibilities include:

- 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

DONATION RECEIVING ASSOCIATE. Job responsibilities will include accepting and sorting donations at the Thrift Store, at our temporary donation intake location uptown, and driving and loading arranged donation pick ups. This is a physical, mostly outdoor role. Positive attitude, and good customer service skills are a must. Experience driving a box truck type vehicle, a clean driving record, and the ability to lift 50-60lbs correctly and safely are also required. 24- 32 hours a week \$16.00 -\$18.00 per hour DOE and on availability. Please email resume to hsjobs@pagosahumane.org, complete an application on our website <https://pagosahumane.org>, or stop by 279 Pagosa St. 10- 4 Tuesday-Sunday.

ELECTRICIAN wanted. Construction experience required. Electrical experience preferred. Must be team player, reliable and have own transportation. Send resume to bauerelectricpagosa@gmail.com. Pay DOE, Monday -Friday, 8a.m. -4:30p.m. AFLAC, vision /dental.

EMPLOYMENT AT SILVER DOLLAR LI-QUOR. Must be 21. Full-time or part-time. Nights and weekends. (970)264-2749.

COMMUNITY UNITED METHODIST THRIFT STORE —Now Hiring. Now hiring for two part-time positions in Pagosa Springs. Co-Man-ager: Helps run daily operations, works with volunteers, manages inventory. Sales Floor Assistant: Provides customer service, runs register, restocks, keeps store tidy. Make a difference at this nonprofit, church-supported store. Apply: Rev. Ken Daniell— pastor@cumcps.org.

CONSTRUCTION LABOR and metal working help needed. Good driving record a plus but not necessary. Pay based on construction experience. Full-time or part-time. (970)585-1021.

DEDICATED CLEANERS Must be detail oriented, trustworthy, reliable and committed. \$20/ hour possibly more for special projects. Text Pagosa Sparkles, (970)946-6446.

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.

GTS Looking for part-time help for counter sales in the plumbing and electrical industry. Applicant should be enthusiastic with problem solving skills to assist customers. Other duties may include helping customers in the yard, unloading shipments, stocking products and making deliveries. All associates are diversely trained to share duties. No experience in the trades required but is a plus. Position may be advanced to full-time with room to grown within the company. Apply at gtsanders.com.

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Office Hours: Monday — Friday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

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HELP WANTED

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Archuleta School District

strives to achieve

*"Success for Every Student —
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Elementary, Middle, & High School Teachers 2025-26 SY

Full-time positions with a starting salary \$51,645-\$67,469 for
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MS & HS Coaching Positions 2025-26 SY

Part-time positions based on salary schedule range from
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Benefits for all FULL-TIME positions include (but are not limited to)
PERA State Retirement, Life Insurance, optional Health and Dental
Insurance and paid Discretionary Days.

**You belong on the
Archuleta School District Team!**



For more details and to apply for these positions click on "Job
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EOE

HELP WANTED — BUDTENDER. San Juan Strains is looking for a friendly, knowledgeable Budtender to join our team part time or full time. If you're passionate about cannabis and customer service, this is your chance to work in a laid-back but professional environment with good pay, tips, and employee discounts. Responsibilities include: greeting and assisting customers with a positive attitude, recommending cannabis products based on customer needs, accurately processing payments and handling transactions, count inventory and restock as needed and follow all state and local cannabis laws and regulations. Requirements: must have a valid Colorado MED Employee Badge, a reliable, friendly, and professional demeanor, and the ability to work independently and follow procedures. To apply for this position, pick up an application in person at San Juan Strains! Come be part of a team that values knowledge, compliance, and great customer service! 970-264-5323.

IMMEDIATE OPENING for CDL Driver / Equipment Operator. Experience with forestry equipment helpful. Must pass drug test. Local driving only. Please send your resume to frontdesk@pagosalandcompany.com.

