**BoCC discusses landfill regulations** Potential effects of methane gas monitoring — A5

## Reservoir planning process continues

Water conservancy district discusses next steps — A16



State champs



Photos courtesy Jessica Carr

RCS

Abigail Nehring, left, and Creede Dozier stand atop the podium on Friday, May 16, after winning the 3A state titles in girls' discus and boys' long jump, respectively. The pair of Pagosa Springs High School Pirates claimed the titles within minutes of each other at the state meet. For more on the state meet, see pages A12 and A13.

## Memorial Day service planned

#### By Randi Pierce Staff Writer

A Memorial Day ceremony will take place on Monday, May 26, to honor citizens who died defending American freedom.

The events will begin at 10 a.m. at the flagpole at Hilltop Cemetery.

That ceremony, conducted by the American Legion Post 108 Honor Guard.

According to Archuleta County

Veteran Service Officer Raymond Taylor, the ceremony is anticipated to include flyovers by the San Juan Flyers and a program that will include, among other things, an address from Commissioner John Ranson, the reading of Archuleta County's war dead and veterans who have passed in the last 12 months, a rifle volley, a Native American warrior ceremony and laying of wreaths.

All are welcome at the event. *randi@pagosasun.com* 

## Town council revisits stalled workforce housing project

By Derek Kutzer Staff Writer

On May 20, the Pagosa Springs Town Council considered resurrecting the town's Enclave at Aspen Village workforce housing project, which has been on pause after the town did not receive a Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) grant.

In 2022, the town entered into a predevelopment contract with Texasbased developer Servitas to build workforce housing on town-owned property and, after several iterations, the project settled on the Enclave site, a three-acre property in Aspen Village south of Walmart.

Servitas proposes to build 70 units on the site, with 12 of those being townhome ownership units and the remainder being multifamily rental units, with the project aiming to provide housing for those earning between 60 percent and 140 percent of the area median income (AMI).

The entire project will average 90 percent AMI for the rental units.

This AMI range has been described by town officials as "the missing middle" that they hope to target with the project, as other projects, such as Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) projects, have targeted a lower range of AMIs.

At the meeting, Mayor Shari Pierce made clear that "no decision" would be made "tonight," regarding the Enclave project, saying that the purpose of bringing it back before the council was to get everyone "up to speed" on where the town stands with the See Housing A9

## County approves road projects for 2025

By Clayton Chaney Staff Writer

The Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) made multiple decisions in May relating to roadwork that will take place in 2025.

During a regular meeting on May 6, the BoCC voted unanimously to approve its consent agenda, which included a contract with A-One chip seal and Rocky Mountain Pavement for the county's 2025 chip seal road resurface projects.

According to the meeting's agenda, the amount of this contract shall not exceed \$1,356,533.63.

Public Works Director Mike Torres briefed the BoCC on the matter during a work session held earlier See Projects A8

## Fire district releases memo on PAWSD, hydrant system

#### By Randi Pierce Staff Writer

On May 6, the Pagosa Fire Protection District (PFPD) Board of Directors unanimously approved the release of a memorandum from the district's attorney regarding Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District's (PAWSD's) fire hydrant system.

Following an executive session,

the board voted to release the memo when it was ready. No additional discussion took place in the open portion of the meeting prior to the vote. The four-page memo prepared by

Dino Ross of Ireland Stapleton, released on and dated May 15, outlines information relating to the obligation of a water district to maintain its fire hydrants and be responsible for the See Memo A8

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Photo courtesy Colorado Department of Transportation

Crews work on lowering the water line at the 100 block of U.S. 160 so that the new storm drainage system can be constructed over the top.

## School district proposes 2025-2026 budget

By Clayton Chaney Staff Writer

The Archuleta School District (ASD) Board of Education (BOE) was presented with the district's 2025-2026 proposed budget during its most recent regular meeting held on Tuesday, May 13.

Finance Director Eric Burt explained that the School Finance Act, or House Bill 25-1320, has been passed by the Colorado Legislature and signed by the governor, noting that ASD's total program funding for 2025-2026 is listed at \$19,616,827.

According to the bill's summary from the Colorado General Assembly, there are two programs through which public schools are financed, with one scheduled to stop after the 2024-2025 budget year, and the second program is scheduled to begin for the 2030-2031 budget year.

During the transition period, program funding is to be determined by using figures calculated under both the expiring and new formulas.

The newly approved bill extends the transition period by one year, "so that it is from the 2025-26 budget year through the 2030-31 budget year," according to the summary.

The bill also postpones the "exclusive use of the new formula to determine total program until the 2031-32 budget year."

Burt explained in his presentation that the total program funding amount was determined based on the 15 percent implementation and four-year averaging of the New School Finance Act.

This results in an increase of approximately 3.2 percent, or \$626,496, Burt noted.

#### See Budget A8

# Opinion

# The Pagosa Springs

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## **OUR VIEW**

## **Immortal patriotism**

On Monday morning at 10 a.m., veterans, their family members and other community members will gather at Hilltop Cemetery to honor those who gave their lives in service to our country, as well as those who served in our country's military and have passed away in the last year.

For those who will gather, and for many others, Memorial Day is far from just a day off and the unofficial start to summer.

It's also a testament to something more. It's a testament to all who have died in service to the United States of America those who died because they wanted to fight for the rights and freedoms we hold dear and those who didn't have a choice in the matter, but gave their lives regardless.

The first official Decoration Day, the precursor to Memorial Day, was established on May 5, 1868, three years after the Civil War ended, according to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

On that day, the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) set the day as a time for the nation to decorate the graves of its war dead

with flowers, with it determined the day would be held on May 30, with a document from the VA further stating, "It is believed the date was chosen because flowers would be in bloom all over the country."

On May 30, 1868, more than 5,000 gathered at Arlington National Cemetery.

"After speeches, children from the Soldiers' and Sailors' Orphan Home and members of the GAR made their way through the cemetery, strewing flowers on both Union and Confederate graves, reciting prayers and singing hymns," the VA document states.

One speech was made by James A. Garfield, then a congressman from Ohio.

In his speech, which is available to read on the National Parks Service website, Garfield discussed the meaning of the day, as well as the difficulty in doing it justice with words.

"I am oppressed with a sense of the impropriety of uttering words on this occasion," he stated in part. "If silence is ever golden, it must be here, beside the graves

## LOOKING BACK

of fifteen thousand men, whose lives were more significant than speech, and whose death was a poem, the music of which can never be sung. With words we make promises, plight faith, praise virtue. Promises may not be kept; plighted faith may be broken; and vaunted virtue be only the cunning mask of vice. We do not know one promise these men made, one pledge they gave, one word they spoke; but we do know they summed up and perfected, by one supreme act, the highest virtues of men and citizens. For love of country they accepted death, and thus resolved all doubts, and made immortal their patriotism and their virtue."

The day began to be called Memorial Day over the following decades, and grew to encompass veterans who died in all wars following World War I. In 1971, Congress declared Memorial Day a national holiday.

We encourage everyone to make time to attend Monday's service to join us in honoring and remembering those who gave all. Randi Pierce

## LEGACIES

By Shari Pierce

## **100 years ago** Taken from SUN files of

May 22, 1925

In a few days the finishing touches will be applied to the new school building at Pagosa Springs. Without fear of criticism it can be called the "Ideal" school house, for from the basement to the roof it embodies the very latest ideas in construction.

Erected at a cost of \$75,000.00 exclusive of the heating plant, ground or equipment, the new building is one to be proud of. The members of the school board, Martin J. Wicklem and the subcontractors under him are to be congratulated at the thoroughness of the job.

The building embodies features not to be found in any school house in the world. The heat comes from natural hot springs and piped to every room. The radiators and pipes are of non-corrosive composition so that they will not fill up with the mineral water. No gasses can escape into any of the rooms.

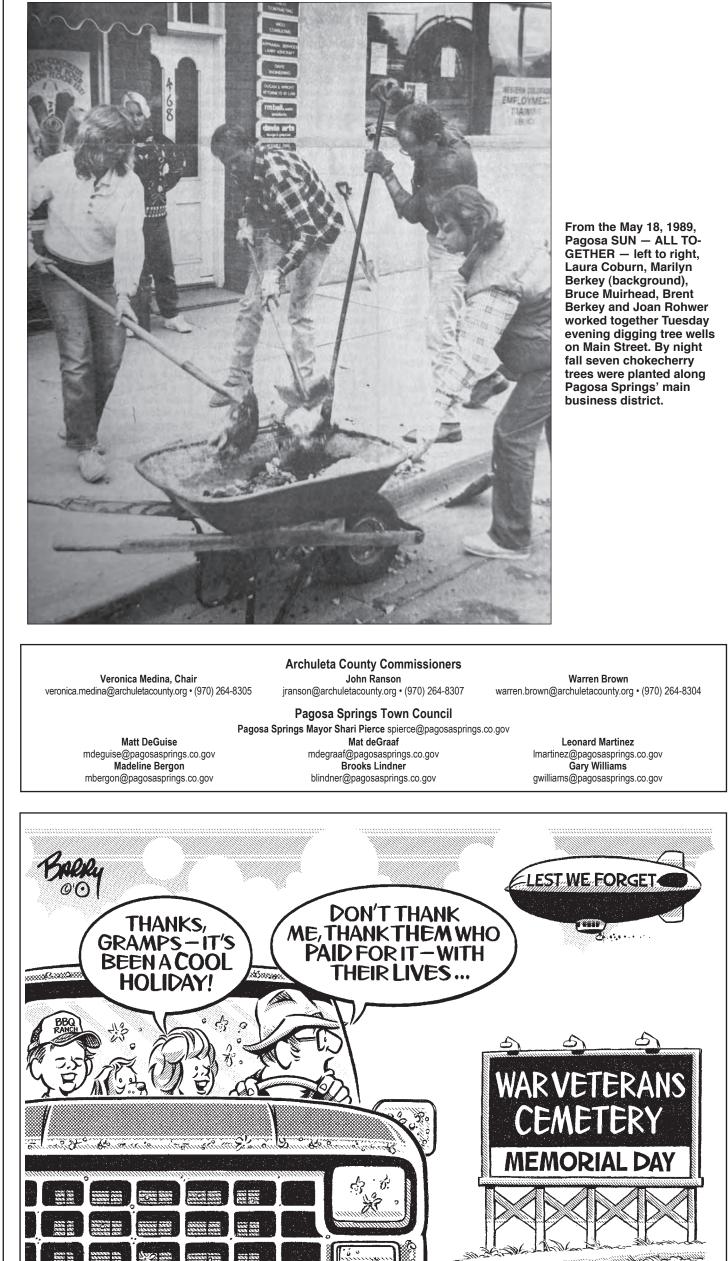
No stairs are used. Each floor is approached from the ground, due to the slight slope of the school grounds. Instead of stairs, ramps or inclined planes with a gradual slope, have been built.

## 75 years ago Taken from SUN files of

May 19, 1950

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Harman announced this week that they would cooperate fully in helping the community complete the construction of the new Red Ryder Round-Up grounds. Mrs. Harman announced plans for a benefit luncheon and bridge party to be held at 1 p.m. on Friday, May 26, at the Red Ryder Ranch. The charge will be one dollar per person and reservations should be made prior to that date either with Mrs. Mary Harman or Mrs. June Lynch. Mrs. Harman stated that a luncheon would be served and that prizes would be given in the card games which will be Canasta, Bridge and Rummy. Various articles will also be raffled off. Mrs. Harman said that all proceeds would go towards the construction of the new rodeo grounds.

Mr. Harman is at present working on a painting which will be given to the rodeo association who will raffle it off. Chances will be sold on the painting and a drawing held. Mr. Harman did not say what the subject of the picture would be, but such is Mr. Harman's ability that it undoubtedly will be a very highly prized possession of the person who wins it.



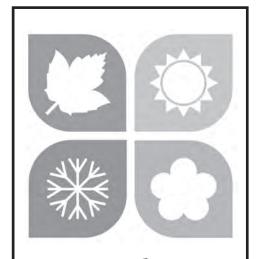
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## Weather data

Date	High I	LOW	Precipitation			
		l	Moisture	Туре	Depth	
5/13	69	37	0.23	NA	NA	
5/14	53	28	0.00	NA	NA	
5/15	58	24	0.00	NA	NA	
5/16	66	26	0.00	NA	NA	
5/17	68	27	0.00	NA	NA	
5/18	50	33	0.00	NA	NA	
5/19	47	28	0.00	NA	NA	

## 50 years ago

Taken from SUN files of May 22, 1975

Archuleta County's Welfare Department is in jeopardy of being forced out of business temporarily during June unless the state legislature acts swiftly on a supplemental appropriations bill.

The county is not alone in facing this dismal prospect, all of the state's 63 counties are in the same boat.

County Commissioner W.H. Diestelkamp told The Sun Wednesday that the county has budgeted its 20 percent share of the funds necessary to maintain welfare services but there is no way it can take over the remaining 80 percent of statefederal monies which go to make up the monthly welfare fund.

Until the county officials are assured of the funds from the other agencies, there is no way in which the normal welfare payments can be made.

A spokesman at the Archuleta County Welfare Department estimated that over 800 persons would feel the impact in the event that the usual services cannot be rendered. In that group would be food stamp recipients, needy disabled, dependent children and old age pensioners.

## 25 years ago Taken from SUN files of

May 18, 2000

Work is progressing on the new water treatment plant being erected by the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District at its Vista facility site.

"It's going a little slower than we expected," said Gene Tautges, assistant general manager for the district. "I expect we will be on line by this fall."

With its 3 million gallon capacity and versatility, the new plant is expected to boost the district's ability to supply drinking water under almost any conditions.

Last year the demand for water exceeded the district's treatment capacity several times during the summer when people felt the need to water lawns. Similar conditions are already threatening this year, according to Carrie S. Campbell, the general manager.

"There have already been some nights when we had to treat water all night in order to keep up with demand." Campbell said. "If the demand continues, we may have to implement rationing."

## Letters

In response to Ms. Springer's com-

plaint about demonstrations on US

160, I disagree with the assertion

that "protests aren't going to change

anything." The right to peacefully

assemble is bedrock in our Constitu-

tion. In 1776, people dumping tea in

Boston Harbor got the attention of

those who really needed to hear that

some things were intolerable. In 2025,

some things are simply intolerable.

testers are saying, here are two of the

icaid.) Due process for all.

Since you don't know what pro-

Hand off (our public lands, Med-

Some folks claim we're bused-in,

paid activists. They're wrong, but I

can only speak for myself. I'm a local

property owner and taxpayer, the

wife of a Vietnam veteran, a mother,

and a grandmother. I'm a life-long,

registered Independent. I'm a proud

I'm also a concerned citizen. Con-

cerned by the blatant disregard of

our Constitution. Concerned that

"alternative" facts corrupt truth. Con-

cerned for our most vulnerable popu-

lations. Concerned for the viability of

our libraries, schools, and hospitals.

Concerned for those charged with

protecting our safety - on land and in

the air. Concerned about the steward-

ship of our public lands. Concerned

about the attempted nullification of

our judicial system. Concerned about

the outright bullying of GOP repre-

sentatives who might otherwise sup-

port sensible, moderate legislation.

every middle finger salute, there's

been a thumbs-up or a honk in sup-

port. It may be premature to assume

that the protests give a negative

impression of Pagosa Springs. It may

be just the opposite. People willing to

demonstrate that 'this isn't right' may

well be offering a profound service to

our community. Join us in objecting

I am one of those sign carriers that

our neighbor, Ms. Springer, referred

to in last week's "Sun", 5/15/25. I offer

my compliments to my fellow reader/

contributor. JS, I thought your letter

disagree", that's hard to do without

hearing each other first. So, even

In her letter she evoked "agree to

Kathy Muth

to the intolerable.

Dear Editor:

Sign carriers

was creatively written.

As to people passing in cars: For

you will, too.

Dear Editor:

refrains:

American.

**Protests** 

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.

### **TARA food pantry**

I was one of the original founding members of the TARA Historical Society and Community Center. We wanted to preserve the history of the towns of Tiffany, Arboles, Rosa (NM), and Allison and bring these communities together in an open, welcoming environment. A place for everyone to gather no matter their political views, religions or other beliefs. To share our stories, music, and talents and become closer, and so we could assist those who needed a little help or just celebrate our beautiful area.

The community worked very hard to raise the funds for the wonderful building, playground, basketball court, library, and thrift store. Now it seems that new members of the board of directors have brought with them a different agenda. They have made it feel unwelcoming if you are not aligned with their political and religious beliefs. By judging the people who need a little help supplementing their food needs they have made unreasonable and unrealistic demands on the volunteers who run the food pantry to form their own, independent non-profit organization and no longer allowing the pantry to operate under their non-profit status.

As of Saturday, May 17, the pantry has been shut down and abandoned by the TARA Community Center. Now our pantry is closed and about 50 to 70 families will have to go elsewhere

When can this judging of other less fortunate people stop? When and how can we bring back caring and showing compassion for everyone?

Editor's note: Others associated with the TARA food pantry have reported to SUN staff that the pantry will be restocked and will continue to serve the area.

Dear Editor:

Donald Trump's birthday parade of troops, tanks, and other military

I'm looking forward to learning activism have changed the world these survivors' stories and experiwhile snatching innocent victims ence them in virtual reality. I hope from the jaws of heartless men craving power. Think of Mussolini, Hitler, Donna Mosher Kim Jong-un, Xi Jinping, Trump, Putin, and many more.

> I intend to connect with other likeminded patriots to strategize and act. Let's defend our precious United States traditions of throwing off the shackles of tyranny together! Pagosa is our home. Freedom is not frivolous. What do you even mean by "drop these senseless protests," JS?

The pursuit of freedom, the hunger for liberty, unites us. It is not just for some but for all! We must defend the sanctity of our Indigenous, Hispanic, Black, and European Americans (and others I failed to mention). We are in this together, Brothers and Sisters.

Also, The Orange One and the Musk Ox, while trying to destroy our United States democracy, have enacted cruel cuts. Wielding a destructive chainsaw is no way to achieve wise, judicious benefits to our home. The only ones who would benefit from this hatred are the haters.

Our schools, where our children are educated, feel those grotesque slashes. Our precious forests are being stripped of wise, necessary management. Our small hometown is facing severe threats from forest fires. These are the reasons we march.

And JS thinks it's time to "change the signs or pack up and take a hike"? And where will "the tourists land" if The Orange One continues his rampage of chaotic governance? Does anyone think that Pagosa, or anywhere in America, will be the same after he is through? Do you think we can remain unscarred, untouched?

It is time to stand together as Americans. Not as the great divide that Trump is trying to gouge through our communities. His strategy is to divide and conquer, not to heal and nurture. But we can choose civility. We can heal the differences that are so minor. We don't need to think just the same, or agree on all matters just the same. We need our differences. Because diversity makes us stronger and better balanced.

Let's pursue Love and Justice as our destiny and our purpose.

We all make mistakes, and we all make good choices, too. Love, tolerance, acceptance, courage, heal and build. That's what "We The People" need.

**U.S. 160 reconstruction** information

Week of May 23-31

#### Work activity

· Crews will not be working Monday, May 26, in recognition of the Memorial Day weekend. Crews will return to the worksite the morning of Tuesday. May 27. The WW Clyde team will have a supervisor and traffic control specialist on call over the weekend should anything come up around the work zone.

#### New water and sewer lines

• In the 1st Street through 3rd Street blocks, water line work has begun and will continue for several weeks.

• The team is doing its best to work with business owners to minimize interruptions to their schedules as much as possible during this activity.

• The water utility updates are a joint project with the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District.

• The 2nd and 4th street intersections on the north side of U.S. 160 will remain closed until utility and drainage work is complete.

#### Overflow parking available

• The overflow parking lots that the Town of Pagosa Springs has worked on are now open at 323 Hot Springs Boulevard and 811 San Juan Street. Other public parking is available throughout the downtown.

#### Watch where you walk

Pedestrian crosswalks will be open at 1st, 3rd and 4th streets. Mid-block crossings between 4th Street and 5th Street will be closed, but the crosswalk at 5th Street will remain open.

#### Mountain Express Transit bus stop information

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.

#### 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 only 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 vou.

#### 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.

Please be alert when you are traveling through the new traffic configuration or visiting the downtown businesses, as heavy equipment will be frequently moving throughout the project limits.

#### Traffic impacts

• Motorists could expect up to 15-minute delays at various times through the work zone as equipment may need to be moved.

• There will be two-way traffic flowing in the eastbound lanes of U.S. 160 through the first season of operations.

• 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

## Local reporting that matters.



Mitch Nielsen See Letters A4

SUPPLY

## Dear Editor:

## for food assistance.

Melody Finn

### Waste

hardware will cost taxpayers between

\$25 million and \$45 million, according to an Army spokesperson. A military parade following the script of dictators like Russia's Putin and China's Xi for a President who dodged the draft when it was his turn to step up is an affront to our armed services and veterans and a real WA\$TE of taxpayer dollars.

**Candace Jones** 

#### Holocaust experience

Dear Editor:

Last week, Judy Brennen and I were working together on an upcoming Holocaust experience at the library, when she said to me, "Imagine if Viktor Frankl hadn't survived the Holocaust. What would we have lost?"

That hit me hard. I've read Frankl's magnificent "Man's Search for Meaning," describing his experiences in the concentration camps. He also founded logotherapy, a school of psychotherapy that describes a search for a life's meaning as the central human motivational force. Countless people have benefited from his influence. I wondered: how many other life-changing contributions has the world lost with the deaths of six million Jews? I sat next to Judy for a minute, stunned at the thought.

Our town has a unique opportunity from May 27 to June 6 to learn from five holocaust survivors we did not lose! In a loan from the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center to the Ruby M Sisson Memorial Library, participants will be able to experience five movies, filmed from the perspective of the survivors of the Holocaust and viewed through virtual reality headsets.

You will discover the power of virtual reality to enhance Holocaust education through 360-degree immersive technology. "Walk" with Holocaust survivors through childhood hometowns and concentration camps as they share their stories of survival, creating an unforgettable experience. You don't need a reservation to participate, but do contact the library to learn the hours the exhibit is available.

though JS envisioned judging our groups' intentions, without even knowing our purpose, while on her imaginary drive-by, I would like to offer some other ideas.

The book, "From Dictator to Democracy," available at "The Albert Einstein Institution" online at www. aeinstein.org, lists nearly 200 strategic options to non-violently resist dictatorship and authoritarianism. Protests with signs are just one of them.

Such protests and community



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 Mandatory surcharge

#### Dear Editor:

In the last month, letters from three different contributors have mentioning different aspects of what is possibly the same thing.

The first letter was a letter from me, Daniel Norton, titled 'Water Bill' in which I slammed the PAWSD for throwing a 'surcharge' on the bill, that was mandatory, yet alleged to not be a 'tax'. The next letter was titled, 'Stop The Theft' by Greg Geihl (whom I've never met, By the way)...and he goes into detail how the 'affordable housing project' was to be the recipient of the ' mandatory surcharge' ... to facilitate the construction of the water system there. Then the Sun published a letter by a Sharon Carter, titled, 'Metro Districts' where she goes on to describe how this 'Metro District' would be independent of the community around them, could raise the value of properties, as to escape the TABOR restrictions, by the mill levies, which they probably learned last year, from our 'tax assessor'. Also, she goes on to say, that the 'Board of the Metro District' members were comprised of just four members, from the same family, or friends. You need to read these articles to 'connect the dots' fully. Another (By The Way) I've never met Sharon Carter, either...and they had immunity from several different taxes and 'Freedoms' to get away with a lot of shenanigans, that the general public has no say into. Not only that, the Metro District in question was described to be 100 acres south of City Market. Gosh, has anyone else had the flash that l just had ..... Funny, how the mandatory surcharge, does not specify its application to the disabled, or people on a fixed incomes !!... just people in the 'housing project'...