IMMEDIATE OPENINGS at Pagosa Springs Golf Club and Square Top BBQ: Server/Bartender \$11.79- \$15/ hour +Tips, Grounds and Irrigation Crew DOE \$16- \$20/ hour, Golf Carts \$16/ hour +Tips, Housekeeping \$18/ hour. Seeking honest, outgoing, reliable and responsible applicants with excellent customer service skills for our team. Full- or Part-time positions available. Training available for all positions. Apply in person at 1 Pines Club Place.

J AND J ENTERPRISES is looking for friendly and enthusiastic people who are eager to help customers navigate the wide world of cannabis. We offer paid sick leave, product sampling, employee discounts, sales bonuses and comprehensive on-site training! Must be 21 years of age. A Marijuana Enforcement Division badge is required to start work. E-mail your resume to employment@jandjinc.net or check us out on Indeed.com.

NEWSPAPER REPORTER — We are searching for a talented reporter to fill a full-time position in Pagosa Springs, Colorado, at The Pagosa Springs SUN. Our journalists are driven to find stories that matter to our community and are dedicated to fairness, accuracy, and ethics. The successful candidate for this position is someone who knows how to cover hard news but also loves to write about people and their passions. They know that a good interview is often a good conversation and know when to ask the tough questions, but also when to listen. The ideal candidate has exceptional writing skills and is willing to put in the extra effort and research to deliver an engaging story. Preferred qualifications for this position include: Degree or diploma in journalism, or a related field; At least 1-3 years of experience as a reporter with experience covering hard news and feature stories or experience at a college newspaper; The ability to meet tight deadlines and report the news as it happens; Superior language, writing and editing skills; Strong photography skills; Able to work a variety of schedules, including evenings, nights and weekends; Excellent critical thinking and problem-solving skills; Ability to work in a fast-paced environment; A valid driver's license and a reliable vehicle; Willingness to live in or near Pagosa Springs, Colorado. If this sounds like the perfect position for you, we would love to hear from you! To apply, please send your resume, letter of interest and relevant samples of your work to Chad Richardson, Vice President of News, crichardson@orourkemediagroup.com. Company Benefits: We offer competitive compensation plans and employees are eligible for medical, dental, vision, life insurance benefits, paid time off and our 401 (k) savings plan. This is an excellent opportunity for career development and growth within the company O'Rourke Media Group is a fast-growing company that owns and operates hyper-local, community newspapers, websites, niche publications and a full-service digital agency. We are family-owned and mission-driven to save newspapers and local media companies by investing in the people, resources and technology needed to thrive for many years to come. We believe that every community can benefit from a well-run, properly resourced, local newspaper and website. Our News teams produce hyper-local, high interest local news and accurate and trustworthy reporting. Our Sales and Digital Fulfillment teams bring omnichannel advertising solutions to local businesses in the communities we serve. O'Rourke Media Group now operates in nine states and 38 markets with 51 publications and hyper-local websites. We started from ground zero in December 2018, totally bootstrapped, confident and with an entrepreneurial mindset.

NORTH PAGOSA MARATHON is hiring a full-time cashier nights and weekends. Competitive wages. Please apply in person at 30 N. Pagosa Blvd.

OWNERS, THERE IS A LONG TERM RENTAL SHORTAGE IN PAGOSA SPRINGS. We have a waiting list for approved tenants. Need all types of rentals. Call us today for lowest commission and highest customer service. All you have to do is wait for your rent check to come in. We do the rest! Rocky Mountain Realty & Rentals (970)507-1192.

PAGOSA LIQUOR IS HIRING a full-time cashier. Please come and apply in person at 30 N. Pagosa Blvd.

PINE VALLEY RENTAL, busy equipment rental yard is seeking a reliable, self starting shop/yard person. Must have experience in mechanics, diesels, hydraulics, electrical work, and be knowledgeable of heavy equipment plus small engines. CDL is a plus but not required. Must have own transportation. Full time, Monday -Friday 8-5. Please call (970)731-4410 Or Email ppine000@centurytel.net. 391 Bastille Drive.

ROOF LABORER NEEDED with some construction experience. Will train. \$20-\$25/ hour to start. (970)749-0830.

SEEDS OF LEARNING EARLY CARE and Education Center (SOL), an NAEYC accredited childcare center, is accepting applications for their Executive Director position in Pagosa Springs, CO serving children ages 2 1/2- 5 years. The Executive Director is responsible for providing management, leadership, and integrity in the operations of SOL. The Executive Director will manage all aspects of the program including ECE legal/fiscal components, staff management, educational programming, professional development, operations/facilities management, stakeholder relations, fundraising, and will serve as a model for family support through family-centered practices. The Executive Director in collaboration with the Board of Directors, will implement forward thinking policies and procedures that are consistent with the program vision, philosophy, mission, goals of growth and best practices in Early Childhood Education. The ED will have a commitment to continuous quality improvement with input from all stakeholders including families and staff. The ED will be an effective communicator both orally and in writing and will be able to effectively utilize current computer technology in their work. Must be knowledgeable in the field of budget management, and grant writing knowledge is preferred. A full job description is available at growingseeds.org. Must have a minimum of a bachelor's degree in Early Childhood (or like degree), preferably a Colorado Director Qualified Certificate with experience as an ECE preschool teacher and some supervisory/ management experience. This is a 40-hour a week year-round position with a starting salary between \$65,000 - \$70,000, depending upon qualifications. Please email resume or reach out to Lisa Peters at lisa@peterspagosa.com by May 23 for more information.

SEEKING PART-TIME HELP. For landscaping, experience helpful. Must have valid drivers license and transportation. Contact Eric. (970)946-2061.

SPECIAL EVENTS COORDINATOR The Pagosa Springs Chamber of Commerce is seeking a part-time coordinator. Must have customer service, energy, event planning and organizational skills and be able to work in a fast-paced, physical environment. Hours are flexible, increase during the summer and fall event season and must be able to work weekends and evenings when administering events. Position offers competitive hourly rate. Deadline for resumes is May 3, 2025. Submit resumes to director@pagosachamber.com or drop off at the Chamber at 105 Hot Springs Blvd. Pagosa Springs Chamber of Commerce is an EEO employer.

LANDSCAPE LABORERS WANTED. Must have own transportation. Call for an application. Good pay for good help. (970)946-2277.

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Benefits package, paid time off, 401K match.

Apply today.

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strong,
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Join us and
become a part of
the bigger
picture.



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Classifieds

(970) 264-2100

Office Hours: Monday — Friday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Classified Deadline: Tuesday 10 a.m.

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

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We are Growing!

Now Hiring:

Digital Marketing Consultant

Are you passionate about driving results through innovative marketing strategies? Do you thrive on helping businesses grow their online presence? Join our team as a **Digital Marketing Consultant** and make an impact!

What You'll Do:

- Develop, implement, and optimize digital marketing campaigns across multiple platforms-Search Engine Marketing, SEO, Facebook, Video and much more. Plus, have a competitive advantage by including our own Pagosa Springs SUN digital and print audience.
- Bring cost-effective, website development opportunities to local businesses to help build long-term, win-win partnerships.
- Analyze campaign performance and generate actionable insights to maximize ROI.
- Collaborate with clients to understand their business goals and create tailored marketing strategies.
- Stay ahead of industry trends and identify new opportunities for growth.

What We're Looking For:

- 2+ years of experience in digital marketing, preferably in a consultancy or agency role.
- Proven expertise selling digital advertising solutions.
- Strong analytical skills with proficiency in tools like Google Analytics, Ads Manager, and SEMrush.
- Exceptional communication skills and a client-first mindset.
- A passion for creativity, strategy, and measurable results.

Why Join Us?

- Competitive salary + performance-based incentives.
- Access to professional development and growth opportunities.
- Be part of a collaborative, innovative, and supportive team.