Also, it might be worthy to note, that I got a phone call, from an 'acquaintance' of mine, while he was at a Pizza shop, telling me that there was a few people, while waiting for their pizzas, had engaged in a conversation regarding this topic, and he was calling me to find out who l was recommending to vote for for the PAWSD board....and being as l phoned all the people running, who answered the phone, only one was strictly opposed to the mandatory surcharge, and that was Alex Boehmer....who just was announced to be the winner by a huge margin...who also championed the grant to have the fire hydrants serviced. Read his 'Thank You' statement, in the Sun, last week.

All this to say, as stated in my first letters to the editor, corruption should not be Tolerated at any level, and if any BOCC members voted in favor of any of this, vote them out....they are not serving the community at large.... and neither is Bill Hudson, who sits on the Board of PAWSD, who is vehemently in favor of this surcharge. Bill also publishes the Pagosa Daily Post, a fact that a person that has an ideology, hidden agenda should not be disseminating 'The News' !! Daniel Norton

## Letters

On the contrary, it is our current energy market that is distorted. The price we pay for energy does not reflect total costs. The other costs not reflected in our energy bills include property damage and lives lost due to pollution and catastrophic weather. Subsidies for less polluting and less damaging renewable energy only partially level the playing field.

The science of attribution of particular weather events to climate change is complicated, but progress is being made. It is estimated that extreme weather tied to climate change over the last two decades has caused 2.9 trillion dollars in loss and damage, including 61,000 human deaths [Newman & Noy 2023]. Less catastrophic, gradual shifts in climate represent additional costs, for instance, by reducing crop yields. Air and water pollution related to fossil fuels is responsible for 20% of human deaths [Bertrand 2021]. Damages increase by 600 billion dollars with each year of inaction [Sanderson & O'Neill 2020].

We would benefit from an energy pricing strategy that includes all these costs. Subsidies are not enough and are arguably not the fairest mechanism. Approximately 40 countries have implemented a carbon tax, which is more proportional to these other costs incurred from burning fossil fuels.

We need to move faster if we are to meet the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) goal of eliminating fossil fuel emissions by 2050, so that the global temperature increase is limited to a tolerable level [IPCC 2021]. While solar and wind electric generation is increasing rapidly, it is projected that fossil-fueled electricity will remain nearly the same (decreasing by only 14% or increasing by as much as 35% depending on economic scenarios) [EIA 2023].

Please excuse those who project a sense of urgency. They have the best interests of the world in mind.

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Newman & Noy 2023. https://doi. org/10.1038/s41467-023-41888-1 Sanderson & O'Neill 2020. https:// doi.org/10.1038/s41598-020-66275-4. Keith Sharp

### Medicaid

Dear Editor: My name is Cathy Sykes, and I'm them, I would lose not just support but hope.

I'm not just someone who uses services. I'm an advocate, a worker, and a leader. I'm the activity director at Our Own Lives, and I serve on the Client Leadership Council. I've spoken at City Council meetings, helped create a Snowdown parade float this year, and attended the Alliance Colorado conference for the past two years to advocate for people with disabilities across the state. I also worked for four years as a lifeguard at the Durango Rec Center, where I helped older adults feel safe and cared for.

Our Own Lives and Community Connections are nonprofits that support people with disabilities and their families in Southwest Colorado. We've worked hard to build a community where people of all abilities are included and respected, but we can't do it alone.

We are human. We matter. Please don't take away the services that help us live full lives. Medicaid isn't just a program. It's a lifeline.

Cathy Sykes Durango, Colo.

#### Metro districts Dear Editor:

The Town of Pagosa is considering whether to allow Metro Districts to operate within the Township. Metro Districts, a form of local government. have become a popular way with developers to get infrastructure paid for by future occupants of undeveloped property. The traditional method has the developer assuming the risk, installing the infrastructure, and pricing it into the cost of the lot.

You might ask yourself, "Why should I care about Metro Districts, because I don't live in one?" The answer is that Metro Districts issue long-term debt to finance infrastructure. If the development stalls, debt repayment may become problematic, impacting bond holders and potentially taxpayers. In a small-town setting with slower growth (ours is 2%), this risk is magnified. Towns can become responsible for services and maintenance without receiving proportional revenues. Additionally, since developers often control Metro District Boards early on, there is potential to prioritize their interests over long-term community needs.

John Henderson, an attorney recognized as an expert on metro district abuse, has authored a "Handbook For Residents and City/County on Metro District Reform". He lists four potential abuses that can occur in Metro Districts, if not curbed through specific restrictions built into the Metro District Policy and Service Agreements. These abuses include: 1) Paying twice to finance land

which he has offered to do at no cost to the Town.

Lucinda Tagliareni

#### Pagosa West Dear Editor:

This article, written to the letter to the editor of the Bozeman Daily Chronicle, strikes a corresponding note with what is happening in Pagosa.

"2025 is a pivotal year for the City of Bozeman. We have a serious choice to make for the very soul of the city. We can either continue down this wayward path of growth and density at all costs, including to our environment, health, personal finances and safety, or we can correct course and salvage what quality of life we have left. While the city staff and commissioners want to push even more growth and density beyond what is mandated by misguided state land use laws with the updated Unified Development Code, many of Bozeman's residents across the political spectrum are against this approach as reflected in the city's own outreach surveys and in turnout at City Commission meetings."

Pagosa Springs is in the same position. At what point do we start to lose our soul? The latest Pagosa Springs Vision 2050 plan has the Town Council identifying key attributes they want to ensure Pagosa Springs embodies:

• Authentic character with beautiful location

· Outdoor lifestyle with good, caring people Preservation of natural beauty

and environment Strong sense of identity honoring

culture and history Isn't this what we have now?

The 100 acres across from City Market is one of the last areas in town with 150-year-old trees, a large concentration of elk and deer and a beautiful gateway into Pagosa.

The current "Pagosa West" vision includes high density designs for both residential and commercial. Do we want to create a big-town, suburban feel for Pagosa? We don't see any of the Town Vision in this plan. What it does show is a loss of connection to nature and that small town Pagosa life style. This proposal does not match the Town vision, yet it is what is being considered.

Once those trees are cut down. and rows and rows of tiny homes that directly look at strip mall buildings are put in, what have you given up that you can never get back? Like Bozeman, I think we need to give this project serious thought. if you are wanting to protect the special character of Pagosa, please consider signing the petition that lets your voice be heard. https://chng.it/pf9RNrLT45. Ronnie Van Atta





#### Rush to renewables

Dear Editor:

Britny Hanson makes the case that subsidies distort the cost of energy.

**Cards of Thanks** 

#### **Pagosa Springs History Museum**

Gratitude to Mauricio and Veronica Medina, Buck Pierce, Kelli Ford, Don Farr, Barbara Swindlehurst, Will and Christie Spears, Ann Oldham and Karl Isberg for their excellent assistance with our cleanup day at the Pagosa Springs History Museum. We are excited to be reopening.

Shari Pierce

a proud member of the disability community in Southwest Colorado. I live, work, and volunteer independently with the support I receive through Medicaid. I'm writing because I'm deeply concerned about what could happen if that support is taken away.

Thanks to Medicaid, I can stay healthy and active with supplies for my CPAP machine, access to doctors, and physical therapy that helps my body function. I also get help managing anxiety and PTSD and keeping my home clean, so I can live on my own instead of relying on my mom. On hard days, these services give me the strength to get out of bed. Without

Pagosa Springs History Museum

During the time of sadness and

Though we have lost our dear

loss, we are grateful to all for the

comforting words and love we felt

matriarch, we will continue to keep

the faith and always be "Josie's

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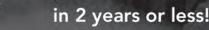
development for new subdivisions; 2) Metros are extraordinarily expensive;

3) No checks and balances and no oversight; and,

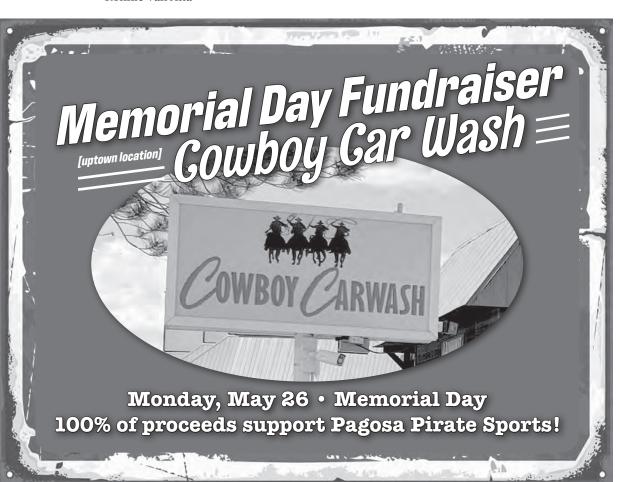
4) No relevant disclosures to homebuyers.

Mr. Henderson offers specific recommendations on how to prevent abuse (see pages 11-13). The Colorado League of Women Voters offers a one-hour YouTube video (https://www.youtube.com/ watch?v=ASBTgcUDlak) which provides examples of actual Metro District abuses that have occurred in Colorado towns and cities.

Allowing Metro Districts to operate within the Township for the purpose of facilitating development must be approached with great caution and with a thorough understanding of its complexities. Using Metro Districts to solve near-term community needs can come with the price tag of long-term negative consequences. I urge Pagosans to educate themselves on this option and to voice your concerns to Town officials. I urge County and Town government officials to educate themselves before making decisions about Metro Districts. I recommend inviting John Henderson to present before the Town Council and Town Planning Commission,









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## Commissioners discuss stance, potential financial effects of proposed regulation for monitoring methane gas at landfills

**By Clayton Chaney** Staff Writer

In April, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) proposed a rule to the Air Quality Control Commission to reduce methane pollution from municipal solid waste landfills.

The proposed rule is to the CD-PHE's Regulation No. 31, control of methane emission, and is scheduled for a rulemaking hearing for August.

Archuleta County Public Works Director Mike Torres discussed the proposed regulation with the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) during a work session on May 13, informing the commissioners that if the regulation is approved the county could be looking at spending \$3 million to \$5 million to install a methane gas collection system to bring the landfill into compliance.

He noted that enclosed flares could also be used as opposed to industrial flares, along with using biofilters, which would require a special compost mix.

"They don't even think the state has that much compost available to meet the requirements for every landfill to get it," Torres said, adding, "So, there's a lot of things that they're presenting in this that don't really make sense."

During a work session on May 6, Torres explained that he had been contacted by representatives from Mesa County expressing concern about the regulation.

He noted the regulation would make landfills with certain criteria monitor their methane gas, "which our does," adding the state's objective is to reduce methane emissions through "advanced monitoring technologies."

"All these things are really expensive, "Torres said.

County Manager Jack Harper described the regulation as an unfunded state mandate, with Torres mentioning it would be unfeasible for the county to comply with the proposed regulation.

He explained that Mesa County asked if Archuleta County would join in supporting its opposition of the regulation to "give some pushback to the state."

Torres signed a letter on May 14 declaring the county's party status to address specific concerns related to the proposed regulation "regarding the fiscal and operational impacts the proposed regulation changes would impose on our solid waste management programs," the letter states.

During the May 13 work session, interim county attorney Lance Ingalls explained that the document put together by Mesa County "is a good form for Archuleta County to use."

He further explained, "I do understand that Mesa County is gonna take the lead for kind of a coalition of counties with concerns on this issue to file objections to the rule in the rulemaking process, and I would assume that Archuleta County would want to be part of that coalition."

Ingalls also suggested that "most of the regulations are relative to and related to what happens on the Front Range," adding that these types of comments in opposition to the proposed regulation need to be submitted to the state in hopes to make the rule "more manageable."

"Cause the state tends to not really care about the impact to local jurisdictions — it doesn't affect them," he added.

He mentioned that if the state can understand that the proposed regulation will not have any positive impact, "maybe they'll care a little bit more."

Harper explained that the regulation would require the county to start to submit waste-place reports to the state — something it has never had to do.

He also explained that if the reguable to remotely monitor methane landfill.

"So, they will fly the drones without notice over the landfills," he said, explaining that if emissions are detected, the county would receive a notice with five days to investigate the problem and 10 days to correct it.

"It's a whole 'nother department essentially having to manage these things," Torres added, explaining that is not feasible for the county.

Harper noted that Mesa County has predicted that it would cost approximately \$2 million in annual expenses to comply with the regulation.

Commissioner John Ranson voiced his stance on the matter, stating, "Obviously this is another unfunded mandate with some insanity mixed in."

Ranson asked what the state would do if the county decided to simply "opt out."

Ingalls explained the state would likely treat the matter as an enforcement issue.

He also explained that the states "stance" is that there is a statute preventing unfunded mandates, but that subsequent regulations and statutes are not bound by that statute preventing unfunded mandates.

"So, they're unconcerned about unfunded mandates," Ingalls said, citing a case involving the state and Arapahoe County.

Ingalls went on to mention that there will likely be some form of regulations that come out of this process and that with the county declaring its party status, the hope is that some of the regulations will be tailored to the capabilities of local jurisdictions.

Commissioner Warren Brown also described the proposed regulation as an unfunded mandate and an overreach by the state, commenting, "It's seemingly unmanageable, the endless unfunded mandates that come our way, and our revenues do not grow significantly year-to-year. And, apparently, neither do the state's, considering their fiscal issues that

they're facing from overspending with the budget that they have."

He mentioned that the county is forced to take monies from other sources to cover the costs of regulations and mandates of this matter.

Brown also commented that Pagosa Springs and Archuleta County are "much different from the metropolitan areas," adding that after sitting in on legislation meetings for months, "there's little regard and consideration for communities like ours."

Brown expressed support for the county declaring its party status, adding, "one size does not fit all."

Commissioner Veronica Medina also expressed support for the county declaring its party status on the matter, commenting that communities like Pagosa Springs and Archuleta County are the majority of the state.

Medina also mentioned that legislation like this is "for the minority of the Front Range" and it does not account for the majority of Colorado, "which is rural communities."

Harper also added that another thing that makes the proposed regulation "so onerous" is that it does not allow for an incremental timeline for landfills to be in compliance, other than rules related to open flaring.

During a May 20 work session, Torres explained that he had met with the state on the matter, noting that it was expressed that Archuleta County's landfill may be located on tribal land.

Torres mentioned that landfills located on tribal land may be exempt from the proposed regulation.

"If that is the case, that would be great news for us," Torres said.

Harper explained that there is paperwork showing that Archuleta County owns the landfill, noting the county it could drop its party status whenever.

According to the proposed regulation listed on the CDPHE's website, under Part A-Exemptions, this regulation does not apply to, "Landfills that are regulated under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Subtitle C or the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act, 42

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#### **Dorothy Jane** Alber

Our beautiful mom, wife, grandmother, and great-grandmother, Dot Alber, has gained her eternal wings and is resting

peacefully in heaven. She passed vay Monday

## **Obituary**

lation is approved, the state will be emissions by flying a drone over the

beauty inside and out. She had great strength in her soul and lived life to the fullest. She showed patience that was gentle, generous and kind. She had an adventurous fire for life, and she never gave up. She had a comforting grace that made you feel accepted and loved. Her delicious cookies and homemade meals felt healing. You

Our beloved Dot had stunning Brook Stoddard, kids Oakleigh, Kory, Brandon and Sydney), Cammeron Howard (husband Austin, kids Jett, Ace and Rhen), Skyler Trujillo (hus-

band Jace, kids Jackie and Catelyn), Taylor Premer (wife Taylor Thompson); brother Robert Newman; and many nieces and nephews.

Dot was proceeded in death by her parents, in-laws Hank and Mary Alber, and grandson Corey Voyek.

## U.S.C. Chapter 103."

April 28, 2025, at the age of 84 in Durango, Colo., surrounded by her family. Dot battled a difficult



and painful cancer. Her death was very unexpected and has brought much sadness to our family.

Dot was born Oct. 10, 1940, in Hastings, Neb., to Wallace and Frieda (Kissler) Newman.

She married Bob Alber on Feb. 8, 1959, in Hastings, Neb.

They farmed in Blue Hill, Neb., and raised four daughters.

In 1980 they moved to Steamboat Springs, Colo. Dot managed ski shops in Steamboat; using her creative talents she designed beautiful retail spaces.

In 2004, Dot and Bob moved to Pagosa Springs to enjoy their retirement years.

could taste all the love she put into her cooking. Her cooking was such a gift that she joyfully shared with anyone. She was humble and compassionate, and always thought of others. She was a self-taught natural artist and beautiful creative soul. Her talent for capturing the subtle uniqueness of nature in her illustration was magical. Her place of peace and connection was with nature. Her home gathered so many animals that would come to seek comforting shelter around Dot and Bob's sanctuary. She was the other half of a long beautiful partnership with her best friend and loving husband, Bob. They

were a legendary team. Dot is survived by her husband of 66 years; daughters Kim Johnson (partner Zane), of Craig, Colo., Tracia Premer (husband Rock), of Lincoln,

Neb., Robin Harris (husband Jeff), of Taos, N.M., and Rachel Alber (partner Andrew), of Pagosa Springs, Colo.; grandchildren Tyson Voyek (partner

Immediate family will have a celebration of life at a later date and take Dot's ashes to a special place in the mountains.

May the many blessed memories with sweet Dot bring comfort to those who knew her and continue to inspire love across generations.

She will be forever loved and missed.



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# **Business**

## New community tourism ambassador program launched

By Mary Jo Coulehan Pagosa Springs Area Chamber of Commerce

With the disruption the community is experiencing from the major highway reconstruction project, many of our visitors will have questions and concerns.

Is your business ready to handle all that information in a friendly and positive way? What about if we need to go into fire restrictions this summer? Do you or any of your employees understand the different levels of fire restrictions? What about if we have road closures during the winter months?

Owners, managers and frontline employees are often barraged with tourism questions and, oftentimes, we don't know the answers. Now is your opportunity to engage yourself and your staff with the proper training, while the businesses and those that are trained can receive some additional benefits besides just becoming more informed.

The Pagosa Springs Tourism Department has created a tourism ambassador program. The highway construction was the catalyst for finally rolling out this community program.

All of our businesses will benefit from getting staff trained. It is critical that we are all communicating the same correct information about so much that happens here in Pagosa, not just about the construction project.

And it isn't just downtown businesses that need to be involved. Many people will stop into the businesses on the west side of town before they even attempt to come downtown. The downtown businesses need the support of the west-side businesses to help drive business to the downtown area. Everyone should be familiar with parking, the shuttle bus services, hours of operation and activities that might be occurring. How can we help each other? By participating in this community tourism program.

So, what is involved, and what's in it for you?

As a business owner, by participating in this program and having employees or yourself complete the training, your business will be designated as a Certified Tourism Ambassador Business. You will receive window and electronic decals identifying your business, and you are encouraged to promote your business as a tourism ambassador.

You will receive additional marketing opportunities through the Tourism Department. As for the staff who completes the training, in addition to becoming really smart about what is happening in our community, they will be entered into a monthly drawing for gift cards for the Ambassador of the Month designation. There will be a system designed where fellow employees or the general public who may have engaged your informational services can enter your name into the monthly drawings as having provided great service. We would then like to have a drawing for the tourism ambassador of the year.

To be a qualified ambassador, the participants will need to complete about an hour of training co-hosted by the Tourism Department and the Chamber of Commerce. The participants will then need to complete

another one hour of online training through the state's concierge program.

Once these trainings have been completed, the participants will receive a designation.

Even within your organization, these designated ambassadors should be identified and given additional recognition.

How do you sign up to participate? Interested businesses should contact Jennie Green at sales@visitpagosasprings.com or Mary Jo Coulehan at director@pagosachamber.com.

The in-person trainings will be conducted soon. While many of us in our businesses already answer a lot of tourism-related questions, are you sure you are giving the right answers? Get certified, get some additional benefits for your business and your employees, and let's be supportive of our entire business community.

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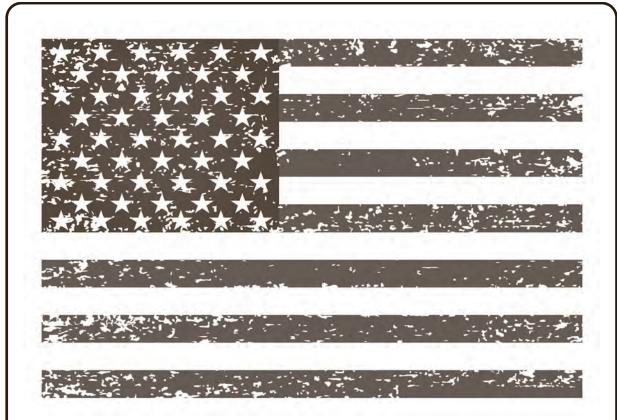


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## In Honor of Memorial Day

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## **Colorado Aeronautical Board approves state** airport funding for federal match grants

Colorado Department of Transportation Colorado Division of Aeronautics

The Colorado Aeronautical Board (CAB) has approved \$4.5 million in federal match and overmatch grant funding for airport infrastructure projects across the state as part of its 2025 Colorado Discretionary Aviation Grant (CDAG) Program.

The federal matching grants, which leverage both Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and Airport Improvement Program (AIP) funding, will support critical infrastructure improvements at 29 public-use airports statewide, including Stevens Field, Archuleta County's airport.

These awards are in addition to \$13.8 million in state and local discretionary grants previously approved by the CAB in January, bringing the total 2025 CDAG Program funding to \$18.3 million, leveraging nearly \$90 million in federal funding.

All together this year, the CAB ap- enhance aviation safety and improve proved a total of 57 discretionary aviation grants supporting 47 publicuse airports across Colorado.

The state match for Archuleta County's airport is \$13,453, with a local match of \$13,455. Those are slated to match an estimated \$511,244 from the Federal Aviation Administration for a total of \$538,152.

"This year's investment reflects a continued commitment to enhancing aviation safety, efficiency and capacity across Colorado's diverse air transportation system," said David Ulane, director of the Colorado Division of Aeronautics. "By leveraging state and local funding with federal programs, we can ensure Colorado airports remain vital economic engines for their communities."

The CAB's support of the CDAG Program ensures that airports serving urban, mountain and rural communities can modernize infrastructure,

access to the Colorado Aviation System.

Colorado legislation was created in 1991 to develop and maintain the Colorado Aviation System through taxes collected on aviation fuel sold within the state. There are no general funds used to meet the needs within the Colorado Aviation System. The Colorado Aviation System is funded solely through the taxes collected by those actually using the aviation system.

The Colorado Airport System consists of 76 public-use airports that support more than 348,466 jobs, provide \$23.5 billion in annual pavroll, \$40.3 billion in value added and \$68.9 billion in total annual business revenue for the state of Colorado.

More information about the 2025 Colorado Aviation Economic Impact Study can be found at coloradoaviationsystem.com/2025-ceis.

## **Regional Talent Summit addresses area workforce needs**

Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade

On May 16, the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT) along with La Plata Economic Development Alliance, Fort Lewis College and The Attainment Network, hosted a Regional Talent Summit at Fort Lewis College to convene industry and community leaders, discuss much-needed career pathway solutions and begin developing tactical workforce plans to ensure that Colorado workers develop the skills employers need.

"Local talent drives Colorado's economy, which is why we're working with communities across the state to create clear, easy pathways so that Coloradans can get high-quality jobs. Our regional conversations are building stronger local talent pipelines and supporting the long-term growth of the industries shaping Colorado's future," said Gov. Jared Polis.

"As a state, we are doubling down on workforce development to connect Coloradans to good-paying jobs while supporting regional economic development goals. [The] Regional Talent Summit will result in a tactical action plan developed by community and business leaders to meet the region's unique goals and needs," said Eve Lieberman, OEDIT executive director.

The May 16 summit focused on the agriculture, health care and technology industries in Alamosa, Archuleta, Conejos, Costilla, Dolores, La Plata, Mineral, Montezuma, Rio Grande, Saguache and San Juan counties.

The event was one of seven regional talent summits taking place across the state. Established by HB24-1365, these summits build on the impact of the Opportunity Now grant program, which has, to date, distributed nearly \$90 million to 89 grant recipients to launch and expand innovative talent development programs across the state.

The San Juan and San Luis Valleys have received \$5.6 million in Opportunity Now grants from OEDIT to:

 Southwest Colorado Mental Health Center/Axis Health System - \$1,289,584. The Healthcare Education Access Launchpad Southwest has developed an innovative rural work-based learning program led by Axis with a consortium of industry, education and tribal partners in southwest Colorado to address the health care workforce shortage.

• La Plata County Economic Development Alliance — \$1,245,984.95. The Rural Upskill Network, or Project RUN, will provide adult learners with skills education to support entrepreneurs,

including leadership and technical expertise professional certificates.

• The Attainment Network -\$3,024,849. The Attainment Network will establish an education-to-workforce partnership, including four health care providers, two higher education institutions, 14 school districts and three community organizations across the San Luis Valley. The partnership focuses on training through work-based learning to grow the nursing workforce.

• Build Pagosa Inc. — \$49,900. The regional workforce center for career and technical education and workforce training involves industry partners to match residents with living-wage careers throughout their life stages. The program focuses on construction, transportation, and automotive careers, architecture and engineering occupations, farming and forestry, health care, culinary, recreation, and computer jobs.



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## \*\*\*\* **Early Deadlines** for the issue of May 29

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Classified Advertising: Tuesday, May 27, 10 a.m.

Too Late to Classify: Tuesday, May 27, 3 p.m.

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The Pagosa Springs SUN will be closed Monday, May 26, in observance of Memorial Day

The Pagosa Springs SUN \*\*\*\*

## Thank you for supporting local businesses.



Students from the Pagosa Springs Middle School newspaper elective visit The SUN's office and pressroom on Monday, May 19. The students learned about the evolution of newspaper production and equipment used in the process.

## Colorado achieves success with broadband training pilot

Colorado Department of Labor and Employment

The Colorado Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE) announced on Wednesday, May 21, that a collaborative, multiagency Colorado Broadband Initiative has resulted in successful completion of 100 percent of its participants, with several graduates in two southwest Colorado communities already securing employment and additional direct hires underway.

The pilot program was the first of its kind in Colorado and has established a new model for replication throughout the state, linking local broadband industry needs to statelevel resources and industry partners to provide skills training and develop the needed broadband workforce.

The Pagosa Springs Community **Development Corporation (PSCDC)** led the pilot project locally, collaborating with the Colorado Broadband Office (CBO), the Colorado Rural Workforce Consortium within the CDLE, and the Society of Cable Telecommunications Engineers (SCTE) to implement the broadband training initiative.

The PSCDC, which covers all of Archuleta County, was selected for the pilot broadband training initiative last November due to its successful workforce development and youth summer work programs over the last three years.

"This was truly a Cinderella story of

everyone working together to contribute a little piece of magic at the eleventh hour to make this pilot successful," Emily Lashbrooke, executive director of the PSCDC. "The participants were fully committed to the two-week intensive training, as was every organization that funded, subsidized and secured equipment, facilitated training and, ultimately, provided jobs."

The CRWC's Workforce Innovation Grant funded the training on Feb. 14 with a March 31 deadline for the project's completion.

In less than five weeks, through the expedited cooperation of multiple organizations, program logistics were finalized, equipment and a training partner were secured, and participants were recruited.

SCTE facilitated the full-time, twoweek training to 33 participants.

This Broadband Fiber Installer Boot Camp provided intensive, handson training designed to equip learners with the skills necessary for SCTE's BFI professional certification.

Every participant completed and passed the broadband bootcamp, achieving a 100 percent completion rate for the training.

All 19 participants in Cortez have also taken the BFI exam and secured their broadband fiber installer professional certification. The 14 participants in Pagosa Springs will be eligible to take the BFI exam after completing 120 hours with hands-on experience.

"We are proud to see such a holistically complete success story of a public-private collaboration. To witness it happen within mere weeks from implementation to execution makes this an even more notable accomplishment," said Joe Barela, executive director of the CDLE. "The efforts behind this inaugural broadband initiative to increase the skilled workforce in two rural communities will not only help to provide reliable fiber internet across southwest Colorado, but will serve as the model of partnership to build and leverage resources to train the broadband workforce for other areas of the state."

At the time of this report, two participants were hired in Pagosa immediately following the training, with two more pending work experience.

Several others, who were already employed with internet service providers (ISPs), leveraged the program to upskill and earn their new broadband fiber installation certification.

All seven participants from the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe are now employed in fiber-related work in Cortez, with four securing on-the-job training, and others waiting to be placed in jobs with ISPs that are awaiting funding from the Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment Program, which will create approximately 3,000 jobs in telecom, construction and engineering across the state.

The CBO partnered with local entities, facilitated community-led implementation and coordinated with vendors to deliver the equipment necessary for hands-on learning.

The PSCDC used \$50,000 from the Innovation Grant to pay for the training. The local workforce centers in Pagosa Springs and Cortez within the Colorado Rural Workforce Consortium involved ISPs in the area who ultimately hired some of the participants.

"Public-private partnerships are critical to train and employ individuals for these roles within the next five to seven years," said Brandy Reitter, CBO executive director. "This collaboration will ensure projects are completed on time, allowing residents to benefit from the life-changing access to highspeed internet."

The Southwest Colorado Education Collaborative provided critical inkind support, supplying laptops and coordinating meals from local ISPs to training participants. The Colorado Rural Workforce Consortium leveraged \$30,000 in Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act and Workforce Training Grant funding to help offset additional training costs and played a key role in coordinating sector conveners, funded by the Colorado Workforce Development Council. These conveners brought partners together to launch the Broadband Sector Partnership in November.



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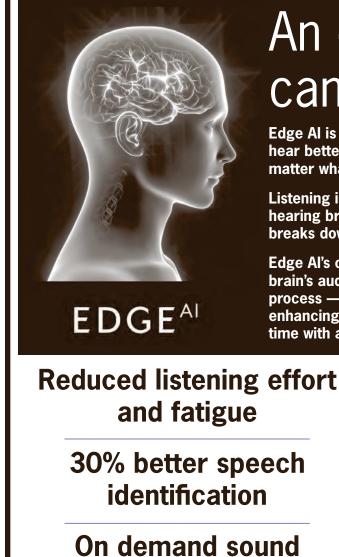


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## Memo

#### Continued from front costs

In the memo, Ross explains the memo is being provided to the PFPD with the understanding that it would be shared with the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD), Town of Pagosa Springs and Archuleta County.

"The purpose of this memorandum is to provide general information regarding the obligation of a water district or a water and sanitation district (collectively, a 'Water District') to maintain its fire hydrants in compliance with the applicable fire code and to be responsible for the associated costs," it states. "This memorandum is not intended, and shall not be construed, as providing legal advice to PAWSD, the Town, or the County, each of which should consult their own legal counsel in evaluating the information set forth in this memorandum."

The memo then discusses fire codes, explaining, "a fire district cannot apply and enforce a fire code within a municipality or a county unless the municipality or county, as applicable, has adopted the fire code. "

It further explains that the fire district currently applies and enforces the 2015 edition of the International Code Commission's model international fire code with local amendments within the town and the 2009 edition of the international fire code in the county.

It notes the town adopted its version of the code via ordinance in 2017, and the county adopted its code by resolution in 2013.

"So, when the Fire District applies and enforces the Adopted Fire Codes within the Town or unincorporated portions of the County, it is using the fire code adopted by the Town or the County, as applicable," it states. "As

such, the Adopted Fire Codes carry the status and authority of a County code or a Municipal code, and not just the Fire District's fire code."

The memo then delves into a fire district's ability to enforce codes through fire districts, citing examples from case law.

"The Town's legal status as a home rule municipality means it has the authority through its police powers to enforce, through the Fire District, the Town Fire Code against PAWSD," it states, later adding, "The County, which has the same police powers, has the same power to apply and enforce, through the Fire District, the County Fire Code against PAWSD."

It then explains, "The Adopted Fire Codes set forth specific requirements that the owner of a fire hydrant system must meet, including minimum flow rates and annual maintenance and testing requirements. My understanding is that PAWSD owns its water system and hydrants. This memorandum focuses on the fire code requirements for fire hydrants as a system ('Hydrant System'). Neither the Adopted Fire Codes nor this memorandum are concerned with the other operational aspects of PAWSD's water system."

It adds that PAWSD, like the PFPD, is a Title 32 district under Colorado law and makes the distinction that PAWSD is not a public utility subject to the Colorado Public Utilities Commission, meaning it is "subject to the laws applicable to a special district and more generally to the laws of Colorado relating to local governments."

It then states, "Under Colorado law, a Water District is responsible for maintaining its Hydrant System, regardless of whether a fire district1 uses water from the Hydrant System for fire suppression," before delving into related case law.

The memo also indicates that cases

#### have determined that a water district cannot charge for water used for fire suppression.

Through its rate setting, the Water District can account for the historical annual use of water for fire suppression," it notes.

The memo then delves into prior hydrant testing involving the two districts

"I understand that a number of years ago, the Fire District had an agreement with PAWSD to perform annual testing of PAWSD's Hydrant System," Ross wrote. "Due to a damaged pipe during the Fire District's annual testing, PAWSD stopped having the Fire District perform the annual testing. I further understand that PAWSD has not performed annual testing of the Hydrant System since that time, and some of the hydrants are not operable. As stated earlier in this memorandum, PAWSD is responsible for the annual maintenance and testing. Moreover, its failure to properly maintain and test its Hydrant System may make it liable to a landowner whose residence or building is damaged or destroyed when the Fire District is unable to draw water from the Hydrant System."

The memo then cites a 1989 case in which the Colorado Court of Appeals ruled in a case where a hydrant was dry when firemen attempted to use it in fighting a fire just outside of the water district's boundary, with the court ruling the water district assumed a duty to the fire district to have water available at the hydrant.

"The Court's reasoning in Wheatridge Lumber would apply equally the current situation, where PAWSD installed a Fire Hydrant System that the Fire District would rely upon for water to protect neighboring residences and buildings," Ross wrote. "If PAWSD's hydrants are inoperable

or cannot provide adequate water, it may be liable to a neighboring landowner for damage to or loss of their home or building due to a fire. Under Wheatridge Lumber PAWSD has a duty to ensure its Hydrant System is maintained and tested."

The memo then concludes that a water district "is responsible for complying with the applicable fire code, which in the current case is the Adopted Fire Codes of the County and the Town. The Adopted Fire Codes impose specific requirements on the owner of a Hydrant System, including minimum flow rates and annual maintenance and testing requirements. Under Colorado law, a Water District is responsible for meeting these requirements, not the fire district. Further, the Water District cannot charge a fire district for use of water through the hydrants for fire suppression purposes." In an email to The SUN, PFPD Chief

Robert Bertram indicates there have also been questions related to the responsibility for new construction fire suppression water supply, which was not address in the memo.

"The Fire District utilizes the adopted fire codes to determine fire suppression water supply requirements," he explains. "These requirements can included needed fire flow and fire hydrant placement. Buildings requiring automatic sprinkler systems have additional fire flow requirements.

"PAWSD does not have any obligation to fund the installation of new fire hydrants for developers or provide higher flow rates in areas that it is not available. If the infrastructure can only support a flow of 750 [gallons per minute, or gpm], there is very little that can be done to make it flow 1,500 gpm without completely rebuilding the infrastructure."

randi@pagosasun.com

## Budget

#### Continued from front

The total funding per pupil is \$12,377, an increase of \$632, according to Burt's presentation.

Burt went on to note that the projected total general fund revenue is listed at \$21,658,000, noting that the general fund budget is balanced, as well as all revenues.

Burt also noted that the budget is being presented earlier than in past years, and that the BOE will not need to hold a special meeting after Memorial Day.

"We have all the information," Burt said in regard to anticipated funding for the district.

On the expenditures side, Burt noted that the budget proposal includes a 3 percent raise for all employees and a starting teacher salary is now listed at \$53,194, along later this year to ask for increases equal to 15% in 2025-26 and 30% in we track various budgets," as well as with additional "bumps" for special education aides.

had a starting teacher salary of has a total expenditure of \$565,000 around \$34,000 for its 2018-2019 budget, noting the district has made "significant" changes to that over the past seven years.

All non-salary budgets were requested to factor a 5 percent decrease, Burt noted.

He also explained that the proposed expenditures include a \$200,000 transfer from the general fund to the food service fund, mentioning there are "a lot of unknowns on this one."

He explained that the state did not have enough funds to cover the Healthy School Meals For All program, but has agreed to fund the program through at least December.

Burt mentioned that the "thought" is that the state will go to the ballot

listed.

BOE member Tim Taylor inquired about a previously anticipated "shortfall" in the district's funding due to application of the School Finance Act. "We are not gonna see that short-

fall," Burt said. According to the bill summary,

"The bill changes how each school district's and institute charter school's annual total program is determined during the transition period. For the 2025-26 and 2026-27 budget years, each school district's and institute charter school's annual total program is the greater of the school district's or institute charter school's total program for the 2024-25 budget year or the amount calculated under the expiring formula plus an amount 2026-27 of the difference between the amounts calculated under the new

Burt also noted in his presentation that the full-time student enrollment is projected to be flat at 1,535 for the 2025-2026 school year.

Additionally, Burt noted that an updated vehicle replacement plan has been included as part of the transportation budget.

BOE president Bob Lynch noted that the board will have time to review the budget before its next regular meeting in June, at which the board will then take action to approve the budget or not.

Superintendent Rick Holt also praised Burt's efforts, noting that this is the earliest he has been presented with a budget proposal.

Holt also commented on Burt's work, noting that he has "made some significant changes in the way correcting one item of concern noted by the district's auditors. clayton@pagosasun.com





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Burt commented that the district

#### in tax revenues in order to fund the program.

The district's capital projects plan formula and the expiring formula."

## **Projects**

#### ■ Continued from front

that day, joined by Road and Bridge manager Eric McRae.

McRae noted that a "large piece of it is for the Vista subdivision."

According to Communications Specialist Ashely Springer, the roads included in the county's 2025 chip seal project include 2.5 miles in the Vista subdivision, 1 mile of County Road 382 and County Road 200. There are 9 miles of roadways that will receive hot mill in place including part of Meadows Drive, Lake Forest Boulevard, North Pagosa Boulevard, Saturn Drive, Pinion Causeway, Carlee Place and Vista Boulevard.

During the work session, Torres explained the total for all of the projects the county has planned for this summer comes to \$3,411,101.95, leaving public works with \$308,898 left.

He noted that total cost includes the South Pagosa Boulevard project, the chip seal project and a contract with Dustrol.

"With that extra money, I would like to reinvest this into another project," Torres said, adding, "As you know we're still quite a bit behind on our roads and I think any little dent we can make in it would help us in years to come."

Torres proposed a two-year plan to reconstruct Masters Circle and Pines Drive, starting with the Masters Circle project this year.

He noted that the county has been receiving complaints from residents "at least once a month," in regard to those two roads.

Torres also mentioned that the roads were treated by Lithified Technologies in 2020 and "immediately that project started to fail."

He then explained that with McRae's and his discretion another "Band-Aid option is just not something we want to do out there, and we want to take care of the residents."

Torres noted that because Pines

Drive is longer, it would put the county over budget for the year if it were to complete both roads this year.

Later during its regular meeting, the BoCC unanimously approved a preliminary design and construction proposal and cost estimate from Davis Engineering Services indicating a total cost for reconstructing Masters Circle at \$342,073.

The contract also indicates the total cost to reconstruct Pines Drive is \$737.495.

According to the meeting's agenda, "Pines Drive and Maters [sic] Circle have significant damage to the road surface creating unsafe conditions as drivers are veering into opposing traffic to avoid potholes."

The agenda also states that the project will be funded through the county's capital outlay, "which we anticipate savings after all budgeted projects are completed."

Also during the meeting, the BoCC unanimously approved awarding Neil's Excavation the contract for the 2025 Pagosa Trails gravel roads project.

According to documentation attached to the meeting's agenda, the winning bid is listed at \$518,005.

The agenda explains that bids were solicited for the project with a closing date of April 24. A total of five bids were received for the project, with the lowest bid coming in at \$479,266.20 and the highest bid listed at \$699,550.

According to Springer, the roads included in the Trails gravel road project are Travelers Circle, Landau Drive and Arroyo Court.

Commissioner Veronica Medina explained that she "did a little digging" and received positive feedback in regard to other work performed by Niel's Excavation.

Commissioner Warren Brown also mentioned how the county just approved another change order for the new transit center prior to considering this matter, suggesting that the change orders are anticipated at this lowest bidder is not always the best time."

During its meeting on Tuesday, May 20, the BoCC unanimously approved a contract with Strohecker Asphalt for the South Pagosa Boulevard construction project.

According to the agenda, the amount for the project shall not exceed \$1,283,793.30.

Medina explained the contract was sent back after initial review from the county attorney, with items addressed and corrected.

"So, we're ready to move forward," Medina said.

Torres indicated that work is likely to begin on June 9.

#### Transit center

option.

During the May 6 meeting, the BoCC unanimously approved change order 11 for the county's new transit center project.

According to the agenda, the change order is not to exceed the amount of \$12,228.98.

The change order also notes the new contract sum, including this change order, is \$5,175,041.03.

During the work session held earlier in the day, Torres explained the change order is for work that has already been completed.

Commissioner John Ranson expressed that it's "not fair" to the taxpayers to pay for stuff that should've been included in the initial process.

"Unfortunate to say the least," Torres commented.

The meeting's agenda explains that the change order is for a wall footing and screen wall authorized

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at the time of construction. The agenda also notes, "no further

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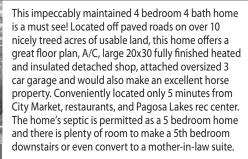
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## **Public Meetings**

The following meetings are subject to change.

#### Thursday, May 22

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

#### Tuesday, May 27

- **Archuleta County Board of County** Commissioners work session. 10 a.m., Archuleta County Road and Bridge Facility, 95 County Road 973, Arboles. For more information, visit http://archuletacounty.org/ agendacenter.
- Upper San Juan Health Service District Board of Directors meeting. 5 p.m., Pagosa Springs Medical Center board room, 95 S. Pagosa Blvd. View the meeting on Microsoft Teams using meeting ID: 248 378 716 11, passcode: g2ZTGa.

#### Thursday, May 29

**Board of County Commissioners** board-to-board meeting. 5 p.m., Montezuma County Senior Center conference room, Cortez.

#### **Tuesday, June 3**

**Archuleta County Board of County** Commissioners work session. 8:30 a.m., Archuleta County administration building, commissioners' meeting room, 398 Lewis St. View Zoom meeting at https://zoom. us/j/91609048375?pwd=dlFFV0J 1cGVKa1NHWHFsa2taeGxtZz09, meeting ID: 916 0904 8375, passcode: 4141885. For more information, visit http://archuletacounty. org/agendacenter.

- Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners meeting. 1:30 p.m., Archuleta County administration building, commissioners' meeting room, 398 Lewis St. View Zoom meeting at https://zoom. us/j/91609048375?pwd=dlFFV0J 1cGVKa1NHWHFsa2taeGxtZz09, meeting ID: 916 0904 8375, passcode: 4141885. For more information, visit http://archuletacounty. org/agendacenter.
- Pagosa Springs Town Council meeting. 5 p.m., Town Hall, 551 Hot Springs Blvd. See town website for participation information: https:// pagosasprings.civicweb.net/portal/.
- Pagosa Springs Sanitation General Improvement District special meeting. 5 p.m., Town Hall, 551 Hot Springs Blvd. See town website for participation information: https://pagosasprings.civicweb. net/portal/.

#### Thursday, June 5 Colorado Department of Transportation telephone town hall. 6:30 p.m., phone or virtual. To participate in the town hall, sign up at https:// www.codot.gov/programs/yourtransportationpriorities/telephonetown-hall-signup.

Tuesday, June 10

Commissioners work session. 8:30 a.m., Archuleta County administration building, commissioners' meeting room, 398 Lewis St. View Zoom meeting at https://zoom. us/j/91609048375?pwd=dlFFV0J 1cGVKa1NHWHFsa2taeGxtZz09, meeting ID: 916 0904 8375, passcode: 4141885. For more information, visit http://archuletacounty. org/agendacenter.

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

#### Wednesday, June 11 agosa Springs Community Development Corporation meeting. 5

p.m., Ross Aragon Community Center West Conference Room, 451 Hot Springs Blvd. View meeting at https://www.google.com/ url?q=https%3A%2F%2Fus02web. zoom.us%2Fj%2F83552743149% 3Fpwd%3DZ0RXejNJQXo0TkN NZmlYM0h4UHB5QT09&sa=D &ust=174749802000000&usg=A OvVaw1zpzr0EyrmsiTXaaEEyU YR, meeting ID: 835 5274 3149, passcode: 191160.

#### Thursday, June 12

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

Tuesday, June 17 Archuleta County Board of County Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners work session. 8:30 a.m., Archuleta County administration building, commissioners' meeting room, 398 Lewis St. View Zoom meeting at https://zoom. us/j/91609048375?pwd=dlFFV0J 1cGVKa1NHWHFsa2taeGxtZz09, meeting ID: 916 0904 8375, passcode: 4141885. For more information, visit http://archuletacounty. org/agendacenter.

- Archuleta County Board of County **Commissioners meeting.** 1:30 p.m., Archuleta County administration building, commissioners' meeting room, 398 Lewis St. View Zoom meeting at https://zoom. us/j/91609048375?pwd=dlFFV0J 1cGVKa1NHWHFsa2taeGxtZz09, meeting ID: 916 0904 8375, passcode: 4141885. For more information, visit http://archuletacounty. org/agendacenter.
- Pagosa Springs Town Council meeting. 5 p.m., Town Hall, 551 Hot Springs Blvd. See town website for participation information: https:// pagosasprings.civicweb.net/portal/.

#### Wednesday, June 18

- Pagosa Peak Open School Board of Directors meeting. 5 p.m., 3133 Cornerstone Drive. For more information, visit: https://pagosapeakopenschool.org.
- Public meeting information should be sent to editor@pagosasun.com with "Public Meeting" in the subject line. *The deadline is noon Monday each* week prior to publication for that week's issue.

Housing

#### Continued from front project.

Garrett Scharton, representing Servitas, gave the council a brief presentation on "where we are now and where we propose to go," expressing optimism that the town would be awarded Colorado-voter approved Proposition 123 funding, which makes funding programs available for middle-income housing developments.

Scharton explained that Servitas proposes that the town applies for Colorado Housing Finance Authority's (CHFA's) Prop 123 Equity Funding program, which would support 50 percent of the total project cost, while the remaining 50 percent of the project could be funded through a certificate of participation (COP).

An agenda document on the matter states that the total cost of the project is estimated at about \$24 million.

When opened to questions, council member Leonard Martinez expressed concern that there is a "disconnect" between AMI levels, determined by the census and state numbers, and "what our reality is" on the ground.

Martinez suggested that the average worker in the area could not afford the rents aimed at the AMI range of the project.

"These are really high prices," he said.

For example, the project proposes 12 studio apartments, each 404 square feet, aimed at 73 percent AMI, at a rental price of \$1,223 per month.

During public comment, Martinez's sentiment was echoed by resident Bill Hudson, who suggested that the AMI levels for the region "are out of kilter with what our community really is."

He said that the reason for this is that "39 percent of our households" are retirees, or they are getting their income from outside this community." Hudson suggested the AMI includes retirees with "big pensions" and people "making big bucks" working online for companies located out of the community. "So, when we look at 100 percent AMI, ... that's not a true reflection of who we are as a working community, and that's the disconnect" that Martinez referred to, Hudson said. Pierce reiterated that the Enclave project is intended to meet the demands of the "missing middle" and that LIHTC projects are "trying to help" AMIs below 60 percent.

income category" as the Enclave.

Lindner wondered if the town would be "competing" with Pagosa West to find tenants to occupy its units and if that would jeopardize the target occupancy level of 87 percent or higher.

Dickhoff stated that he doesn't see Pagosa Springs becoming "any less desirable as a place to live" in the future

He added that the demand for housing is already very high, and that the hospital, the school district and other major employers "can't grow their businesses."

"They are all kinda strapped because they can't attract talent here, because there's just nowhere for them to live," he said, adding that even the town has had a hard time filling positions "because it's really hard to find a place to live."