O'Rourke Media Group is a family-owned, diversified media company that was formed in 2018. Originally just a holding company that owned a few newspapers, O'Rourke Media Group (OMG) has established itself as an industry-leading, digital media company comprising a cutting edge digital agency and an impressive group of award-winning, hyper-local print newspapers and niche magazines. OMG now operates in eight states, 36 markets with over 50 publications and hyper-local websites. In Pagosa Springs, we publish The SUN, Preview and a number of niche publications.

Ready to take the next step in your career?
Send your resume and a brief cover letter to
CEO Jim O'Rourke at jorourke@orourkemediagroup.com.



MALT SHOPPE NOW HIRING. Apply in person between 9a.m. and 2p.m.

Email us at classads@pagosasun.com to submit your classified.

MOUNTAIN SPIRITS IS SEEKING customer service associates. Must be available nights and weekends. We offer accrued vacation/ personal time, performance-based bonuses twice a year, and employee discounts. Please apply in person.

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.

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DO YOU BURN FIREWOOD? Guarantee yourself dry seasoned wood this winter and get stocked up now! Get a HUGE dump truck load split and delivered for \$550. Pine /Fir mix. Contact FIRE&ICE (970)582-0006.

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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.

RABBITS FOR SALE. Everything from baby Easter bunnies to breeding pairs. Starting at \$10.00 each. Dan Snow (719)849-8873.

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USED ENGLISH SADDLE; 17 inch. Australian saddle, almost new; 17 inch. Nita (970)317-8332.

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LOOKING FOR A RIDING HORSE. A gelding or mare that needs a home to be a buddy for my 15 year old gelding. Please call (970)946-2629 or email jodyunger61@gmail.com.

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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.

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1990 GMC K1500 4X4. Regular cab, long bed with ladder rack utility topper. 350 Jasper engine installed 2021, 5-speed manual, low miles, good shape. \$7,900. (719)588-3316.

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GUARANTEED CREDIT APPROVAL! 4X4 Auto Sales, 21698 Hwy. 160 West, Durango. (970)385-7940.

ATTENTION TREASURE HUNTERS! Estate Sales By Elizabeth, LLC would like to officially welcome you to our 1st estate sale! We look forward to seeing you at **325 Oakwood Circle!** The sale will be held Saturday, May 3rd and Sunday, May 4th from 9a.m. - 6p.m. each day. This is a super fun house with many treasures — Check out my Facebook page for previews of the goods, text with any questions, (71)291-2318, and look for the PINK balloons! (PS — stay tuned for another great sale over Mother's Day weekend!)

BARN SALE May 4, 5 and 6 from 9 -5. Tools, building materials, tack, camping. 1972 Airstream. 1858 Meadows Dr. Call Aurora (970)902-0329.

BE SURE TO CHECK for more yard sales in the Too Late To Classify section.

ESTATE /GARAGE SALE. Friday -Saturday, 8a.m. -12p.m. Power tools, generator, kitchen, decor, household items, furniture, inflatable boat, yard tools and more. 85 Dayspring Place.

ESTATE SALE. May 3, 9a.m. -2p.m. Inside 21 Pike Dr. Furniture, lamps, home decor, art, kitchen items.

GARAGE SALE. Friday 8 -12 and Saturday 8 -11. Variety of items. 561 Dutton Dr.

HUGE ESTATE SALE! This home is a dream, filled with antique, vintage, and farmhouse collectables inside and out. Crocks, plates, furniture, rugs, tools, Christmas, wagon wheels, cattle gates, glassware, clothing, books, baby grand piano and more, and more, and more. Friday May 2 and Saturday May 3, 8-4. No cell service, CASH ONLY. 3551 County Road 335. Pictures on Facebook at Mountain Cactus Estate Sales.

MOVING SALE- May 2nd and 3rd, 8a.m. to 2p.m. Furniture (indoor and outdoor), clothes, books, Thirty-One bags, home decor, TVs. 365 Arrowhead Drive.