He added, "Currently, I don't see

if the town doesn't "hit its projected occupancy rates" it would open the town up "to exposure," but added that he thinks the project is important "strategically" for the town's future growth, to attract talent to the workforce.

Pierce explained that the council should take the information that it had gathered so that it could come back at the June 3 meeting for a decision on if it wants to pursue the Prop 123 funding for the project.

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'Proposed rents would cover the COP and Prop 123 Equity debt service, maintenance, reserves for capital improvements, management expenses, insurance, and all expenses associated with the operation and management of the facility," the document states.

Scharton explained that if the town went for a larger COP amount, and it rented out the target number of units, that it could actually lower rents in year two and beyond.

The pro forma budget was designed to ensure the project pays for itself through rents and that there are no out-of-pocket expenses for the town, the document states.

"The benefit of this project, as a town-owned project, versus developer-owned, is the town's ability to deed restrict the units in perpetuity and that rents are less likely to raise to meet CHFA's annually adopted AMI rent schedule increases," the document states.

It adds, "The town would have the ability to set rents lower than CHFA rents as long as the entire project averages up to 90% AMI, consistent with Prop 123 Equity requirements."

Scharton noted he hopes to have the project shovel-ready in preparation for the Prop 123 Equity Funding program application deadline this fall, and that a COP would be "conditional" on if the town is awarded the funding.

One of the reasons he noted that he is more optimistic about receiving the Prop 123 funding, as opposed to the DOLA grant, is that Prop 123 funding is a "permanent" stream approved by Colorado voters.

This means if the town failed to receive funding in the fall round, it could always reapply in the spring, the following fall, and so on and so forth, he explained.

He explained he thinks the town is in a good position now since it completed and approved the necessary housing needs assessment earlier than other municipalities.

He added that the new plan to use in-state "modular construction," and the project's potential to sign "master leases" with the hospital and school district, would boost the application.

Martinez asked what range of AMI the housing needs assessment identified as needing the most new housing inventory.

Jeff Sams, the multijurisdictional housing coordinator, responded that the assessment determined that the community needs 434 new units in the 51 to 80 percent AMI range, 38 new units in the 81 to 100 AMI range and 182 new units in the 101 to 120 AMI range.

Council member Brooks Lindner asked what AMI range the proposed Pagosa West development aims to accommodate with its 88-unit multifamily apartment complex.

**Development Director James** Dickhoff responded that the Pagosa West apartments were aiming to serve "pretty much the same middle

[competing with Pagosa West] as being an issue, but certainly things can happen. We could have another pandemic."

Council member Gary Williams wanted to hear from the town's financial advisor, Joey McCliney, about the project's funding mechanisms — Prop 123 and COPs.

McCliney said that he was "in favor of the project," if the council "is in favor of it."

However, McCliney expressed he wants the council to be "clear eyed" about the financial obligations it would be responsible for if it goes forward with the project.

He explained that it's "as serious as a heart attack when you take on this obligation," adding that it would be "a large amount of debt for a town the size of Pagosa to take on," and the council would need to "head this on with eyes wide open."

He added that he agrees with Dickhoff and others that the demand for housing is high in the area and that the town shouldn't have much trouble occupying the units, which would mean that the town basically would "break even" financially.

He also added that if the townonly sales tax increase ballot initiative passes in the November election, that it would remove a major financial "liability" for the town — the need to pay for critical sewer system repairs that is a consistent budget issue.

Martinez expressed concern that

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## Vegetation management begins on Pagosa Ranger District

By Lorena Williams U.S. Forest Service

The Pagosa Ranger District anticipates timber harvesting and log hauling along several National Forest System roads through the end of the year.

Vegetation management work on the district aims to achieve various resource objectives including, but not limited to, fuels reduction, wildlife habitat improvement, forest health and regeneration, as well as salvaging of dead and dying trees. This work is being performed by a local and re-

gional workforce that helps support economies.

While no closures are in place, forest visitors should take safety precautions and drive slowly around heavy machinery and log trucks. Not all areas or roads will have activity occurring during all periods of the summer.

For the remainder of the calendar year, the Pagosa Ranger District anticipates timber harvesting and log hauling along and adjacent to the following National Forest System roads:

• Piedra Road (NFSR 631/600). • Kenney Flats Road (NFSR 006).

• Nipple Mountain/Aspen Spur/ Porcupine roads (NFSRs 665, 024 and 735).

• Sand Creek/Piedra roads (NFSRs 642 and 631)

• Trail Ridge Road (NFSR 639).

• Blanco Basin — Blanco River Trailhead parking area (NFSR 657.C). • Turkey Springs/Brockover roads (NFSRs 629 and 919).

• Jackson Mountain Road (NFSR 037).

Logging operations will also be active intermittently along and adjacent to some segments of National Forest

System trails: 303, 304, 306, 307, 319 and 321. These trails will remain open for public use during active operations.

Please exercise caution if you plan to visit any of the above areas.

For more information on vegetation management activities across the Pagosa Ranger District, please contact Forest Service Representative Josh Merrill-Exton at joshua.merrillexton@usda.gov.

For information on the San Juan National Forest, call (970) 247-4874 or visit the forest website, fs.usda.gov/ r02/sanjuan.

## Water conservancy considers options for intern following AmeriCorps cuts

promote it.

#### By Josh Pike Staff Writer

The San Juan Water Conservancy District (SJWCD) Board of Directors discussed options for retaining local intern Monica Nigon to assist the district with education and communications at its May 12 meeting.

The board had discussed Nigon's desire to intern with the district at previous meetings and had agreed to hire her in collaboration with Leadville nonprofit Blue Elements' AmeriCorps Watershed Stewards program.

In these meetings, the board and Nigon explained that Nigon would be completing this internship as part of her studies for a master's in environmental management with a focus on water resources and conservation at Western Colorado University and that the internship would be paid for through AmeriCorps funding through Blue Elements.

However, as SJWCD president Candace Jones explains in communications with The SUN, this AmeriCorps funding was pulled as part of the Trump administration's and Department of Government Efficiency's, or DOGE's, efforts to cut AmeriCorps programs and more than \$400 million in AmeriCorps grants nationwide.

At the May 12 meeting, the board considered ways forward for the project following the funding cuts.

Jones explained that the situation with the internship is a "moving target," with the fallback from the loss of the AmeriCorps funding appearing to be to work with Nigon as an independent contractor.

However, Jones noted that a recent email from a Blue Elements representative indicated that there was a hearing

Jones explained that the board held a work session on May 1 where it discussed potential options for Nigon's work.

She added that this discussion was wide-ranging and generated more options than the district could move forward with.

This discussion also involved the question of if Nigon should work on a "one-and-done" project or a longerterm model or framework, according to Jones.

Jones stated that, following this work session, Nigon spent a week in Gunnison with her graduate advisor and other members of her program and would now present a proposed scope of work to the board that would incorporate its ideas.

Nigon explained that her proposal was intended to be a mix of outreach, education and on-the-ground work and was partially shaped by consultations with the Upper Gunnison **River Water Conservancy District** (UGRWCD) on approaches for the project.

She added that making the project "sustainable" and able to continue into the future is another important goal.

She stated that the project tried to integrate in the district's goals of increasing its public visibility and collaborating with others in the community, including the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD), on projects that address common community interests, such as low-tech water restoration management approaches.

Nigon stated that research and capacity-building work over the summer would culminate in a volunteer day in September, potentially in collaboration with local educators, where the group would implement a low-tech restoration project. She explained that a similar project could potentially be done each year using AmeriCorps funding. Nigon explained that such work helps retain water for local water users and could be done in partnership with local ranchers.

marketing and social media skills to materials or deliverables. Following the event, Nigon recom-

mended that the district hold a debrief and have her create a summary of the event to help improve similar events in future years.

She explained that the district would need to pick a location for this event and that it would be a significant effort.

She added she would also have to learn what permitting would be needed for the work.

Nigon explained that her contacts in Durango, including staff at Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW), had recommended a potential location at the Devil Creek State Wildlife Area west of Pagosa Springs.

Jones commented that the connections with CPW could help with permitting for the work.

Nigon stated that her contacts, including her program advisor and other consultants, would also be valuable in guiding the work forward.

Jones commended the idea of combining opportunities for people to do practical work with a project that could be repeated in the future.

Former SJWCD board member and Upper San Juan Watershed Enhancement Partnership (WEP) Al Pfister noted that the project would also need to consider Clean Water Act permitting and populations of cutthroat trout in the region.

SJWCD board members also highlighted that working with the WEP on the project could be valuable, and Nigon stated that she would reach out to discuss it with the organization.

Jones then asked Nigon to review the timeline for the project. Nigon explained that the

She noted that the project could potentially obtain funding from a variety of grants and that she would be willing to continue working on it in

the future. In response to a question from Jones, Nigon explained that the project should be low cost and that she would consult with the UGRWCD and her contacts to learn more about the costs

of the work. She added that obtaining shovels and appropriate rocks for the work appear to be some of the main costs.

SJWCD board member Susan Nossaman commented that she might have rocks on her property that would be suitable for the project, depending on what kind of rock is needed.

Jones commented that she would support obtaining any grant funding or borrowing materials for the project.

She added that the research and interviews that would be required for Nigon's graduate work would also be valuable for the project.

Jones commented that having a short list of sites and pros and cons for each site would be valuable as part of performing public outreach and would show that there are other locations where the work can be done in the future.

Nigon explained that she is hoping to develop a list of 10 sites and trying to visit about three sites to discuss the logistics of a volunteer event further.

Jones stated that she and Proffitt would work on incorporating the proposal into an independent contractor agreement and proposed that the board form a subcommittee, composed of Jones, Proffitt and SJWCD board member John Kappelman, to vet sites and help coordinate Nigon's work She also asked the board for approval for this subcommittee to make decisions on implementation details

## **Memorial Day Sale**

## May 26th







on litigation about the legality of the cuts to AmeriCorps by DOGE schedule for May 19 and that it is possible that some funding could be restored for the project depending on the results of this hearing.

She added that working with Ameri-Corps would have educational benefits for Nigon in terms of training and educational funding that the SJWCD cannot provide on its own.

Because of this situation, Jones stated that she was asking the board to develop a scope of work for Nigon and continue to work with Blue Elements to try and modify the agreement the SJWCD previously signed with it in case the AmeriCorps funding is restored through litigation.

She explained that the goal would be to retain Nigon for the 600 hours required for her graduate project and to capture any funding from AmeriCorps that the district can obtain.

Jones then asked the board to approve developing an agreement directly with Nigon and to modify the contract with Blue Elements to reflect the new situation while keeping the possibility open that AmeriCorps funding could be used if it becomes available

She explained that the AmeriCorps funding would have also covered 900 hours of work instead of 600 and that the \$7,500 the SJWCD was planning to contribute to the project would have gone to Blue Elements to cover administrative overhead.

In response to a board member question, Jones stated that she wanted to work on reconfiguring the Blue Elements contract while moving forward with completing an independent agreement with Nigon at a cost of \$7,500 to allow her to begin work while litigation about the cuts to AmeriCorps proceeds.

The board then unanimously voted to proceed as Jones requested, with Jones and SJWCD board member Rodney Proffitt working with Nigon to develop an independent contractor agreement, monitoring the Ameri-Corps situation and modifying the agreement with Blue Elements as appropriate.

Discussion then moved on the scope of work for Nigon.

She stated that she would recommend partnering with the UGRWCD to help guide the project and that she would contribute her personal

partially dependent on her master's coursework and that she graduates from her program in May 2026.

She stated that she was thinking of doing the volunteer day the Friday after Labor Day.

After this, she would be working on completing debriefing for the project and building a guide for future events. Additionally, depending on the hours she had left, Nigon explained she could work on additional marketing that do not involve spending money. The board unanimously approved this request.

The discussion closed with a final conversation about the details of getting the proposed plan signed off on for her graduate work.



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SUN photo/Randi Pierce

The annual Mental Health Awareness Walk departs from Town Park on Saturday, May 17. The annual event, hosted by Youth Rise, features a walk to bring awareness to mental health and reduce stigmas, followed by a guest speaker and informational booths.

## June plant walks with Lake McCullough set for June 9

**By Jean Zirnhelt** Weminuche Audubon Society

With our spring snow and rains, forests are coming alive with a diverse array of plants — plants that provide food or medicine and incredible beauty, and some to admire only from a distance. Join us for a fun and educational ramble through the forest as we discover edible and medicinal native plants.

The walks are free of charge. The Weminuche Audubon Society

and Audubon Rockies are excited to tour will begin at 11:45 a.m. and go sponsor three summer plant walks with certified herbalist Lake McCullough. The first walk on June 9 will explore early summer herbs, wildflowers and medicinal plants in the ponderosa pine ecozone in the Turkey Springs area.

In order to handle increased popularity and demand for information about our local ecosystems, we will be conducting two back-to-back plant walks at this location.

The first tour will begin at 9:30 a.m. and run until 11:30 a.m. The second until 1:45 p.m. There is a 15-person maximum on each walk. Please call McCullough ahead to reserve a space at (970) 398-0923 and indicate which time slot you choose.

This walk is about 1.5 miles roundtrip. Please be prepared for rugged trails and unpredictable weather, and leave dogs at home.

We will meet on Turkey Springs Road. From U.S. 160, take Piedra Road (County Road 600) 6.3 miles north to Turkey Springs Road (Forest Service

Road 629). Turn left onto Turkey Springs Road and continue 4.5 miles, keeping straight at the Brockover Road (Forest Service Road 919) intersection. Continue another .1 mile. Parking is along the side of the road.

McCullough's knowledge and fun sense of humor have made these walks very popular and spaces fill quickly. We are fortunate that she shares her expertise with us. Give her a call to add your name to the list.

Watch for information on future walks to be held in July and August.

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## State's brand board proposes increase of inspection and assessment fees

Colorado Department of Agriculture

varying by inspection type this fall, ommissioners, part of the Colorado assessment charges have remained

The Brand Inspection Division plays and an increase in the assessment fee, a vital role in verifying ownership and The State Board of Stock Inspection set to begin in January 2027. Fee and protecting Colorado's \$3 billion livestock industry from loss and theft.



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a well-constructed snow shed over the top. There

is a 2-vehicle carport and a workshop behind the

carport. There is a road behind the house going up

the hill to get to a couple of nice building sites. The

views are amazing up there. This is an awesome

property and if needed the two vacant lots could be

Well Creek on the property.

Department of Agriculture, is proposing to increase brand inspection fees and the five-year brand assessment fee to address a projected program deficit.

The fee adjustments aim to ensure the continued financial stability and operations of the Brand Inspection Division, which is solely funded by these fees.

Due to increased operational expenses including vehicle expenses, personnel costs and other overhead. expenses have surpassed revenue. To reduce the projected deficit, the Brand Board is proposing to raise inspection fees, with specific increases

unchanged since 2016.

"We have seen significant increases in costs over the past 10 years, from vehicle and personnel expenses, to other operational costs," said Brand Commissioner Todd Inglee. "To address this, we are not only proposing fee adjustments, but also implementing multiple initiatives to reduce costs and increase efficiencies within the Brand Division. Our goal is to reduce expenses by \$2.7 [million] to \$3 million by 2032. These efforts will help the division remain on solid financial footing and provide the livestock industry the needed loss protection services we offer."

Colorado's brand inspection fees, even with the proposed increase, are expected to remain lower than those of neighboring states.

The proposed fee adjustments will be determined through a formal rulemaking process that includes extensive stakeholder engagement.

A stakeholder meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 27, at 11 a.m. via Zoom. Anyone interested in attending can register for the meeting on the Colorado Department of Agriculture website. Those unable to attend can provide written comments.

For more information, contact Inglee or visit ag.colorado.gov/brands.

National Forest, call (970) 247-4874

## Logging operations begin in First Notch area

By Lorena Williams U.S. Forest Service

Timber harvesting and hauling operations will soon begin on the 600acre First Notch Stewardship Project on the San Juan National Forest Columbine Ranger District.

This project will take place on First Notch Road (NFSR 620) from now until early fall.

Visitors should take safety precautions when traveling in the area, as logging trucks and heavy equipment will be operating and traveling along roadways.

This project aims to reduce fuels and create canopy spacing in the tree overstory to reduce the potential for high-severity wildfire, in addition to supporting local and regional wood product industries.

The First Notch timber sale is possible thanks to a partnership with the National Wild Turkey Federation.

While the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service and partners are performing fire risk reduction work, we hope you — our community members — are doing the same for your homes and neighborhoods, mitigating wildfire risk in rural settings, the wildland-urban interface and in the urban environment.

Check out resources from Colorado State Forest Service's Live Wildfire Ready program to prepare your home for wildfire and make sure you're ready when the inevitable occurs: https:// csfs.colostate.edu/live-wildfire-ready/. For more information on the First

Notch project, please contact Columbine Timber Sale Administrator or visit the forest website.

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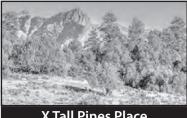
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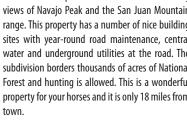
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# Sports

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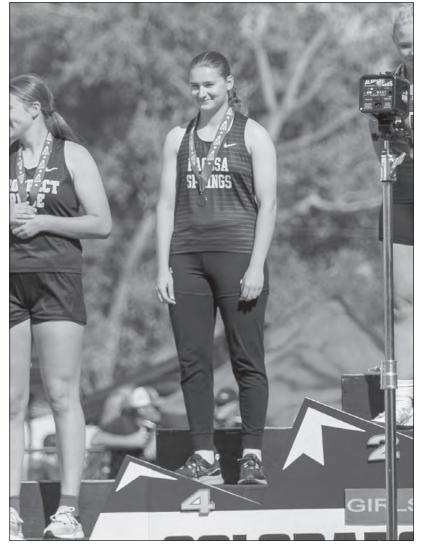


Photo courtesy Jessica Carr

Abigail Nehring stands on the podium after finishing fourth in the girls' shot put.



Photo courtesy Jessica Carr

Creede Dozier stands on the podium after finishing fifth in the boys' high jump.

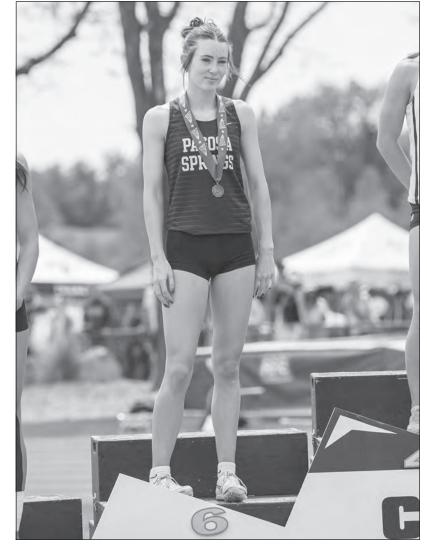
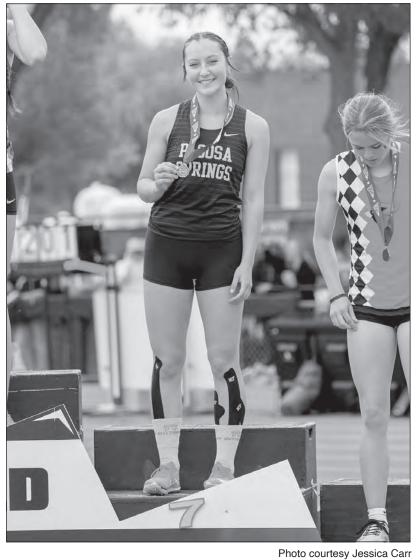


Photo courtesy Jessica Carr Rylie Carr stands on the podium after finishing sixth in the girls' 100-meter dash.







Sienna Rose stands on the podium after finishing seventh in the girls' 400-meter dash.

Photo courtesy Jessica Carr

Malorie Morton stands on the podium after finishing seventh in the girls' discus.



Photo courtesy Jessica Carr Colton Lucero stands on the podium after finishing eighth in the boys' 100-meter dash.





Photo courtesy Jessica Carr Jeremiah Jones stands on the podium after finishing eighth in the boys' high jump.

Lexi Campbell stands on the podium after finishing ninth in the girls' triple jump.

## 'Unbelievable moments': Nehring, Dozier earn state titles

#### By Randi Pierce Staff Writer

Two Pagosa Springs High School (PSHS) Pirates nabbed state titles within a matter of minutes on Friday, May 16, at the state track and field meet in Lakewood.

Abigail Nehring is the 3A state champion in discus, and Creede Dozier is the 3A long jump champion.

"My heart was just racing," coach Connie O'Donnell relayed to The SUN in an email. "Abi was the first to win. I had just enough time to give her a hug and run back to the long jump with happy tears streaming down my face. Creede was the last jumper in finals. When the athlete before him had his last jump and didn't pass Creede's distance, we all just started cheering and I cried some more. What a couple of unbelievable moments packed into a short amount of time. Both Creede and Abi are just two talented individuals that put in a ton of work to reach a state championship."

O'Donnell notes she can't remember the last time Pagosa Springs brought home two state champions, but estimated it's been about 20 years.

The coach added the events were close enough together that the coaches and spectators could go back and forth between the events.

"It made it really exciting to know that they both had a good chance at winning their events," she said.

Nehring took the title with a throw of 141 feet, 3 inches in the discus, and Dozier won the long jump with a distance of 21-6.00.

But Nehring's and Dozier's titles weren't the team's only successes at the state meet, which ran May 15-17 at Jefferson County Stadium.

The majority of the team's 14 qualifiers brought home medals, O'Donnell highlights, with the boys' squad taking 13th in 3A and the girls' squad placing 10th.

In addition to her title in discus, Nehring took fourth in the shot put with a throw of 35-1.50.

Joining Nehring on the podium in the discus was Malorie Morton, who took seventh with a distance of 119-00. Dozier also made the podium with

a fifth-place finish in the high jump after he logged a height of 6-3.00. Jeremiah Jones joined him on the podium with an eighth-place finish and a height of 6-1.00.

Rylie Carr finished sixth in the girls' 100-meter dash with a time of 12.56 seconds.

Sienna Rose took seventh in the girls' 400-meter run with a time of 59.77 seconds.

Colton Lucero notched eighth in the boys' 100 with a time of 11.04 seconds after fighting an injury, O'Donnell indicates.

Lexi Campbell took ninth in the girls' triple jump with a distance of 33-0.675.

The girls' 4x100-meter relay — including Rose, Molly Washburn, Campbell and Carr — finished seventh with a time of 51.05 seconds.

The Pirates also competed in other

events, but fell short of advancing to the finals or making the podium. Rose ran a time of 12.92 seconds in

the 100, placing her 16th in the preliminaries.

Carr took 14th in the prelims in the girls' 200 with a time of 26.39 seconds. Dozier finished 14th in the boys'

triple jump with a distance of 39-08.25. The boys' 4x100 relay team - Jeremiah Dean, Tommy Nigro, Alex Pacheco and Jonathan Baker - finished

17th in the prelims with a time of 46.14 seconds. The Lady Pirate relay team took 11th in the 4x200-meter relay prelims

in 1:48.39. Lucero did not run the boys' 200, with O'Donnell explaining that Lucero began feeling hamstring tightness at the final regular-season meet, with O'Donnell then pulling him from the remainder of his events in Pueblo with the hopes it would be better by state.

"He ran the 100 prelims fast enough to qualify for finals, but it was painful," O'Donnell wrote about the state meet. "So, I took him out of his other events with the hope that he could recover enough to run the 100 finals. He placed, but it was kind of sad because he really had a chance to be a state champion in both the 100 and 200 if it wasn't for the injury.'

O'Donnell indicates the season was a fun one for the team.

"Overall, this season was a crazy, fun ride," she wrote. "Our athletes broke 5 school records and 13 boys and 14 girls made it onto our all time top 10 list for PSHS."

The Pirates will lose nine to graduation from its record-breaking team, according to O'Donnell: Carr, Nehring, Rose, Davian Coss, Tristan Frame, Jayslynn Perea, Jaxten Schiel, Jesus Serratos and Honestye Sweet.

O'Donnell points out that Carr, Nehring, Rose and Sweet were on the team all four years of high school.

"Even with the loss of so many seniors, we should be competitive at the state level again for both boys and girls," she wrote. "We have the goal of getting more distance and middistance runners out next year. There are still kids that are walking our halls at the high school and not involved in a spring sport that could really help us. We will be doing a small summer program that involves practice a couple of days a week and going to a few meets."



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SUN photo/Randi Pierce

Colt Lewis, front, signs to rodeo with Tarleton State University in Texas. Standing with Lewis, from left, are dad Wes Lewis, mom Marcie Lewis, sister Taylor Lewis and Pagosa Springs High School Principal Sean O'Donnell.





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## **Build Pagosa** announces scholarship recipient

#### **By Cindy Nobles** Build Pagosa

The Trista Nauman scholarship, administered by Build Pagosa, was created to honor a very special member of our community who contributed greatly to the building trades industry. She climbed to the top of this mostly male field and made a name and reputation for herself as hardworking, driven and community-oriented.

This year's highly qualified applicant, Sofia Talamante, emulates these same qualities of a future leader in her field and thus has been awarded a \$5,000 scholarship.

She completed multiple career and technical education courses, including metal fabrication, automotive 1 and 2, then served as shop foreman for auto 1 and 2 as a senior.

In addition, Talamante is the president of the Power and Performance auto club at Pagosa Springs High School in its inaugural year.

She is planning on attending the Universal Technical Institute in Sacramento, Calif., to complete a 72-week diesel, automotive and EV program.

#### **Rachael Berndt**

Rachael Berndt, of Pagosa Springs, has been named to Southeast Missouri State University's spring 2025 President's List.

Students named to the President's List earned a 4.0 GPA and completed at least 12 hours of standard graded credit.





Favorite subject: Game design and robotics

Comments from coach Connie O'Donnell: "Abigail Nehring is dedicated to the sport of track and field. She has spent countless hours in and out of season to perfect her skills in the throwing events. It is not uncommon to see Abi practicing in the ring at all times of the year. She is the first to show up and the last to

leave. Abi has a great attitude and is fun to be around. She has taken on a leadership role for the throwers and the rest of the girls team. She holds the school record in the discus. She is currently ranked 1st in 3A in the discus and 7th in the shot put. Abi is an IML champion in both events and has been nominated for Field event girl for the league."



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#### **SENIOR NEWS**

## Archuleta Seniors Inc. announces upcoming open house

#### By Rose Chavez SUN Columnist

Archuleta Senior Inc. (ASI), a local nonprofit organization supporting an age-friendly, independent and resilient community, is hosting an open house on June 11 from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Pagosa Senior Center.

All community members are invited to come and hear about ASI's 2025-2027 strategic plan and learn about initiatives such as nutritional programs, caregiving support, educational programs, activities for mind and body, and our geodesic "grow" dome. There will be information on upcoming special events and fundraisers as well as the opportunity to volunteer for an array of programs.

Come meet our staff and board members at this free social event. Refreshments will be served. The Senior Center is located in the Ross Aragon Community Center at 451 Hot Springs Blvd. Parking is available. For more information, please call (970) 264-2167.

#### **Self-Sufficiency Food** Series and produce box program

ASI, in partnership with TerraWalk Farms and Nourish Colorado, is launching its second season of the Self-Sufficiency Food Series and Produce Box Program for low-income seniors (ages 55+) in Archuleta County.

Through this Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) initiative, eligible participants will receive biweekly boxes of fresh, local, organic produce from June to mid-October 2025.

Eligibility requirements: must be a current or new ASI client (Meals on Wheels, congregate, pick-up/ Grab-N-Go meals); a resident of lowincome senior housing (e.g., Casa De Los Arcos, Rose Mountain Homes). Others may apply by contacting

the ASI executive director at rosa@ psseniors.org for case-by-case consideration.

In addition to the fabulous vegetables, the community is invited to attend our Self Survival Food Lecture Series May through June. For more information, please visit our website, www.psseniors.org.

#### 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 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.

#### 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 23, June 13 and June 27.

Bring yourself and a friend for an hour of joyful fellowship. We will provide prizes from local businesses for all winners, and snacks will also be provided.

No RSVP is required. Help us create an intergenerational community. All ages are welcome, but we ask those 18 and younger to come with an

adult chaperone. Seats are first come, first served.

For more information, contact us at (970) 264-2167.

#### Senior Conversations

Join us Mondays at 1:15 p.m. for a series of Senior Conversations with local Bill Salmansohn.

Salmansohn brings to our conversations a variety of topics designed to stimulate discussions within a safe and comfortable environment as we explore our well-being and shared experiences.

This is a unique opportunity to connect with others living within the Archuleta community for friendship and togetherness.

Snacks will be provided.

Afterward, hosted by Robin Williams, is a get-together created for those who wish to continue the conversation. This opportunity is typically from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m., following Senior Conversations.

The group occasionally reconvenes as an informal gathering at various local restaurants.

#### **Share lunch Monday** through Friday

Open to all. Join us at the Silver Fox's Den, aka the Community Cafe, in person for daily hot/cold meals Mondays through Thursdays at the Community Center between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. It is open to all. Pickup is available all week.

Our dining hall is open to all ages and welcomes you all with kindness and warmth. We provide hot/cold meals for anyone in the community interested in a nutritious and delicious meal. For those 60 or older we request a suggested donation of \$6, but no one will be turned away. There is a \$10.50 charge for guests under the age of 60.

Meals include a main course, side dish, fruit/dessert, garden salad plus See Senior A15



galore & room 10 am - 4 pm to explore Open on **Memorial Day** Monday 5/26 We Deliver to Pagosa Springs 0 durango Nursery & Supply 271 Kay Cee Lane 970-259-8800

KNOWN INTERESTED PARTY NOTICE OF APPLI-CATION FOR A PUBLIC AUCTION OF A CERTIFI-CATE OF OPTION FOR TREASURER'S DEED

Tax Lien Sale Certificate No. 2021-05336 Schedule/Account No. R007285 Treasurer's Deed No. 2025-001 To Every Person in Actual Posses on or Occupancy of

the hereinafter Described Land, Lot or Premises, and to the Person in Whose Name the Same was Taxed or Specially Assessed, and to all Persons having an Inte est or Title of Record in or to the said Premises and To Whom It May Concern, and more especially to: . SAM TORN

- P.O. BOX 64200990 SIQUX FALLS SD 57186
- SUSAN B. TORN P O BOX 64200990
- SIOUX FALLS SD 57186

You and each of you are hereby notified that on the 4th day of November 2021 the then County Treasurer of the County of Archuleta, in the State of Colorado, sold at nublic tax lien sale to LAURENE LARSEN the following described real estate situate in the County of Archuleta, State of Colorado, to wit:

Legal Description: PAGOSA IN THE PINES Block: 11 Lot: 59 PIP Sec: 16 Twn: 35 Rng: 2W County of Archuleta records Original Grantor(s): Diana Ramser Original Beneficiary(ies): Rio Grande Savings and Loan Association Current Holder of Evidence of Debt: Rio Grande Sav ings and Loan Association Date of Deed of Trust: July 31, 2006 County of Recording: Archuleta Recording Date of Deed of Trust: July 31, 2006 Recording Information (Reception No. and/or Book/ Page No.): 20607279 Original Principal Amount: \$34,000.00 Outstanding Principal Balance: \$10,980.02 Pursuant to CRS §38-38-101(4)(i), you are hereby notified that the covenants of the deed of trust have been violated as follows: Failure to pay principal and interest when due together with all other payments provided for in the evidence of debt secured by the deed of trust and other violations thereof THE LIEN FORECLOSED MAY NOT BE A FIRST LIEN. LOT 47. PAGOSA VISTA, ACCORDING TO THE

PLAT THEREOF FILED SEPTEMBER13, 1971, AS RECEPTION NO. 74884 IN THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK AND RECORDER, ARCHULETA COUNTY,

COLORADO  Tel. 970.264.8160 Teal Landing Vacation Owners Association, Inc Plaintif

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 SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION 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 Je Trustee of the John Nazar Jemelian Family Trust of 2001, U/T/A dated October 28, 2001, Rose Jemelian tee of the John Nazar Jemelian Family Trust of 2001, U/T/A dated October 28, 2001, Debora A Crane, nes Bradley Shepherd, Shawn Kirkland, Rebecca

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)

**Public Notices** 

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 Plaintif

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.con 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 Mascl 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 Shook, Gordon J Benesh, La Rue Ben-esh, 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

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. (263281)

DISTRICT COURT, ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLO RADO Court Address: 109 Harman Park Drive

Pagosa Springs, CO 81147 Tel. 970.264.8160 Teal Landing Vacation Owners Association, Inc. Plaintiff

Defendants James E Sawyer, et al. Case No.: 2025CV30011 Attorney for Plaintiff: Christopher B. Conley (51651) Eck, Conley & Richardson, PLLC 700 South 21st Street, Fort Smith, AR 72901 Tel. 479.242.5906

chase therefore to LAURENE LARSEN

That said tax lien sale was made to satisfy the delinquent taxes assessed against said real estate for the year 2020. That said real estate was taxed or specially sessed in the name(s) of R SAM TORN & SUSAN

That said LAURENE LARSEN on the 16th day of April 2025 the present holder of said certificate, has made request upon the Treasurer of said County by present ing an Application for a Public Auction of a Certificate of Option for Treasurer's Deed pursuant to C.R.S. 39-11.5-101 for initiation of the process for a deed to said real estate; Notice Is Hereby Given that on the first possible Auction date (unless the Auction is continued) at on Wednesday, September 3, 2025, , I will sell at Public Auction to the highest and best bidder for cash, the said real property and all interest of said Lawful Holder, Law ful Holders' heirs and assigns therein, for the purpose of paving the indebtedness provided in said Application for a Public Auction of a Certificate of Option for Trea-surer's Deed, plus fees, expenses of sale and other items allowed by law, and will deliver to the purchaser a Certificate of Purchase, all as provided by law. First Publication: 5/15/2025

Last Publication: 5/29/2025

Published in: PAGOSA SPRINGS SUN Said property may be redeemed at any time prior to the actual Public Auction

Witness my hand this 24th day of April 2025 ELSA P. WHITE, TREASURER of Archuleta County,

<u>Colorado</u> Published May 15, 22 and 29, 2025 in The Pagosa Springs SUN. (264184)

NOTICE OF PROPOSED SCHOOL BUDGET

Archuleta School District 50 Jt. Notice is hereby given that a proposed budget has been submitted to the Board of Education of the Archuleta School District 50 Jt. on May 13, 2025, for the 2025-2026 fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and has been filed in the Administration Office of the School District where it will be available for public inspection. It is also available for review on the District's website www.mypagosaschools.com, under Departments>Finance>2025-2026 Proposed Budget. Such proposed budget will be considered for adoption at the regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Education of said District on June 10, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. A YouTube meeting link will be posted on the District's web site www.mypagosaschools. com and on BoardDocs at least 24 hours prior to the June 10 meeting.

Any person paying school taxes in said district may at any time prior to the final adoption of the budget file or register his or her objections thereto

BOARD OF EDUCATION May 13, 2025 Archuleta School District 50 Jt.

Eric Burt, Finance Director Published May 22, 2025 in The Pagosa Springs SUN. (264637)

#### COMBINED NOTICE - PUBLICATION CRS §38-38-103 FORECLOSURE SALE NO. 2025-002

To Whom It May Concern: This Notice is given with regard to the following described Deed of Trust: On March 5, 2025, the undersigned Public Trustee caused the Notice of Election and Demand relating to the Deed of Trust described below to be recorded in the

THE MOBILE HOME DESCRIBED AS A1981 TIT 14 X 60 VIN #2210655587 IS, OR SHALL BE AFFIXED FORTHWITH TO THE REAL ESTATE ABOVE DE-SCRIBED, AND THAT THE SAID MOBILE HOME SHALL BECOME AND DOES HEREBY BECOME AN PROVEMENT UPON AND AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE REAL ESTATE AND SHALL NOT BE SEVERED FROM SAID REAL ESTATE WITHOUT THE PRIOR WRITTEN CONSENT OF THE RIO GRANDE SAV-INGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATION FIRST HAD AND OBTAINED, OR UNTIL THE NOTE AND ALL INDEBT EDNESS DESCRIBED HEREIN IS PAID AND THIS DEED OF TRUST RELEASED. THE SAID ASSOCIA-TION RESERVES AND IS GRANTED THE RIGHT, IN EVENT OF FORECLOSURE OF THIS DEED OF TRUST, TO SEVER SAID PROPERTY FROM THE REALTY, AND DISPOSE OF EACH, EITHER JOINTLY OR SEPARATELY, AS THE ASSOCIATION DEEMS NECESSARY TO PROTECT ITS INTEREST.

Purported common address: 299 Canyon Cir, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147.

THE PROPERTY DESCRIBED HEREIN IS ALL OF THE PROPERTY CURRENTLY ENCUMBERED BY THE LIEN OF THE DEED OF TRUST. NOTICE OF SALE

The current holder of the Evidence of Debt secured by the Deed of Trust, described herein, has filed Notice of Election and Demand for sale as provided by law and in said Deed of Trust.

THEREFORE, Notice Is Hereby Given that I will at public auction, at 10:00 A.M. on Thursday, 07/03/2025, at the Archuleta County Treasurer's Office at 449 San Juan St. Pagosa Springs, CO 81147, sell to the highest and best bidder for cash, the said real property and all interest of the said Grantor(s), Grantor(s)' heirs and assigns therein, for the purpose of paying the indebtedness provided in said Evidence of Debt secured by the Deed of Trust, plus attorneys' fees, the expenses of sale and other items allowed by law, and will issue to the purchaser a Certificate of Purchase, all as provided by law. First Publication 5/8/2025 Last Publication 6/5/2025 Name of Publication Pagosa Springs Sun IF THE SALE DATE IS CONTINUED TO A LATER DATE, THE DEADLINE TO FILE A NOTICE OF TENT TO CURE BY THOSE PARTIES ENTITLED TO CURE MAY ALSO BE EXTENDED; DATE: 03/05/2025 Elsa P. White, Public Trustee in and for the County of Archuleta, State of Colorado By: Elsa P. White, Public Trustee The name, address, business telephone number and bar registration number of the attorney(s) representing the legal holder of the indebtedness is Shay L Denning #36736 Hall Estill Attorneys At Law 100 North Broadway, Suite 2900, Oklahoma City, OK 73102-8865 (405) 283-4277 Attorney File # Diana Ramsey

The Attorney above is acting as a debt collector and is attempting to collect a debt. Any information provided may be used for that purpose. Published May 8, 15, 22, 29 and June 5, 2025 in The Pagosa Springs SUN. (263333)

#### DISTRICT COURT. ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO

Court Address: 109 Harman Park Drive Pagosa Springs, CO 81147

Paul ( Forte, Jean Simmons, Sheri L Burnham, Michael D Kelley, Stella M Kelley, Avery Lee Conley II, Manuel U Mont

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

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to appear and defend against the claims of the complaint filed with the court in this action, by filing with the clerk of 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 Teal Landing Condominiums 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

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 ally and Carissa Dawn Connally YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to appear and defend against the claims of the complaint filed with the court in this action, by filing with the clerk of 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. vice 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 Payments to Wyndham Vacation Resorts, Inc.

TO THE FOLLOWING DEFENDANT(S) : James M Kaufmann, Norma K Kaufmann, Dennis M Paterson, James H Caid, Trustee of the James and Donna Caid ocable Trust, dated January 23, 1996, Donna J Caid. 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 Greening, 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, deceased, Frank Grandinetti, Kristina Anne Larson, Willard 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 Putnam, The Terry J Lutz Living Trust dated January 10, 2012, and any Amendments Thereto YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to ap-

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

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 mplaint 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. (263225)

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.

Defendants James R Vines, et al. Case No.: 2025CV30009 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

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

#### Defendants

Debrorah L Downing, et al. Case No.: 2025CV30008

dert, Jessie M Gaeddert

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.co SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

TO THE FOLLOWING DEFENDANT(S) : Mona Archer, Candida Orndorf, Jeremy Vincent Hardin, Howard O Hartzog, Martha A Hartzog, Clarence E Christian, Trustee of the Clarence E Christian Trust of November 27, 2000, Penny A Trehan, Surviving Joint Tenant with Right of Survivorship of John Trehan, deceased Wallace R Smith, Lois Mae Smith, D. Dickerson Mc-Coy, Co-Trustee of the D. and F. McCoy Trust dated 9/30/99, Faye S. McCoy, Co-Trustee of the D. and F. McCoy Trust dated 9/30/99, Norma Rose, Surviving Joint Tenant with Right of Survivorship of Lowell Rose, deceased, Scott R Crawford, Angela L Crawford, Louis A Valencia, Julie K Valencia, Karen L McCoy, Jere D Fisher, Mona Jo Fisher, A. Darryl Rice, Charles Chubb Surviving Joint Tenant with Right of Survivorship of Sharon Chubb, deceased, Juanita D Schmidt, Patrick A Dutson Sr, Kathleen J Dutson, Marc C Cuellar, Trudy R Cuellar, John B Smith, Annie R Smith, Menno Gaed-

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to appear and defend against the claims of the complaint filed with the court in this action, by filing with the clerk of 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 nplaint 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 Townho

#### nail: ir@ecrlegal.com SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

TO THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF COLORADO TO THE FOLLOWING DEFENDANT(S) : Kalanie Mc Intosh, Surviving Joint Tenant with Right of Survivorship of Steven E McIntosh, deceased, Marolyn R Wood, Trustee of the Marolyn R Wood and Donald Wood Revocable Living Trust, dated December 16, 1996, P. Carol Kyle-Cooper, Surviving Joint Tenant with Right of Survivorship of John H Cooper, deceased, James E Bradley, Judith A Bradley, John Andrew Dewett, Oliver Harlow, Zona Harlow, Jessica Cantu Garza, Marie A Garcia-Cravens, James Johnson, Paula Johnson

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 Teal Landing Condominiums 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.* (263283)

#### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Estate of James Edward Price, Jr. aka James E. Price Jr. aka James E. Price aka James Price aka Jim Price, Deceased. Case Number 2025 PR 30018

All persons having claims against the above-named estate are required to present them to the personal representative or to the District Court of Archuleta, County Colorado on or before September 12, 2025, or the claims may be forever barred

Lisa Dianne Price fka Lisa Cawoo 19275B Highway 151 Pagosa Springs, CO 81147 Published May 15, 22, and 29, 2025 in *The Pagosa* Springs SUN. (264190)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Estate of Steven Lee Bass Case Number 2025 PR 30019

All persons having claims against the above-named estate are required to present them to the personal rep resentative or to the District Court of Archuleta, County Colorado on or before September 15, 2025, or the claims may be forever barred

Daniel L. Fiedler, Attorney at Law 190 Talisman Drive, Suite D-6 Pagosa Springs, CO 81147 Published May 15, 22, and 29, 2025 in *The Pagosa* Springs SUN. (264188)

## **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.

## LIBRARY NEWS

## Two major events launch next week

#### By Carole Howard SUN Columnist, and the library staff

Next week brings the start of two very special events to your library that will be of interest to you and your family:

Tuesday, May 27, through Friday, June 6, we will be hosting the firstin-the world virtual reality exhibition with five unique films featuring Holocaust survivors walking us through their memories and concentration camp experiences as they share their stories of survival.

"The Journey Back" applies cutting-edge technology to engage visitors with the survivors' incredibly important stories via virtual reality headsets. We are privileged to share it with you thanks to a generous loan from the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center.

The films will show daily with group discussions. They average 17 minutes in length and you can watch one movie or all five for a total of 83.5 minutes. Each showing is limited to 10 people because that's how many headsets we have.

"We will have staff and volunteers to help you set up the headsets," said Judy Brennan. "As well, we encourage you to be prepared for an emotional response to these films and make selfcare a priority before and after viewing. You also will want to consider what age is appropriate for children to attend."

The films will show daily with group discussions. Please pick up a handout with all the dates and times at your library, or find them on our website.

Friday afternoon, May 30, we are hosting the Summer Reading Kickoff Party from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Book lovers of all ages will enjoy food, crafts and fun at this annual event that marks the start of the many highly popular Summer Reading activities that result in many enjoyable experiences and prizes for all ages.

Watch for more details with dates and times of Summer Reading events and activities in future "Library News" columns throughout the summer.

#### Library closure

Your library will be closed May 26 for Memorial Day.

#### Self-care advice for teens/tweens

Rise Above Violence will host a free talk about the importance of taking care of yourself and your mental health tomorrow, Friday, May 23, from 2 to 3 p.m. at the library.

This Rise event is part of an ongoing monthly series aimed at teens and tweens about forming healthy relationships and taking good care of yourself, as well.

#### Craftapalooza tomorrow

All ages are invited to create a variety of crafts Friday, May 23, from 2 to 3:30 p.m. at this free event. All supplies will be provided.

#### Adult knitting and needlework

Join new and experienced knitters Saturday, May 24, for our free Knitters Circle from 1 to 3 p.m. It is aimed at anyone over the age of 18 who would like to knit together or get some help if you are stuck on your project. Any type of needleworker is welcome.

#### Date changes for conversational Spanish

**Conversational Spanish happens** next Thursday, May 29, from 4 to 5 p.m.

Then, starting in June, the group will move its days and gather on the second and fourth Mondays of the month from 4 to 5 p.m.

This is a great opportunity to practice your Spanish in a free group setting. No minimum skill level is needed.

#### 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.

#### 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

Free in-person slots are available from 2 to 4 p.m. on Thursdays.

Judy helps you with basic questions relating to computers, smartphones and tablets, and also provides assistance in accessing the library's online resources.

No appointment is needed for these drop-in sessions, but please bring your device's charger and passwords with you.

Note: There will be no Tech Time May 29.

#### Poetrv

"Dream of the Bird Tattoo" by Juan J. Morales is a memoir in poems

about his father's death and the grief that follows. The collection, the author's fourth, showcases how our loved ones continue to live on in our memories and actions.

#### Nonfiction

"Covered with Night" by awardwinning Nicole Eustace is a true crime reconstruction of the death of a Senaca hunter and its aftermath in Native American relationships with Anglo-American colonists. "Master Slave Husband and Wife" by Ilyon Woo is the true story of a couple's escape from slavery posing as master and slave. We have five more Nolo guides: "Small Claims Court," "Divorce," "Credit Repair," "Estate Planning" and "Executor's Guide." "Facing Hard Truths" by California businessman Stephen J. Cloobeck offers ways for Americans to pull together to help our country flourish.

"John and Paul: A Love Story in Songs" by Ian Leslie explores the creative dynamic between the Beatles' John Lennan and Paul McCartney. Hate Won't Win" by Mallory Mc-Morrow is a political memoir about the youngest woman ever elected to statewide office in Michigan. "Hope Dies Last" by award-winning environmental journalist Alan Weisman showcases global efforts related to climate issues. "Finland" is an Insight travel guide. "Wilderness Adventure Camp" by Frank Grindrod details outdoor survival skills for kids. "Intuitive Eating for Diabetes" by Janice Dada is a non-diet approach to managing your blood sugar.

#### Large print

"The Wager" by David Grann is the true story of mutiny and murder on a British warship in the 1740s. "The Sirens" by Emilia Hart is a historical feminist fantasy. "Gifted and Talented" by Olivie Blake focuses on a dead man's three adult children wanting to inherit his wealth. "The Griffin Sisters' Greatest Hits" by Jennifer Weiner tells of the women's lives after their music career ends. "Overkill" by J.A. Jance is an Ali Reynolds murder mystery. "Braiding Sweetgrass" by Robin Wall Kimmerer brings Indigenous wisdom and scientific knowledge to young adult readers.

#### Novels

"Immortal Longings" and "Vilest Things" by Chloe Gong are epic romantic fantasies inspired by Shakespeare's "Anthony and Cleopatra." "Tough Luck" by Sandra Dallas features two children heading to Colorado Territory in 1863 to find their father. "Say You'll Remember Me" by Abby Jimenez is a romance focusing on a handsome veterinarian. "My Friends" by Pulitzer Prizewinner Hisham Matar follows a young Benghazi boy as he leaves his homeland for the University of Edinburgh. "Women's Hotel" by Daniel M. Lavery is a poignant and funny look at the residents.