MOVING SALE. 8- noon, May 2 and 3, with leftovers free on May 4. 80 Sumac Ct. Twin Creek Village. Hand and gardening tools, Civil War and woodworking books, small appliances, misc. cookware plus unneeded stuff. Some items free. Everything must go!

PLPOA SPRING MULTI-FAMILY flea market/ yard sale. Saturday, May 10th, 8a.m. to 1p.m. 230 Port Ave, PLPOA Clubhouse inside and outside. NO EARLY CALLERS.

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260 SF OFFICE at the Metro Hotel downtown on Main Street. \$469 monthly, utilities included. Jacque (970)946-7636.

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Classifieds

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HOMES FOR SALE

HOMES FOR SALE

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LIGHT INDUSTRIAL SPACE/ STORAGE. Cloman Park. New Build. 2700 square feet, Opportunity Zoned. (720)470-2653.

NICE OFFICE IN PROMINENT Main Street location. 262 Pagosa St. #100. 900 sq. ft. Private bathroom and kitchenette. (970)946-9780.

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.

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STORAGE SPACES AVAILABLE 100, 150, and 200 sq ft. Contact Sunrise Property Management today at (970)731-4344 to check availability.

THREE UNITS IN UPTOWN 419, 364, and 1477 sq. ft. Available now. \$900 - \$2400. Utilities included. Call Gina (970)880-0910 for more info.

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1, 2 AND 3 BEDROOMS. Call (720)869-8877. Hickory Ridge Apartments.

3 BEDROOM 2 BATH with storage unit. Access to lake, park and rec center. \$1,950. (719)850-8680.

3 BEDROOM/ 2 BATH home for rent. 1868 sq ft in the Ranch Community. Lake view with 2-car garage. Rental amount is \$3300 with a one month security deposit. Contact Sunrise Property Management today at (970)731-4344 to schedule a tour.

BASEMENT STUDIO APARTMENT. Downtown, river view, furnished. \$1000 rent, \$1000 deposit. Utilities included. No smokers. No pets. (970)264-6797.

DOWNTOWN PAGOSA RENTAL — Large living room kitchen area, one bedroom and bath. 311 S. 7th. Walking distance to hot springs and shops and restaurants in old downtown. Available June 1. (720)470-2653.

DOWNTOWN UNITS FOR RENT. New 3 bedroom, 2 bath unit. Granite countertops, all appliances and utilities included. Porch and patio. \$2000/ month. (318)347-6100.

HIGH END 2 BEDROOM/ 2 BATH home for rent. 1243 sq ft located in downtown Pagosa Springs. 2 assigned heated parking spots. Rental amount is \$2250 with a one month security deposit. Contact Sunrise Property Management today at (970)731-4344 to schedule a tour.

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LONG TERM RENTALS AVAILABLE. Call Team Pagosa (970)731-8599, 117 Navajo Trail Dr., pagosaspringsrealty.com.

THREE BEDROOM, 1 1/4 BATH, two car garage-Rent \$2,000.00 plus utilities. Located 374 S. 8th Street. Available June 1st. Call Yvonne at (970)946-4019 or Erlinda at (970)946-6702.

COMMERCIAL

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3 BEDROOM 2 BATH. Workshop. 20 acres. Great views of the La Plata. Ignacio. \$475,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

64 ACRES, 46 SHARES OF IRRIGATION. 3 bedroom, 2 bath home. 2 garages and shed, 3-3 phase electric outlets. Brand new Generac Generator, Pastures with beautiful views, too many extras to name them all. \$928,000. AP-10. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

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1.19 ACRES WITH VIEWS OF NAVAJO LAKE. All utilities nearby. \$99,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

.27 ACRES. Views of Navajo. Electricity near, well installed. \$40,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

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3.7 ACRES. Great views of Navajo lake. Power near, water available. \$400,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

.35 ACRE LAND County Road 982 frontage \$55,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

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MOUNTAIN VIEWS, MEADOWS. Unique high elevation and complete privacy. 5.6 acres bordering national forest, (970)769-3588 blancoretreat@gmail.com. \$450K.