"Flirting Lessons" by Jasmine Guillory tells of two young women whose friendship moves to romance. "My Documents" by Kevin Nguyen is a satire inspired by Japanese internments and modern-day detentions. "A Mind of Her Own" by Danielle Steel follows a young woman dealing with World War II. "The Griffin Sisters' Greatest Hits" by Jennifer Weiner tells of the women's lives after their music career ends. "Pink Slime" by Fernanda Trias follows people dealing with a mysterious plague.

#### **DVDs**

We have volume one and volume two of the action and romance anime films "Kaze No Stigma" featuring Kazuma, an exiled fire magic user. "Lost on a Mountain in Maine" is the true story of a 12-year-old boy. "Lioness" is season two. "The Friday" is a three-movie collection of these buddy comedies.

#### Quotable quote

"Imagining something may be the first step in making it happen, but it takes the real time and real efforts of real people to learn things, make things, turn thoughts into deeds or visions into inventions." - Fred Rogers, also known as Mister Rogers (1928-2003). He was a Presbyterian minister, TV host, author and composer who was a pioneer in children's programming, having created, hosted and written the preschool show "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood" from 1968 to 2001. He also composed the show's music.

#### Website

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



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## Senior

#### Continued from A12

beverage.

To reserve your meal for the day, please make your reservation via text or phone call to (970) 264-2167 by 9 a.m. weekdays.

#### Community Cafe menu

Thursday, May 22 — Cajun shrimp with cheesy grits, zucchini sauté, garden salad, yogurt, fruit and milk.

Friday, May 23 — Chicken fajitas with peppers, flour tortillas, guacamole, salsa, garden salad, fruit and milk.

Monday, May 26 — Closed for Memorial Day.

Tuesday, May 27 - Salmon burger with dill sauce, bun, sweet potato fries, garden salad, fruit, muffin and milk.

Wednesday, May 28 — Teriyaki chicken, jasmine rice, carrots, snow peas, garden salad, fruit, almond croissant and milk.

Thursday, May 29 — Beeflasagna, broccoli, garlic bread, garden salad, fruit, cottage cheese and milk.

Friday, May 30 - Tuna salad over greens, potato salad, whole-wheat roll, garden salad, fruit, chocolate cake and milk.

#### Grab-N-Go meals

Dine-in and Grab-N-Go meal reservations and cancellations are required. Please call or text by 9 a.m. the morning of the day you want to pick up a meal. A suggested donation of \$6 helps to sustain our program. For ages 59 and younger, the cost is \$10.50. No one will be turned away for their inability to donate. Please call or text us at (970) 264-2167 to make a reservation.

#### Meals on Wheels

We deliver fresh Meals on Wheels five days a week (and provide frozen Meals on Wheels for weekends) to homebound Archuleta County residents. Call or text us at (970) 264-2167.

#### Mobile food pantry service

Older adults needing a ride to a

MET to schedule a ride with its paratransit service. For more information, contact Lavonne at (970) 264-2250.

#### **Text reservations**

Don't forget that we offer a convenient texting service for you to communicate with us. Text us at (970) 264-2167. When texting, please include your name, phone number and the days you want a meal. If you are canceling a reservation, please include your name, phone number and the days you want to cancel.

Texting services are available for dine-in meal reservations, Grabn-Go meals and Meals on Wheels recipients.

#### Mahjong

Mahjong is a 19th century Chinese tile-based game that is commonly played with four players. Each player receives 13 tiles with a goal to make matching sets and pairs (like poker). To win, a player must form four sets and one pair.

Come to the Senior Center to learn or play every Tuesday at 1:15 p.m.

#### Medicare call by appointment

For anyone who needs help enrolling and navigating Medicare plans, the San Juan Basin Area Agency on Aging helps with parts A, B and D. They can also help you with fraud concerns and troubleshooting any billing issues you may be having. By appointment only. Please call the Medicare line at (970) 264-0501, ext 2.

#### Mindful drawing

Mindful drawing is an easy-tolearn, relaxing and fun way to create beautiful images by drawing structured patterns. Join our friendly instructor, Roberta Strickland.

Classes are every Wednesday at 1:15 p.m. in the Senior Center. This activity is open to all ages. Help us create an intergenerational community. For those under 18 and/or with disabilities, you are welcome to join us, but we kindly ask you to please

local food pantry should contact the bring an adult chaperone with you.

#### Bridge

The longest-played bridge game in Archuleta County takes place on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 1:15 p.m.

Bridge is a four-player card game with partners sitting opposite each other around a table. It is a tricktaking card game using a standard 52-card deck. Come alone or bring a partner.

#### Hand and foot card game

Whether you are new to hand and foot or interested in learning, please join us most Tuesdays at 1:15 at the Senior Center.

This card game involves four rounds of playing until the final round is reached — some two to three hours later. Plan to stay and meet some new friends or catch up with those you have missed over the last couple of years.

No experience is necessary, so come willing to learn.

#### **Board vacancies**

The ASI Board of Directors has multiple vacant positions open. The terms are three years with an option to renew for an additional term.

Potential candidates should be at least 21 years of age or older and must have a passion for adult and aging services.

#### Support the Senior Center

Please support our ongoing operations and programming that provide critical services to some of the most vulnerable in Archuleta County.

You may mail your donation to P.O. Box 3444, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147, or please visit our website: http://www.psseniors.org/ (donation button).

Donation checks can be written to: Archuleta Seniors Inc.

We are located at 451 Hot Springs Blvd. For more information about ASI, please visit http://www.psseniors.org/.

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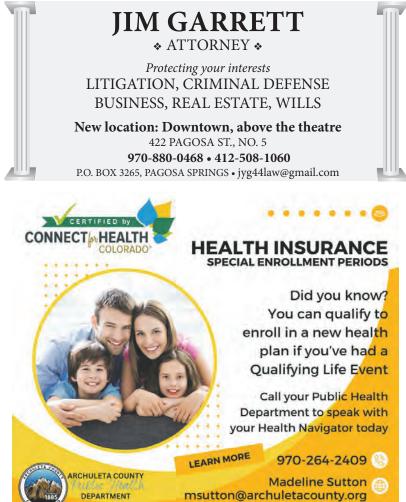
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Pagosa Springs Middle School eighth-graders take a group photo by an arch. Last week, the students traveled to Moab, Utah, for a three-day learning adventure. Students and staff explored Arches National Park and learned how the natural wonders form.



## Water conservancy district continues reservoir planning progress

By Josh Pike Staff Writer

At its May 12 meeting, the San Juan Water Conservancy District (SJWCD) Board of Directors discussed next steps on its reservoir construction project following the completion of a preliminary geotechnical and geologic hazards report by engineering firm Yeh and Associates.

SJWCD board member Randy Cooper explained that he and SJWCD board member Charles Riehm met with Yeh staff prior to the meeting and discussed finalizing the report the firm created, as well as what would be involved in completing 30 percent design for the reservoir.

Cooper stated that this would involve classification of hazards for the project and an inundation study for the site.

He added that Yeh staff recommended that the SJWCD start talking to the Colorado Dam Safety Bureau about the project since it prefers to be engaged in projects early and could advise the district on approaches

to meet the design criteria for the reservoir.

Cooper stated that Yeh staff estimated that the cost of completing a 30 percent design for the project would be between \$100,000 and \$150,000.

He explained that, according to Yeh's estimates, doing seismic analyses and other on the ground work would likely cost around \$500,000, but that this would not be included in the 30 percent design.

Moving forward with the design would require working with a civil engineering firm, Cooper explained, and Yeh provided two recommendations.

He added that Yeh recommended that the district should select a civil engineering firm for this work that it also intends to contract for building the dam as this would make the process smoother.

A 30 percent design would include an inundation study and assessments of the hydrology of the site that would be required for the study, Cooper stated.

Following a discussion of how

previous work the SJWCD has completed would integrate with this work, Cooper asked the board for permission to reach out to the Colorado Dam Safety Bureau.

Riehm added that the district could informally ask Yeh for comments on if the request for proposals (RFP) for the 30 percent design contains the correct elements and is properly formatted as the RFP is drafted.

Riehm proposed that he and Cooper could lead the process of drafting an RFP.

SJWCD board member Rob Hagberg moved to authorize Cooper and Riehm to move forward with contacting the Colorado Dam Safety Bureau and drafting an RFP for 30 percent design of the reservoir.

Following a brief discussion of the logistics of moving the process forward, the board unanimously voted to approve Hagberg's motion. josh@pagosasun.com





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## litigation moves forward

**Running Iron Ranch** 

**By Josh Pike** Staff Writer

The litigation between the San Juan Water Conservancy District (SJWCD) and the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD) over PAWSD's attempts to sell the Running Iron Ranch, where the SJWCD plans to build a reservoir, continues, including new motions and the setting of a pretrial conference.

The SJWCD Board of Directors heard an update on the litigation from SJWCD legal counsel Jeffrey Kane at its May 12 meeting.

Kane explained that there was a trial setting with the court clerk scheduled for May 13.

At that meeting, Kane stated, he and PAWSD legal counsel would work with the clerk to set a date for when the SJWCD's breach of contract claims against PAWSD would be tried.

He added that he would aim to

have this occur before the end of 2025

Kane also stated that he filed a motion for summary judgment on certain aspects of the case on May 1.

He explained that this motion seeks judgment on several of the declaratory judgment claims the SJWCD made.

Kane stated that, since these claims involve facts that are not disputed by either party in the case, the claims would not need to go through the trial process and the district is entitled to summary judgment on these issues.

He indicated that PAWSD has until May 22 to file a response to the motion.

Following the May 13 meeting, a pretrial conference for the case between PAWSD and SJWCD was scheduled for Nov. 17 in Archuleta County Court.

josh@pagosasun.com

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# 15 Homes in 5k

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10 a.m. • Saturday, May 31 • Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Association Clubhouse



Photo courtesy Habitat for Humanity of Archuleta County

## Habitat for Humanity of Archuleta County to host 5k,10k, super sprint

#### By Leah Ballard

Habitat for Humanity of Archuleta County

Habitat for Humanity of Archuleta County is hosting our second annual 15 Homes in 5k next weekend on Saturday, May 31. This year we've added a 10k distance and a kids' super sprint to round out the day.

The race is set to begin at the Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Association Clubhouse at 230 Port Ave. The runners descend the "hill to homeownership" into the Trails subdivision, where 5k racers will do a hairpin turn near the brush-mulching facility on Sam Houston Avenue.

The 10k course continues past this turnaround and in to the Chris Mountain Village II Subdivision, where Habitat Archuleta's 2023 and 2024 partner families live.

Registration is open on our website until race day. Day-of registration will open at 8 a.m., with the 10k race starting at 10 a.m.

2025 marks 30 years since Habitat Archuleta sold our

first house, on Sept. 13, 1995. For 28 years we built one home per year, steadily growing our impact in the community. When county commissioners voted to donate several tax lien lots, we shifted our focus to triple our capacity and complete 15 homes in five years.

This summer we're actually building away from the race course to fill in our last few lots near Hatcher Lake, but the race is still dotted with our handiwork. The 10k goes along our proposed 2026 build sites, where we'll be building four more modular homes to finish out the five-year plan. Each of these all-electric homes will be equipped with net-zero rooftop solar panels, like every home we've built since 2022.

We're accepting applications for the 2026 build season through the end of June this year, so come join the fun and check out the views.

Call (970) 264-6960 or email volunteer@habitatarchuleta.org with questions about race day, applying, volunteering or donating to our cause.

## Live Performers

Thursday

**Coyote Moon Lounge:** Open Mic with Eric Wade, 7 p.m.

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

#### Friday

**Coyote Moon Lounge:** Retro Cats, 7 p.m. **Meltdown on Main:** Banjo Joe and Danielle, 5 p.m. **The Springs Resort lodge atrium:** Jason Rose, 5 p.m.

#### Saturday

Coyote Moon Lounge: Knfrmst, 7 p.m. East Side Market: Emily Tholberg, 11 a.m. The Springs Resort lodge atrium: Maxwell Miller, 5 p.m.

#### Sunday

Coyote Moon Lounge: Shane Finn, 5 p.m.

#### Monday

Coyote Moon Lounge: Xina Christel, 5 p.m. The Springs Resort lodge atrium: Jason Rose, 5 p.m.

#### Tuesday

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

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## Thingamajig Theatre Company to kick off summer of spectacular shows with free teen access to dress rehearsals

Thingamajig Theatre Company

Thingamajig Theatre Company is proud to announce its exciting summer lineup with three productions set to open in rapid succession.

Beginning May 30, audiences can expect a season full of laughter, drama, music and magic — all on the beautiful stage of the Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts.

The summer will open with "Something Rotten!" on May 30, a hilarious and high-energy musical comedy that asks what happens when Shakespeare gets some competition from the world's first musical. This side-splitting crowd-pleaser sets the tone for a season packed with bold creativity.

On June 13, Thingamajig will presents "The Wild Party," a darkly intoxicating jazz-age musical full of passion. Please note: "The Wild Party" contains mature themes and content suitable for adults 18 years and older.

The summer continues with "A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder," opening June 27 — a witty, fast-paced farce following a charming young man determined to eliminate eight relatives (with hilarious results) in his quest for a family fortune.

## WHIPS luncheon set for May 26

**By Nancy Ford** Women Helping in Pagosa Springs

WHIPS, Women Helping in Pagosa Springs, will have their monthly luncheon Tuesday, May 27, at 11:30 a.m. at Two Chicks and A Hippie Restaurant in its new location. The cost is \$20. We must have you RSVP to (970)

946-1895 by Sunday, May 25. All women are welcome.



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Hardware

In a heartfelt effort to cultivate a love for the performing arts in the next generation, Thingamajig Theatre is offering free admission to all dress rehearsals for teens.

This initiative provides a unique opportunity for young people to experience professional theater firsthand and be inspired by the magic of live performance. Teens should mark their calendars to watch each of these spectacular free dress rehearsals starting with "Something Rotten!" on May 29, "The Wild Party" on June 12 and "A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder" on June 26, all at 7 p.m.





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Photo courtesy Pagosa Springs History Museum

Saturday is scheduled to be the opening of the Pagosa Springs History Museum for the season. The museum will be open Wednesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. until the end of August. Admission is free.

### History museum set to open for season Saturday

#### By Shari Pierce

Pagosa Springs History Museum

The Pagosa Springs History Museum will open for the season on Saturday, May 24.

Getting ready to reopen has been a labor of love and remains a work in progress. Many hands have helped in getting to where the museum is now.

As always, entrance to the museum is at no charge. Donations are gratefully accepted as the museum relies on donations and grants to operate.

On Saturday, beginning at 10 a.m., enjoy self-guided tours. Lemonade and bakery-made cookies will be available. Stickers, notebooks and mugs will be given out. All of these items are courtesy of the Pagosa Springs Area Tourism Board's event funding program.

You may enjoy the farming and ranching display and then move

down to view the many photos and art on loan from the Fred Harman family. Harman was the creator of the long-running Red Ryder comic strips in conjunction with Stephen Slesinger. The characters were also featured in movies, posters, comic books and other merchandise. Harman lived in the area and frequently brought visitors to his ranch. He also promoted the amenities of the Pagosa Springs area in his comic books.

If you are interested in the lives of the Oppenheimer brothers, J. Robert and Frank, you may enjoy seeing the artifact which was donated with the donor indicating that this was the chair that J. Robert used during his time at the Los Alamos laboratory.

Frank Oppenheimer, the younger brother of J. Robert, was a physicist who also worked on the project at the Los Alamos laboratory. He owned a ranch in the Blanco Basin and his brother visited Frank's family here. Frank taught at the high school here in Pagosa Springs before moving on to California and founding the Exploratorium in San Francisco.

Students of the local legend Worthe Crouse and also art fans may enjoy the display of some of Crouse's sculptures. These include an eagle perched on a rock with a fish in its talons and also a self-portrait created by Crouse. He was instrumental in bringing the metal building that houses the front portion of the museum to town from another location up Piedra Road (County Road 600). Crouse also was a welder, mechanic, teacher and town council member, among other things.

These artifacts are just a touch of what is housed in the town's museum, located at 96 Pagosa St.

The museum will be open this season Wednesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Home of Pagosa's Best Specialty Grilled Cheese Sandwiches!

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## Chip in to help build Aspen House at fourth annual Aspen House Golf Tournament

By Pattie Copenhaver Aspen House/Aspen Services

The Rio Grande Club and Resort in South Fork is set to host the fourth annual Aspen House Golf Tournament on June 7, promising a day filled with camaraderie, competition and compassion.

Scheduled against the stunning backdrop of the Rio Grande National Forest, this year's tournament aims to raise funds to increase service offerings through Aspen Services and to raise much-needed funds to build the future Aspen House, a supportive home for adults with developmental intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD).

Golf enthusiasts and philanthropists alike are invited to tee off for Aspen House. Participants can expect an unforgettable day of friendly rivalry and community spirit, all while contributing to a noble endeavor.

The fourth annual Aspen House Golf Tournament promises not only an opportunity to showcase one's golfing prowess, but also to demonstrate solidarity with individuals with I/DD and their families.

As players navigate the course, they'll be reminded of the importance of compassion and empathy, reinforcing the values of unity and acceptance.

By participating in the tournament, golfers and sponsors alike will play a vital role in making the dream of building Aspen House a reality a safe and supportive home where individuals with developmental dis-

abilities can thrive, have services close at hand, and find a sense of belonging.

Register online at https://aspenhouse-charity-golf-tournament. perfectgolfevent.com/.

For more information on how to support Aspen House, please visit www.aspenhousepagosa.org.



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Photo courtesy Aspen House/Aspen Services

The fourth annual Aspen House Golf Tournament is set for June 7 at the Rio Grande Club and Resort in South Fork. Registration is now open.







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Photo courtesy Aubrie Limebrook

The Wolf Creek Wonders 4-H Club poses after picking up trash - an effort that counted toward the club's community service hours.

### Registration open for Whatchamawhozits Summer Theatre Kids Camp

Thingamajig Theatre Company

This summer, join Thingamajig Theatre Company for its wildly fun and imaginative Whatchamawhozits Kids Camp, featuring a production of "James and the Giant Peach."

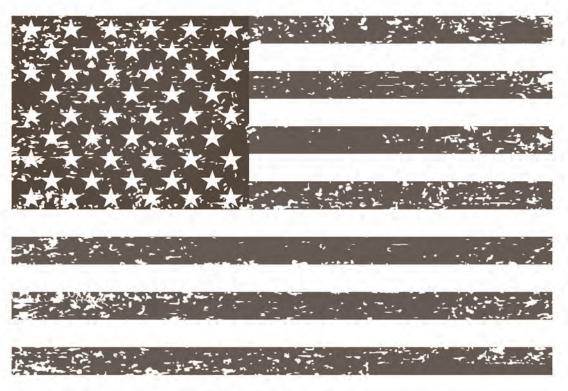
From June 30 to July 11, young performers ages 7–13 will dive into the world of musical theater, storytelling and creativity as they rehearse and prepare to take the stage in this magical adaptation of Roald Dahl's beloved tale.

Under the guidance of professional directors, choreographers and designers, campers will explore acting, singing, movement and teamwork — all while building confidence and making new friends. Whether your child is a seasoned performer or stepping into the spotlight for the first time, this camp offers an enriching and supportive environment to learn and grow.

The two-week camp concludes with public performances on July 12 and 13 where our young stars will bring to life James, his insect friends and their epic journey across the ocean on a giant peach. Family, friends and community members are all invited to celebrate their hard work and talent.

Spaces are limited and this camp fills up fast, so don't miss your chance to be part of the adventure. Register today and let your child's creativity soar with the Whatchamawhozits Kids Camp.

Register online at pagosacenter. org or email thingamajigbox@gmail. com for more information.



## In Honor of Memorial Day

The Primary Care Clinic and Outpatient Services will be closed on Monday, May 26, reopening on Tuesday, May 27 to serve you.

The Emergency Department is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.



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## **Growers and Producers Forum to** focus on local meat production

#### Healthy Archuleta

Healthy Archuleta's Growers and Producers Forum is coming up on Wednesday, May 28, at the Ruby Sisson Library from 4:15 to 5:45 p.m.

The forum is part of Healthy Archuleta's dedication to advancing local food production as part of community wellness. It accomplishes the double purpose of supporting the growers and producers while at the same time educating our public to the availability of healthy local products.

This month, the forum will feature local meat producers. These community members will share about the histories of their operations, and their ranching and land management practices.

The presenters will share different perspectives on ranching, including

a third-generation cattle ranching outfit begun in the '80s that focuses on cattle production for local beef sales. Another perspective is from a family that moved to Archuleta County about three years ago to start a ranch that focuses on regenerative agriculture who will share about their specialty pork production. And, finally, a third perspective will be from a generational rancher with a large-scale operation, with some beef being sold to the local market and some to markets outside of the county

Why is all this important to you, the consumer? First, supporting and expanding a local food supply benefits the entire community — wealth stays local also. An abundant local food supply also reduces dependence on long supply lines and the potential consequence of interruption in supply.

Secondly, while the finished product has great taste, more importantly, it is better for you. The animals are raised on pasture and grass-finished, which for beef means increased presence of important nutrients. Pigs raised in a natural environment also exhibit a higher nutritional value.

The forum should be interesting to all who wish to pursue a healthy diet. Show up and discover where local meat can be found.

Please join us at the library on Wednesday, May 28, from 4:15 to 5:45 p.m. for this important conversation.

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



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This home is perfectly located on approximately an acre of land in the Pagosa Lakes area. Open the back door and a 700 sq ft deck will provide additional space for a BBQ grill, plenty of outdoor seating, and a new hot tub for your relaxation and enjoyment. There is tile throughout the lower level in the kitchen, dining room and in high traffic areas. A fireplace with stacked stone in the center of the living room lends to warm and cozy nights by the fire. 4 beds/2.5 baths with 2,350 sq. ft.



**By Ashley Springer** Archuleta County

In 2004, Ken Jennings won an impressive \$2.52 million on "Jeopardy!" during his remarkable 74-game winning streak. He later became a host of the wildly popular game show.

While that type of prize (and notoriety) will not be given at the Archuleta County Public Health Departments' (ACPHD's) Health Insurance Literacy (HIL) event on June 25, the knowledge gained will

be just as valuable.

Learn about health insurance in an engaging event hosted by ACPHD Health Navigator Madeline Sutton at the Ruby Sisson Library on June 25 from 5 to 6 p.m.

Sutton will demystify health insurance terms, aiding residents in understanding open enrollment and securing affordable coverage. This interactive session will clarify terms like PCP, HMO, PPO, special enrollment period, out of pocket and various co-pay levels.

Suttons' HIL "Jeopardy!" event is free and open to the public. Preregistration is not required.

While prizes that could buy a house and perhaps a car or two will not be obtainable during this class, Sutton promises residents will walk away with a better understanding of how Connect for Health and open enrollment periods work.

In addition, she hopes to better enable individuals to properly pick the best plan for themselves and/or See Health on next page



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## San Juan Stargazers to celebrate Apollo 13 mission's 55th anniversary

By Joan Mieritz San Juan Stargazers

On June 5, the San Juan Stargazers will celebrate NASA's 55th anniversary of the Apollo 13 "most successful failure" mission with Pagosa Springs' own Tom Hanchett. Everyone is invited to join us to celebrate and learn.

Our next meeting, on Thursday, June 5, will be at the regular time of 6 p.m. for the social hour, which will include a welcome celebration with cake and a gift for Andy and Elodie Green's new baby. He is the littlest Stargazer, and we welcome him with a heart full of love.

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

At 7 p.m., we will begin our Program with Carolyn Pyeatt giving a presentation to update the latest findings of the James Webb Space Telescope. These discoveries are getting more and more exciting. Pyeatt will soon be leaving Pagosa to be with her family during deployment.

Then, at 7:30 p.m., Hanchett will present NASA's 55th anniversary of the Apollo 13 mission, which has been named NASA's "most successful failure." Hanchett will tell us how it got that name and other interesting stories from that and other Apollo missions.

Hanchett worked at Houston's mission control, where he was the dedicated voice from the ground to the astronauts in space. And when the astronauts sent their famous message, "Houston, we've got a problem," it was to Hanchett that they were speaking. Hanchett was truly in on everything and has an amazing perspective on our space program and details from so many of the Apollo missions.

Hanchett also has a valuable attitude about the world of work. I think that he should speak personally to every Pagosa student, so I am encouraging every parent to bring their child to our meeting to meet him. Hanchett has words of wisdom. and he is certainly one of the most fascinating men I have ever met. Each time Hanchett speaks at our Stargazer meetings I am so impressed and impacted by his personal attitude and outlook on life. I am going to have him write a special message on our San Juan Stargazer website for the benefit of every visitor.

June 5 should be a meeting you don't want to miss.

#### Night sky programs

Our night sky programs begin at Chimney Rock National Monument on Friday, May 30, and June 20 and 27, with later dates in the summer. (See our website.) People from Pagosa are always welcome to attend our programs without a reservation. Just let us know that you are a local and we will fit you in with a ticket purchased at the gift shop.

We will try to have telescope viewing when it gets dark enough and if the weather permits without rain or, more seriously, lightning. We must be aware that Colorado has one of the highest incidences of lightning strikes in our nation and telescopes usually have metal parts that add to the danger.

The mountains near Chimney Rock are especially difficult because storms can start so quickly and blow over peaks. Then they can pass and be gone. We never cancel our programs because we can start out the night with pouring rain and end it with great viewing.

Our program will begin informally on the plaza while we wait for others to arrive. We may later include talks about the James Webb Space Telescope's latest discoveries, a fascinating lesson about the life cycle of a star and an unbelievable survey of galaxies.

See Stargazers on next page





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Impeccable home on 10 acres

This impeccably maintained 4 bedroom 4 bath home is a must see! Located off paved roads on over 10 nicely treed acres of usable land, this home offers a great floor plan, A/C, large 20x30 fully finished heated and insulated detached shop, attached oversized 3 car garage and would also make an excellent horse property. Conveniently located only 5 minutes from City Market, restaurants, and Pagosa Lakes rec center. The home's septic is permitted as a 5 bedroom home and there is plenty of room to make a 5th bedroom downstairs or even convert to a mother-in-law suite.

 Mountain views and privacy

 Enjoy privacy and unobstructed mountain and valley views from this almost 2000sq ft 3 bedroom 2 bath single level home on over 5 wooded acres. This hilltop oasis is very energy efficient and features a 2 car attached garage, fully finished and heated shop, a modern mountain exterior of low maintenance stucco and metal siding, landscaped yard, plenty of parking for an RV, trailers, toys, you name it and great southern exposure for the driveway makes this a perfect hilltop

home and mountain retreat! This home is conveniently located only 5 minutes from City Market, restaurants, and Pagosa Lakes rec center.



Marlena Crandall Associate Broker, Office Manager 970-903-9268 marlena@pagosapremierproperties.com

## Health.

■ continued from previous page their families, saving the most money possible when it comes to health insurance.

"I am excited for people to learn about health insurance and open enrollment in a way that's fun," Sutton said. "I think it will be well worth their time to get informed and be knowledgeable about things in the health insurance world"

For more information, please contact Sutton at msutton@archuletacounty.org or (970) 264-2409.

## **NEW HOURS**

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Photo courtesy Healthy Archuleta

Rancher Brian Wattier, the Healthy Archuleta team, Heather Miller and her class pose for a photo during a field trip focusing on the local food system.

## Healthy Archuleta hosts high school field trip on local food system

#### Healthy Archuleta

To end our time with the plant science class at Pagosa Springs High School, Healthy Archuleta ended its curriculum with a field trip on the local food system, "From Farm to Fork."

The field trip was a visit through every part of the food system wheel with stops at popular local locations.

The morning started bright and early with a visit to hear from Brian Wattier, a local rancher, at his ranch. There, he talked to the students about the importance of soil health when trying to grow plants or raise animals. He discussed how regenerative agriculture helps his soil and animals as he doesn't ruin the soil with tilling, but instead uses cover crops and nature to work in his favor. From there, students got a tour of the farm with a visit from his Colorado mountain dogs, goats, pigs and cattle.

The next stop was a local eatery to get an inside look at a food truck and to hear where and how they get their ingredients to address the "getting and preparing" part of the food system wheel. Students were able to hear owners Taylor's and Liz's story of how they started their restaurant in Pagosa Springs and why they left their brick-and-mortar restaurant for the food truck.

Next, the class visited a meat processing business to learn how animals go from the farm to the grocery store. With an inside look at the butcher shop, students were shown how meat is butchered, cut, See Food on next page

## Stargazers

continued from previous page

Some nights there may be a saga of how North and South America became inhabited given by one of the most famous anthropologists in the world, Dr. John Kappelman. Other nights we may take a walk to our Great Kiva and excavated pit house. We may take a tour of the night sky with Judith Jubb.

There is so much to learn that every program will be brimming with learning.

#### Upcoming

We hope to take part in the Fourth of July "Standing-Still Parade" where we can share astronomy lessons with all of Pagosa. In the middle of July, we will have a guest astronomer, Steve McAllister, who is in charge of the Westcliff observatory and is an outstanding expert on telescopes to help us improve our individual telescope skills.

#### About the Stargazers

If you would like to join the San Juan Stargazers, you will also receive Reflector Magazine, which is the publication of the National Astronomical League of which you automatically become a member. To join both groups and get an excellent astronomy magazine, annual membership is only \$25 per family.

You can join the club at any of our events or you can join using PayPal on our website, sanjuanstargazers. org. Check out our continuously changing website with new information and spectacular photos. We can be your connection to our extraordinary universe.



## **OPEN HOUSE!** Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday

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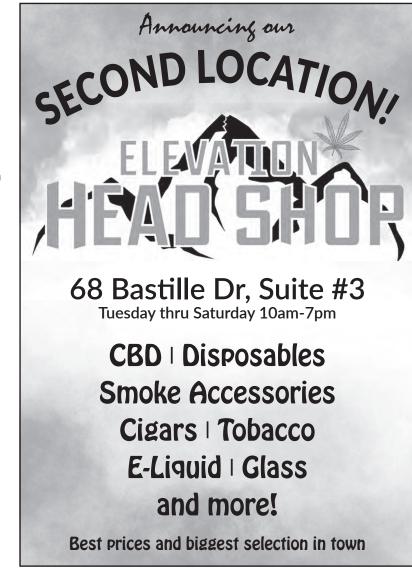


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## SpiritFire Inspirational Living Center announces upcoming events

#### By Shayla McClure SpiritFire Inspirational Living Center

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

• June 6, 7 p.m.: Illuminations.

• June 7, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.: Sacred Water Medicine Wheel Blessing Ceremony with Maggie Red Eagle and Shayla White Eagle at Xanadu.

#### 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.

Food

#### continued from previous page

discarded, and then wrapped and sealed for clients who brought in their own meat or prepped for their retail store when they buy USDA meat from ranchers. Getting some fresh air from the smell of the butcher shop, students visited the retail store that features locally raised products.

The afternoon session featured a visit to Healthy Archuleta's Food Distribution Center (FDC) to see the hydroponic towers and how the lettuce is harvested, as it was harvesting day. The FDC coordinator also made an appearance to tell the students how items from local ranchers and growers and food drives end up at the facility to be distributed to the seven food pantries throughout Archuleta County.

Our last stop day with incoming stormy weather was the transfer station to hear from James about the impact of Archuleta County residents' trash and where it ends up. He surprised us all by informing us that the transfer station is unique from other counties because they

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.

charge a cheap price for trash at \$3

a bag, because the transfer station is

self-sustaining, so they do not receive

tax dollars to run the facility. He went

on to show us how the cardboard is

pressed into the blocks we see from

for-one opportunity as we had Martin

Taylor from a composting company

stop by as well, since they have one

of their collection bins outside the

Transfer Station. He shared with

students how something as simple

as composting can help the environ-

ment and make a larger impact than

at 3 p.m., students were tired from a

full day of speakers and site visits, but

more knowledgeable in the local food

system. Thank you to everyone who

participated and hosted us on our

Healthy Archuleta, please visit our

website at www.foodcoalition4ar-

chuleta.org or send us an email at

To learn more about the efforts of

local food system journey.

fsfearchuleta@gmail.com.

By the time we returned to school

The Transfer Station was a two-

the side of the road.

they realize.

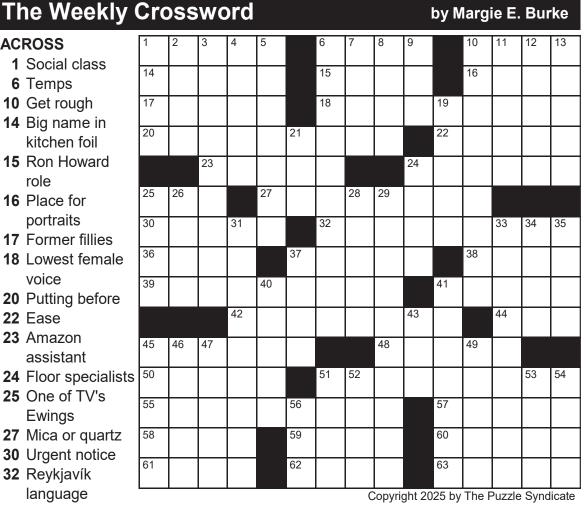
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- 37 UV stopper
- 38 "Junk begets junk" acronym
- **39** Bible division
- 41 Fable writer
- 42 Aid to motorists
- 44 Be nosy
- 45 Sailor's direction
- 51 Word on many Christmas cards

1 Army outpost



- 31 Withdrew

- 41 Fictional mouse

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**54** River of Hades

46 Watery snow

47 Electrical

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51 Nibble away

52 Painter Magritte

53 "Chicago" actor

49 French movie

56 Bar stock

#### Answers to Previous Crossword:



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- 48 Parting word 50 Drapery fold
  - 55 "Objection!"
  - response
  - **57** Beginning
  - 58 Emerald
  - 59 Mr. Peanut prop
  - 60 Apprehensive
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12 Marrying locale

13 Sneaky tactics

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6 Like well-

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9 Workout

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- 34 Composer Stravinsky
- 35 "Roger that"
  - 37 Yemen's
- neighbor
- 40 Blood line

43 "

45 Orbital point

## Writing from the edge of glory

#### By Betty Slade PREVIEW Columnist

Lady Gaga sings that she is on the edge of glory. She expresses her passion in song: "... I got a reason that you should take me home tonight. I need a man who thinks it right when it's so wrong ... I'll be dancing in the flames tonight ... another shot before we kiss the other side ... I'm on the edge of glory ..."

This world is full of chaotic, but appealing noises, and I've added my own to the cacophony. My head is brimming over with ideas. Addicted to my thoughts as most creative writers, I love my words. They have stirred in me like a drug and have taken me to higher places. Not to the edge of glory, but to other spheres and realms of this world as I know them.

My trusted friend said to me, "The Lord wants you to write from heaven's position, about things that happen before they happen. Everything has already been set in the heavens and it's just noise on earth. There's a lot of confusion."

I desire to bring a clear message from the Lord, but struggle to subdue my ideas to write from an authentic place of truth. My friend's prophetic words asked me to step up to a higher ledge, an overlook that brings down fast-moving trucks and reckless drivers. Am I willing to lose my readers? Isn't humor much more entertaining? No one wants to be preached to about their speed and the deer on the road.

It's "beyond-myself" kind of writing — to write about ideas from God's viewpoint that have not passed my mind but will cut through the confusion many feel today — world events that have happened or will happen according to the Bible. This "beyond-myself" writing is what He's requiring of me.

Entering into God's thoughts is like running to the edge of His glory, learning to fall far in love with Him, hanging on to a moment of truth and by faith being a risk-taker on the edge by writing about it.

Times when God said, "Jump," I've looked toward the bottom and doubted Him. That's when I've been bombarded with noises from my own insecurities. Did I hear from God? Will this offend someone? The subject is too explosive to handle, and I'll be stepping over the edge and no one will be there to catch me.

I've broken through some of the sound barriers thrown up by the enemy and written God's message. His words have always proven to be faithful even when I've had my doubts. Out of the blue He will direct someone through an email to tell me how much they appreciated my article about our family going through dementia or delivering a hard message that they needed.

Lady Gaga muses, "It's hot to feel His words.



the rush, to brush the dangerous, I'm gonna run right to the edge with you where we can both fall far in love ... I'm on the edge of glory and I'm hangin' on a moment of truth. I'm on the edge, the edge, the edge."

Her words show the raw edge of the world we live in. Knowing it's right when it's so wrong. This is the noise we compete with. We are asked to stand on a different edge of glory as resurrected believers. We don't need another shot to kiss the other side tonight. We need a touch from Jesus to write from the other side.

As a writer of truth, I must be willing to jump when He says jump. I must be conformed to His words, share the passion of the Word, feel the rush and brush the dangerous. Instead of dancing in the flames of my own ideas, I will dance with Jesus.

To write from His glory, our work must be bathed in the power of the Holy Spirit, from an honest heart and a broken spirit. The power came through trials when I was tested by His word, when everything told me not to do it, but I knew that I knew God told me to do it, and He'd be with me. Albuquerque comes to mind — a move that could have destroyed our family, but I found that God is in Albuquerque, too.

This noise around us can also be very appealing; it carries a certain authority, and our flesh wants to rally in it and for it. We can tune our ears to hear what the flesh craves, or purposely listen to the lyrics from heaven and we will unashamedly sing God's love song.

It's not easy to write a message that others don't want to hear, but God knows what people need. I usually have to learn it first. It comes with a lesson for me, sometimes a harsh lesson.

What the Lord asks is surrender, to wait until heaven speaks, then have the courage to write from the edge of His glory.

Lady Gaga has no problem showing her feelings. She takes courage on the keyboard of her talent, and performs before audiences who will marvel at her. She will sing to the world. "Tonight, yeah, baby. Right on the limit's where we know we both belong tonight." Yeah, baby.

Final brushstroke: As surrendered writers, we will know to whom our words belong and where we belong. When we listen for that whisper from God and know we are in His glory, His words will penetrate hearts and we will marvel at how wonderful He is for trusting us with His words. When we write His message, hearts will change, and writers and readers will feel fire in their souls. They will be dancing in the flame of His light. Yeah, baby.

Send your comment to bettyslade. author@gmail.com.

Views expressed do not necessarily represent those of The SUN.

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## Unitarian Universalists to hold Action Sunday

#### **By De Anna Hoyle** Pagosa Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

The Pagosa Unitarian Universalist (UU) Fellowship gathers in community to make friends, grow our spirits and do good works.

Last week, we heard from the Revs. Janess and David Sheets, who guided us through a Sufi perspective of social justice. We will apply some of what we heard to our monthly Action Sunday this week, May 25, starting at 10:30 a.m.

Following is a review of our Action Sunday programming we have explored since January this year:

 Putting together care kits to share with others and understanding what mutual aid is.
 Learning about Pagosa Outreach

Connection's longtime work in the community.

• Hearing from the director of Pagosa Community Initiative about its programs.

• Exploring the work of Friends and Neighbors in Need, a newer program doing good.

This Sunday, we will engage with one another and share the variety of ways each of us participates in actions individually, and we will look into the future, finding new energy to live our values with love as a foundation. Find out more at UUA.org/ beliefs/shared-values.

The Pagosa UU Fellowship meets in-person on the first and third Sundays of the month at 10:30 a.m. for Sunday service. The second Sunday is the Going Deeper Sharing Circle, also at 10:30 a.m., while the fourth Sunday is for putting our energy toward actions.

Find us in Unit B-15 of the Green-

briar Plaza, 301 N. Pagosa Blvd., on the north side facing Pagosa Peak. We welcome diversity and invite everyone to share in our faith community.

For additional information about the fellowship, please see the website www.pagosauu.org

Meditation practice and dharma talk begins at 9 a.m. each Sunday. For the dharma talk Sunday, we will talk about the art and dharma of conversation. Doing sending and receiving (tonglen) meditation is powerful practice for bringing awareness and presence to all relationships. However, sooner or later, you will encounter difficult conversations with difficult people. It's inevitable. Bringing awareness and presence into conversation is a critical social skill that can calm your anxiety and improve communication. Being heard is as important to others as it is for you.

The monthly meditation practice schedule is as follows:

• First and third Sundays, 9 to 9:40 a.m.: Calm-abiding and tonglen meditation practice.

• Second and fourth Sundays, 9 to 10:15 a.m.: calm-abiding, tonglen and mantra practice, and a short dharma talk and discussion.

Dan Dempster, the group leader for this Buddhist practice, is a certified meditation instructor and authorized dharma teacher. His insight stems from more than 18 years as a student of Khenpo Migmar Tseten, Buddhist chaplain at Harvard University.



This practice is open to newcomers, and to those with more experience, who want to deepen their practice. The simple yet profound practices focus on cultivating the four immeasurables: love, compassion, joy and equanimity.

You are invited to bring your favorite cookies to share over tea. Come regularly to deepen your practice, as group practice encourages, supports and reinforces your daily home practice. Meditation instruction is always free, and a basket for dana, or the practice of giving, is available.



All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or an intention, to make such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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#### Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Level: Intermediate

#### Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

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## Housing for hope: Rise Above Violence seeking transitional housing

By Kristen Bair **Rise Above Violence** 

When it comes to housing, some of us have it. Many do not.

Among those struggling most are victims of domestic violence. Domestic violence is a pattern of abusive and coercive behavior used by one partner to gain and maintain power over another. In rural communities like Pagosa Springs, 1 in 3 women and 1 in 7 men are affected by domestic violence every day; 80 percent also have children (U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2021).

With housing prices at an all-time high, housing insecurity is a challenge for many. But for someone trying to leave an abusive relationship, it can be an insurmountable barrier. That doesn't stop the need.

At Rise Above Violence, we view housing as a basic human right, like clean water and fresh air.

So, why don't victims just leave? Because most can't. Ninety-nine percent of survivors experience economic abuse, where access to money, employment or basic resources is restricted as a means of control (NNEDV, 2021). When someone controls your resources, they can control your day to day living - and your ability to escape.

Domestic violence isn't a "family dispute." It's actually a deadly crime — one that's often more brutal than stranger-on-stranger assaults. Without intervention, the violence will only get worse and continue into the next generation. It spans every community, income level and background. It can take many forms: physical, sexual, emotional, economic, reproductive and even digital.

The cost is staggering, not just for individuals, but for entire communities.

Without housing, survivors may face homelessness, increased trauma and cycles of violence. This ripple effect impacts health care, law enforcement, schools, social services and the future of our children. One study by the Urban Institute found that providing supportive housing is actually less expensive than emergency services and crisis interventions.

The cost to our youth may be the highest. According to the BDVC, children exposed to domestic violence struggle more in school, relationships and the workforce. The long-term effects touch every corner of a community - including our home, Pagosa Springs.

#### How can you help?

- We're looking for:
- Unlived spaces.
- Basement studios.
- Mother-in-law suites.
- Campers. • Short-term rentals.

If you have one of these, you have the power to change a life.

Our SafeHome Program makes it simple. All we ask is the space — we handle the rest. Incentives include a cleaning stipend, utility reimburse-



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ment and a discount of up to 50 percent off short-term rental fees for Archuleta County-zoned homes.

You can make a difference. Reach out to Kristen today at kristen@riseaboveviolence.org or (970) 264-1129, ext. 7.

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Gennette Erickson Owner.





Photo courtesy Seeds of Learning

Introducing the 2025 Stars. From left to right, the stars of this year's Dancing with the Pagosa Stars fundraiser for Seeds of Learning are Ernesto Renteria, Matt Kossler, Callie Skinner, Cindi Galabota, and Nicole Pitcher. Not pictured is Ben Lawrence.

### Stars of Seeds' Dancing with the Pagosa Stars revealed

**By Cory Henderson** Seeds of Learning

Seeds of Learning is honored to announce the stars of the 2025 Dancing with the Pagosa Stars.

These stars were selected for their community leadership, personality and a belief in Seeds' education. We are excited to announce this year's gracious stars: Cindi Galabota, Matt Kossler, Nicole Pitcher, Ernesto Renteria, Callie Skinner and Ben Lawrence.

Dancing With the Pagosa Stars will be held on Aug. 16 at the Ross Aragon Community Center.

This year's incredibly generous dancers will be paired with a professional coach. learn a dance routine. and perform for your votes. This eight-year anniversary will be the final year of Dancing with the Pagosa Stars for the foreseeable future and will be followed by a new event in 2026 that will certainly entertain the Pagosa community. Make this year one to remember by voting today.

You can vote today by visiting dwtps.org to see bios of these competitive stars and vote for your favorites. Each \$1 vote moves a star closer to winning the coveted Mirror Ball Trophy and bragging rights as this year's winner.

More importantly, all proceeds go to support Seeds of Learning and its mission to provide a high-quality, child-centered preschool education which fosters a solid foundation for success and a lifelong love of learning

Over the next few weeks, we will tell you more about these special people and why they have agreed to support Seeds. Each has a unique story, and everyone associated with Seeds feels fortunate to have their amazing support. Their commitment to raising critically needed funds to educate our community's children is truly inspiring. When you see these stars around town, be sure to let them know how special they are, and don't forget to vote at vote.dwtps.org.

All tickets include voting for your favorite star, a buffet dinner served by our fine-dining restaurant, open dancing during voting and a fabulous show which is sure to entertain.

Ticket sales will open to the public at 9 a.m. on June 16. Watch our website and Dancing with the Pagosa Stars Facebook page at facebook. com/Dancingstarspagosa/ for specific instructions on ticket purchase.

But why wait to support your favorite star(s) when you can start voting online TODAY at vote.dwtps. org? Every dollar equals one vote, and you can vote for multiple stars and as many times as you'd like.





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## **Preview Calendar**

All events listed in The PREVIEW Calendar are free of charge unless otherwise noted.

#### Thursday, May 22

- 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.
- Labyrinth Guided Walk. 10 a.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd. Join a docent for a guided tour of the Chartres-design labyrinth. Walking the labyrinth can bring a sense of releasing, receiving and renewal. The labyrinth is available from dawn until dusk and is located in the wooded area behind the parking lot at the wooded cross

Caregiver Support Group. 10:30noon, Community 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 closeup 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.
- Tech Time. 2-4 p.m., Sisson Library. Basic questions related to computers, smartphones, tablets, etc. Bring vour 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 lan-

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quage 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 23

- Birding at Chimney Rock Tour. 8 a.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This tour is presented in partnership with the local chapter of the Audubon Society and affords a wonderful opportunity to observe and learn about birds that are native to the area. 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
- 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 closeup 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.
- Free Kids Clothing Exchange. 1-7 p.m., Open Door Church, 110 Trinity Lane. Swap and shop. Clothing for newborns through teens and maternity clothes will be accepted. For more information, contact Amy Dutton at (719) 440-4305 or visit Facebook.com/pagosaminicloset.

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TAXI

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

33 Fawn Court

\$1,000,000

This meticulously cared for full-round log cabin in

uptown near Lake Forest spans 2,732 square feet,

featuring 4 bedrooms and 3.5 bathrooms. Relax on the

covered deck or backyard patio while taking in stun-

ning mountain views. Inside, the open floor plan con-

nects the great room with a cozy fireplace to a modern

kitchen boasting granite countertops, high end appli-

ances, and an island for extra prep space. The primary

bedroom and bathroom are conveniently located on

the main floor. A 2-car garage connects through the

laundry area. Upstairs has two bedrooms and a full

bathroom, while the lower level offers versatile space

for entertainment or an office, plus a fourth bedroom

**1223 Trails Boulevard** 

\$647,800

MLS # 824043

Discover this stunning, near new 1,640 sq. ft. ranch-

style, built in 2022, perfect for your next home. This

3-bedroom, 2-bath home features a 2-car garage

and an open floor plan with 9-foot and vaulted

ceilings. The spacious 223 sq. ft. primary bedroom

includes a walk-in closet with custom shelving and

a luxurious bath with a glass-enclosed tiled shower

and double vanity. The large kitchen offers a 5'x10'

pantry, Samsung appliances, an induction range,

under-cabinet lighting, and granite countertops.