NATIONAL FOREST ACCESS. .21 acres, buildable lot, tap available, motivated seller. \$40,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

VERY MOTIVATED SELLER. 4 acres. Great views, access to river. Electric near. \$175,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.



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Photo courtesy Judy Brennan

These local volunteers were among those feted by Pagosa’s Sisson Library staff on April 22 in honor of National Volunteer Week. Pictured with Barb Brattin, director, front center, they include Maple, a certified therapy dog who hosts a popular children’s reading session every month. At the event the human volunteers enjoyed a taco lunch followed by a game of Library Jeopardy! with questions on books, authors and the history of our library. A total of 42 volunteers provide vital help to the library shelving books, helping with programs and cleaning CDs. They also are members of the Foundation and Friends, and have led the current building fundraising efforts. “They make such a difference in our community and we are a great library because of our amazing volunteers,” Brattin said.

Integrity and heaven’s currency

By Betty Slade
PREVIEW Columnist

Many of us are on a fixed income and we are living within the means of our planned retirement. We thought we had prepared wisely. Life has a way of mixing things up.

A car accident that happened to my Sweet Al and me on Aug. 6 last year has been financially costly. My car was totaled and I purchased a newer one. Many trips to doctors, hospital visits in Durango and Colorado Springs, \$600.00 for a 30-day supply of medicine not covered by our insurance, co-pays for doctor visits — they have all added up.

I lay out the bills from this recent accident and tell myself, “Don’t panic. Trust heaven’s currency — for money, health and for all my needs, He promised He’d meet them. He swore by Himself. He took an oath. I believe Him.”

The Bible is very direct when we take an oath. Even if it is to our own hurt, we must keep our word. When life changes things, heaven’s currency remains the same even though our faith is being tested.

“... [W]e must be so full of integrity that our ‘Yes’ or ‘No’ is convincing enough and (we) do not stumble into hypocrisy.” — James 5:12 (NKJV).

Before the accident, I was building relationships with my grandchildren.

Artist’s Lane

I planned to help them with their extended education, career challenges and a new family’s needs.

I looked at what I had promised them before the medical bills and expenses. I gave my word to help one of my grandchildren. Even though the funds would be tight, the answer was still yes. I will not go back on my promise.

When we keep our word, our integrity is being challenged. Our yes or no has a deeper implication for those involved.

Someone this week doubted her recent decision. She had buyer’s remorse. It’s too late now, but she was beating herself up wondering if she had made the right choice.

I told her, “Before I say yes, I’ll pray. Sometimes I’ll wrestle with the situation for days, waiting for that peace knowing I heard from heaven. It might not be the full answer, but there is a peace to move forward. If I question my decision, I will go back to that moment knowing I heard from heaven and God will back me.”

Through this accident and medi-

cal bills, God knows what is on the other side. He is still the Father of lights. He brought us forth by the word of truth. (See James 1:17, 18). So, when I made a commitment before life was turned on its head, I must stick to my promise.

Financially, it’s going to take a little more faith, but the answer to the oath I made with my grandchild remains the same. It’s important my yes stands so that I will not cause my grandchild to stumble with hypocrisy. This is operating from God’s economy. This is turning over the answer I received before. I need to wait and watch the Lord act. If He says “yes,” He means “yes.”

By being wishy-washy, our integrity is compromised and questioned. By waiting to hear from the Lord, then proceeding with that peace He gives, I have the courage to stand on His word when my own word is shaken.

Final brushstroke: My yeses? I know heaven will back me. God never lies. I know His yeses means yes.

Send your comment to bettyslade.author@gmail.com.

Views expressed do not necessarily represent those of The SUN.

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