THWEST COLC

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set up as a bunk room with a full bath nearby.

See Calendar on page 19



## Live Your Colorado Dream!



MLS # 822945 2 Bed, 2 Bath, 2,073 sq foot house on 36.44 acres. Navaio River Ranch has 2 private entrances into the forest. This home has wonderful views of the San Juan Mountain Range and great decks. 2 tributaries come together to form a seasonal creek called Oil Well Creek on the property.

\$925,000

#### **Own Your Own Piece of Colorado Land!**

30 High Drive — MLS # 794628 — \$55,900 38 Heron Court — MLS # 821320 — \$45,000 814 Ginger Circle — MLS # 817526 — \$179,000



3 separate lots 4.5 Acres total with no HOA or Covenants. This 2-bedroom 1 bath home is purged and is in very good shape. This is a very solid home with a well-constructed snow shed over the top. There is a 2-vehicle carport and a workshop behind the carport. There is a road behind the house going up the hill to get to a couple of nice building sites. The views are amazing up there. This is an awesome property and if needed the two vacant lots could be



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**65 Caballero Drive** 

\$725,000

MLS # 823461

This home is perfectly located on approximately

an acre of land in the Pagosa Lakes area. Open

the back door and a 700 sq ft deck will provide

additional space for a BBQ grill, plenty of outdoor

seating, and a new hot tub for your relaxation and

To tour this home go to:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=q0khZeKE-G0

X Tall Pines Place

\$265,000

MLS # 821844

35+ acres in Alpine Lakes Ranch with amazing

views of Navajo Peak and the San Juan Mountain

range. This property has a number of nice building

sites with year-round road maintenance, central

water and underground utilities at the road. The

subdivision borders thousands of acres of National

Forest and hunting is allowed. This is a wonderful

property for your horses and it is only 18 miles from

enjoyment. 4 beds/2.5 baths with 2,350 sq. ft.

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To tour this home go to: https://tinyurl.com/1001SoaringEagleCourt



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MLS # 821243

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town.

# PAGOSA SCENE . .

## Elementary School annual talent show

PREVIEW photos/Randi Pierce Scene ... showing off the talents of Pagosa Springs Elementary School at the school's eighthannual talent show on May 13. The event featured third- and fourthgraders singing, dancing, doing acrobatics, telling jokes and more.















# PAGOSA SCENE . .

## WALK FOR Moms

Photos courtesy Aspire Medical Services and Education

Scene ... celebrating moms at Aspire Medical Services and Education's annual Walk for Moms on May 10. This year's event featured a superhero theme.















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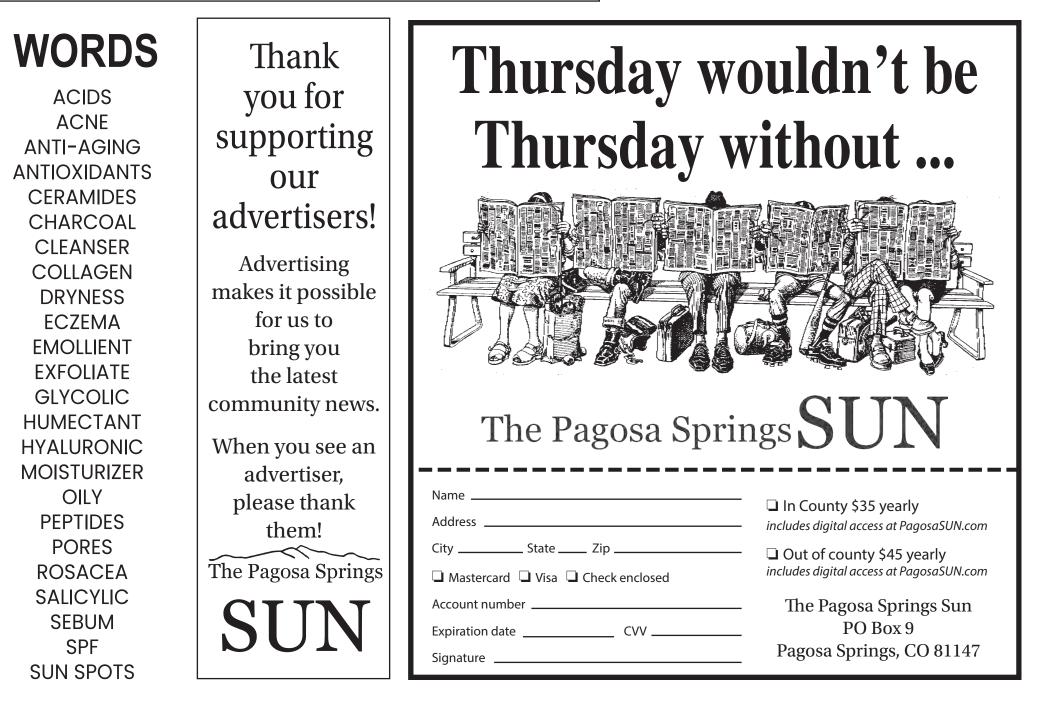
Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

## **Veterans Crisis Line**

free, confidential support to veterans in crisis, as well as their family and friends 24/7/365.

## (800) 273-8255 or text 838255





## **Preview Calendar**

#### ■ continued from page 15

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.

- 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.
- Mental Health/Self-care with Rise Above Violence. 2-3 p.m., Sisson Library. Learn about the importance of taking care of yourself, including your mental health.
- Craftapalooza. 2-3:30 p.m., Sisson Library. Join for a variety of crafts for people of all ages and abilites.

#### Saturday, May 24

- 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
- Free Kids Clothing Exchange. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Open Door Church, 110 Trinity Lane. Swap and shop. Clothing for newborns through teens and maternity clothes will be accepted. For more information, contact Amy Dutton at (719) 440-4305 or visit Facebook.com/pagosaminicloset.

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. **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 closeup 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.
- Knitters Circle. 1-3 p.m., Sisson Library. Join new or experienced knitters to get help with your project, or sit and knit.
- Flute Music at Twilight Program. 6 p.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This program begins with a guided, short walk through a mesa village followed by live Native American flute music accompanied by a deepening night sky to reveal celestial bodies. 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.

#### Sunday, May 25

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 closeup of the two pinnacles with stops along the way to learn about ancient Puebloan structures. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$6 for kids.

■ See Calendar on next page





## **HELPING OTHERS HELPS YOUR BRAIN**

Scientists have recently discovered something: We are hard-wired for good. Read more in today's excerpt.

Why does compassion lead to health benefits in particular? A clue to this question rests in a fascinating new study by Steve Cole at the University of California, Los Angeles, and APS Fellow Barbara Fredrickson at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The results were reported at Stanford Medical School's Center for Compassion and Altruism Research and Education's (CCARE) inaugural Science of Compassion conference in 2012. Their study evaluated the levels of cellular inflammation in people who describe themselves as "very happy."

Inflammation is at the root of cancer and other diseases and is generally high in people who live under a lot of stress. We might expect that inflammation would be lower for people with higher levels of happiness. Cole and Fredrickson found that this was only the case for certain "very happy" people. They found that people who were happy because they lived the "good life" (sometimes also known as "hedonic happiness") had high inflammation levels but that, on the other hand, people who were happy because they lived a life of purpose or meaning (sometimes also known as "eudaimonic happiness") had low inflammation levels.

A life of meaning and purpose is one focused less on satisfying oneself and more on others. It is a life rich in compassion, altruism, and greater meaning. Another way in which a compassionate lifestyle may improve longevity is that it may serve as a buffer against stress. A new study conducted on a large population (more than 800 people) and spearheaded by the University at Buffalo's Michael Poulin found that stress did not predict mortality in those who helped others, but that it did in those who did not. One of the reasons that compassion may protect against stress is the very fact that it is so pleasurable. Motivation, however, seems to play an important role in predicting whether a compassionate lifestyle exerts a beneficial impact on health. Sara Konrath, at the University of Michigan, discovered that people who engaged in volunteerism lived longer than their non-volunteering peers — but only if their reasons for volunteering were altruistic rather than self-serving. Another reason compassion may boost our well-being is that it can help broaden our perspective beyond ourselves. Research shows that depression and anxiety are linked to a state of self-focus, a preoccupation with "me, myself, and I." When you do something for someone else, however, that state of self-focus shifts to a state of other-focus. If you recall a time you were feeling blue and suddenly a close friend or relative calls you for urgent help with a problem, you may remember that as your attention shifts to helping them, your mood lifts. Rather than feeling blue, you may have felt energized to help; before you knew it, you may even have felt better and gained some perspective on your own situation as well.

Source: "The Compassionate Mind." By Emma Seppala. http://www.psychologicalscience.org Bonus Tip: Visit http://www.AmazingFacts.org for spiritual refreshment every week!

"And if thou draw out thy soul to the hungry, and satisfy the afflicted soul; then shall thy light rise in obscurity, and thy darkness be as the noonday" Isaiah 58:10

A public service from your Adventist friends & neighbors at Pagosa Springs Seventh Day Adventist Church. Disclaimer: This and all our Nature's Remedies are for health information purposes only. The Seventh Day Adventist Church is not responsible for results.

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## **Preview Calendar**

#### continued from previous page

For more information and tickets, visit www.chimneyrockco.org or call (877) 444-6777.

#### Monday, May 26

- Mysteries Tour of Chimney Rock. 8 a.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This tour provides an in-depth discussion along the Great House Trail about the connection of Chimney Rock to the greater Chacoan culture, the significance of the mesa-top Great House, and the day-to-day lives of the ancestral inhabitants of Chimney Rock. 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.
- **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 closeup 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.
- 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. ora
- **Deepening the Faith Classes.** 6-8 p.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church classrooms.

#### Tuesday, May 27

- 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.
- Blood Drive. 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Centerpoint Church, 2750 Cornerstone Drive. For more information or to make an appointment, contact local volunteer Sharee Grazda at (970) 946-2760, call Vitalant at 1-877-25-VITAL or visit vitalant.org.
- **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 closeup 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.
- WHIPS (Women Helping in Pagosa Springs). 11:30 a.m., Two Chicks and Hippie. The cost is \$20. All women are welcome. RSVP by Sunday, May 24) to (970) 946-1895.
- 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.

Chimney Rock Through the Ages Tour. 5 p.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.

- 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 28

- 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.
- **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 closeup 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.

Bridge. 1:15 p.m., Senior Center. Mindful Drawing. 1:15 p.m., Senior ■ See Calendar on next page







#### To honor this year's graduating seniors, The Pagosa Springs SUN will run photos of each senior along with their post-graduation plan.

If you would like to participate in the project, the sponsorships will be <sup>\$</sup>150 for an ad space that is 4.125" wide by 2.875" tall.

The pages with the graduating seniors will be published in our Thursday, May 29, 2025 edition.

> If you would like to be a sponsor, please call Shari at (970) 264-2100 before Thursday, May 2.

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# **Preview Calendar**

#### continued from previous page Center

- Healthy Archuleta Growers and Producers Forum. 4:15-5:45 p.m., Sisson Library. Learn about local meat production from local producers.
- Mysteries Tour of Chimney Rock. 5 p.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This tour provides an in-depth discussion along the Great House Trail about the connection of Chimney Rock to the greater Chacoan culture, the significance of the mesa-top Great House, and the day-to-day lives of the ancestral inhabitants of Chimney Rock. 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.

#### Thursday, May 29

- 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.
- Labyrinth Guided Walk. 10 a.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd. Join a docent for a guided tour of the Chartres-design labyrinth. Walking the labyrinth can bring a sense of releasing, receiving and renewal. The labyrinth is available from dawn until dusk and is located in the wooded area behind the parking lot at the wooded cross.
- 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 closeup 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. 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.
- 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 30

Mysteries Tour of Chimney Rock. 8 a.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This tour provides an in-depth discussion along the Great House Trail about the connection of Chimney Rock to the greater Chacoan culture, the significance of the mesa-top Great House, and the dav-to-dav lives of the ancestral inhabitants of Chimney Rock. Tick-

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ets 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.

Great House Tour. 10:30 a.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This

See Calendar on next page

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.35 acre on your way to Navaio Lake State Park. MLS 823897, \$55,000.

.28 acre in the Arboles area near Navajo Lake State Park. MLS 823898, \$55,000.

1.17 acres with RV, water cistern, generator in place. MLS 816068, \$75,000.

1.19 acres on the road to Navajo Lake State Park, water tap available. MLS 820402, \$99,000.

4.03 acres, surveyed, close to San Juan River. MLS 820153. \$175,000.

5 surveyed acres with mountain views. MLS 802696. \$250,000.





19 Navajo Trail Drive 5,700 sq. ft. building at busy intersection. Building and land. MLS 801267 \$1,250,000



229 Hills Circle 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 2 car garage, fully furnished, near NF access MLS 819751 S550,000

1.97 acres, 1 bedroom, 1 bath, 1-car garage in Ignacio area. MLS 822560. \$260,000.

3 acres 4 miles south on U.S. 84 MLS 818681, \$300,000.

2.25 acres on State Highway 151 near Navajo Lake State Park. MLS 822688. \$325,000.

3 bedroom, 2 bath with detached garage on 20 acres, nice mountain views. MLS 820218. \$475,000.

Commercial property with metal building, concrete floor, access to 3-phase electric, on 10 acres. MLS 811236. \$650,000.

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1019 Country Road 330, Ignacio 3 bedroom, 2 bath home located on 64 acres MLS 821801 S928,000



94 Eagle's Place 2 bedroom, 2 bath, 2 sheds, spacious deck, fenced area, .8 ac. with great views of Navajo Lake! MLS 822684 S395,000



75 Piedra Parkway, Arboles 3.7 acres, 5 minutes from Navajo Lake State Park MLS 820794 S400,000



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# **Preview Calendar**

#### continued from previous page

tour goes to the top of the mesa ridge for a 360-degree panoramic view of the landscape and a closeup 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.
- Summer Reading Kickoff Party. 1:30-4:30 p.m., Sisson Library. For all ages. Join for the "Color Our World" Summer Reading kickoff. Make colorful planets, moons, stars, etc. Sign up and have fun.
- **Tour of the Night Sky Program.** 8:15 p.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This tour program focuses on the Ancient Puebloans who once lived here and studied the night skies along with interactive talks about the life cycle of a star, categories of galaxies, telescopes and other topics. 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.

#### Saturday, May 31

- 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.
- Habitat for Humanity's 15 Homes in 5k. 10 a.m., PLPOA Clubhouse. The event will include a 5k, 10k and kids' super sprint. Register and pay at www.habitatarchuleta. org or beginning at 8 a.m. the day of the race.



- **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 closeup 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.
- Telescope Moon Viewing. 9-10 p.m., Aspen Village. Join the Pagosa Sidewalk Astronomers on the east side of the Walmart parking lot near the picnic tables for a brief educational presentation about the moon, then gaze at the moon through a telescope. The five-day-old waxing crescent moon has many visible craters.

#### Sunday, June 1

**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 closeup 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, June 2

Mysteries Tour of Chimney Rock. 8 a.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This tour provides an in-depth discussion along the Great House Trail about the connection of Chimney Rock to the greater Chacoan culture, the significance of the mesa-top Great House, and the day-to-day lives of the ancestral inhabitants of Chimney Rock. 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.

- 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.
- **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 closeup 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.
- Submit your calendar items to editor@ pagosasun.com; mail them to The Pagosa Springs SUN, P.O. Box 9, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147; or deliver them to The SUN office by noon Monday.







Photo courtesv Carole Howard

Professional actors from across the country enjoy Sunday morning coffee at the Actor House May 18 before their initial rehearsal of "Something Rotten!" - the first Broadway musical of the summer season to be presented by Thingamajig Theatre Company at the Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts. Featuring a sophisticated blend of humor, song and dance, it opens May 30 and will run in rotation until Aug. 30 with "The Wild Party,' opening June 13, and "A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder," opening June 27. Season and individual tickets are available at pagosacenter.org or by phoning or texting the box office at (970) 731-SHOW (7469).

### Actors and directors in rehearsals for Thingamajig's first summer Broadway musical

#### **By Carole Howard**

Thingamajig Theatre Company

Professional actors and directors have arrived in Pagosa Springs from across the U.S. and rehearsals are underway now for "Something Rotten!" - the first Broadway musical of the summer season to be presented by Thingamajig Theatre Company at the Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts.

Season ticket holders will get a sneak preview of the show tomorrow, Friday, May 23, from 6:30 to 9 p.m. when they are invited to a special open rehearsal wine-and-cheese event exclusively for them. The doors will open at 6 p.m.

"Something Rotten!" is a Broadway musical comedy about two struggling Renaissance playwrights who are desperate to write a hit to compete with William Shakespeare. The show satirizes both Shakespeare and the Broadway world with a sophisticated blend of humor, song and dance.

It will open Friday, May 30, and will run in rotation until Aug. 30 with "The Wild Party," opening June 13, and "A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder," opening June 27.

Ronald Dahl's "James and the Giant Peach Junior" will be the theater's Whatchamawhozits children's summer camp musical on July 12 and 13.

This year's fundraising Broadway Gala will take place July 29, showcasing the incredible talents of the summer performers.

talent

Artists, designers and performers have come to Pagosa from as far away as New York City and California to perform in "Something Rotten!" and the two other summer musicals, as well as at the fundraising gala.

Eight of the actors are muchadmired favorites with local and out-of-town audiences from previ-

BJ Jones and Lars Schneider, owners, have spent a

As long-time locals, we operate with small-town

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combined total of over 45 years in Pagosa Springs.

ous performances at Thingamajig. They are Cassandra (Cassie) Brooks, Trevor Brown, Dominic Girolami, Evan Hoefer, Jesse Kortus, Samantha (Sam) Luck, Dan Morrison and Alicia Oshorne

A special treat for audiences is news that Tim Moore, Thingamajig's artistic director, will perform in

■ See Rehearsals on next page

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punctuality.

#### More Than Just Signs!

### Rehearsals

#### continued from previous page

"Something Rotten!" He will play several roles, including Nostradamus, the 16th century French astrologer. apothecary and physician famed for being able to predict future events.

Others on stage will be talented new faces.

"Something Rotten!" has a cast of 15 actors who play more than 75 roles, including dancing and performing in the chorus, with multiple costume changes.

#### More about the play

"Something Rotten!" tells the story of two playwright brothers in Elizabethan England who are struggling to compete with the huge success of Shakespeare, their contemporary and rival. It was nominated for 10 Tony Awards, including Best Musical, and won one.

"Something Rotten!" is famous for its nimble word play, clever historical references and satirical humor. One reviewer called it "pure escapist entertainment," writing, "It's hilarious, witty, filled with kitschy dialogue, clever jokes, catchy songs and over-the-top characters that you'll instantly fall in love with."

Theater lovers will especially enjoy one of its songs that has been called "a crash course on classic show tunes and Broadway musicals" because in the nearly eight-minutelong piece there are at least 20 different references to famous Broadway scores.

Dennis Elkins has come from New York City to direct "Something Rotten!" and he is greatly looking forward to the show.

"It's definitely not something out of your English teacher's textbook," he said.

Just one example of the talent we'll see on stage is Jesse Kortus, well-known in Pagosa as New York City crap game organizer Nathan Detroit in Thingamajig's "Guys and Dolls" and Charlie Brown in the theater's 2022 holiday show.

In "Something Rotten!" Kortus plays Shakespeare, with the opportunity to display his amazing dancing skills in a big tap number in this musical romp.

#### 'Something Rotten!' leadership

Elkins, former head of the Fort Lewis College theater department, is well-known to Thingamajig audiences. Here he starred in dramas including "Red," "A Picasso" and "A Few Good Men"; played major roles in musicals like "Cabaret" and "Hairspray"; directed hits like "Thoroughly Modern Millie," "Jersey Boys" and "The Odd Couple: Female Version"; and wrote and starred in a one-man autobiographical trilogy, "box.," "bag—" and "bloodline."

The show is being choreographed by Pia Wyatt. She is professor of theater and dance at Northwestern State

University in Louisiana. Her previous Thingamajig credits include directing and choreographing musicals like "Guys and Dolls," "SpongeBob SquarePants," "Tommy," "Mamma Mia" and "Jekyll and Hyde."

In addition to his acting roles, Girolami returns to Pagosa from New York City to be music director for all three shows.

Costumes are the responsibility of Nanette Cheffers, resident costume designer, with intern Sophia Raymond. Mackenzie Lowe is returning as lighting designer.

#### Major recruiting trip

The summer actors were recruited by Moore on a month-long audition trip that took him to New York City and the Unified Professional Theater Auditions (UPTAs) in Memphis, Tenn.

He met with more than a thousand artists in person and many thousands more online before choosing the final summer cast.

Moore said, "I'm looking forward to another fantastic season this summer, and I know our audiences will love these amazing shows and performers. They represent a return to narrative theater, works that are based on storytelling with great music."

#### Season ticket benefits

To ensure you don't miss any of the three summer musicals, consider buying season tickets.

Multiple benefits come with being a season ticket holder, including invitations to exclusive happenings like the special "Something Rotten!" open rehearsal wine-and-cheese event tomorrow, Friday, May 23, from 6:30 to 9 p.m.

Other perks include a free drink on opening weekends, discounted tickets, reserved seats, unlimited ticket exchanges at no extra charge, come-again tickets to see a show again while bringing a paying guest when you attend an opening weekend performance, and an invitation to the wine and cheese winter season announcement in August.

Season tickets are \$120 per person. Reserved seats are \$210 per person. They are available on the theater's website at pagosacenter.org or by phoning or texting the box office at (970) 731-SHOW (7469). Individual tickets and all show dates also are available on the website.

#### **Friends of the Theatre** benefits

Your source for community news. **The Pagosa Springs SUN** 970-264-2100

You also can pay your annual Friends of the Theatre dues of \$40 per person on the theater's website.

Becoming a Friend brings you many exclusive interactions with the actors and directors throughout the year. Those opportunities include multiple social gatherings like welcome and farewell parties, an exclusive summer cabaret concert, invitations to participate in Tech Tuesday potlucks, behindthe-scenes presentations, a laser light show and dance party, plus excursions to Williams Lake for water sports in the summer and Wolf Creek for skiing in the winter.

#### **About Thingamajig**

Thingamajig Theatre Company was co-founded in 2011 by Tim and Laura Moore. It is an award-winning professional 501(c)(3) nonprofit theatre in residence within the Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts. Its talented actors, directors and production experts come from across the U.S. to produce musicals, comedies and dramas year-round.

Thingamajig also is dedicated to providing theatrical experiences and educational opportunities for youth and teens in our community.







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### Weed management: don't plant that

By Ethan Proud and Cindi Galabota PREVIEW Columnists

One of the easiest and most effective weed management techniques, that is often overlooked until it is too late, is to simply not plant an invasive in your garden or landscaping.

Many noxious weeds that are present in Archuleta County were introduced first by settlers in their garden such as common mullein, common tansy, dames rocket and yellow toadflax. These species escaped ornamentation into natural areas where they reduce forage for animals, displace native plant species and compete in post-fire environments.

Some gardeners chose to turn a blind eye and claim that the plants "aren't invasive in my yard"; however, this winter I spotted myrtle spurge growing along the banks of the San Juan. The nearest population is several blocks away and there are no intermediate populations or even single plants. Just because you can't see the plants escaping ornamentation doesn't mean that they aren't.

Our global economy means that you can buy any plant from across the world and plant it in your own yard, simply for aesthetics or a different human use. When these plants escape and become invasive, they result in the homogenization of our ecosystems. Our landscapes are valuable not just to humans, but to insects, birds and other animals because of the diversity they contain.

Wildlife in the San Juans evolved in conjunction with the plants here, and they need them to thrive. Insects in particular often need a host species to survive and make up the largest group of animal classification.

So, how do you know when you are shopping for new plants if they are invasive or not? Luckily, nurseries around Pagosa don't typically stock noxious weeds, and when they do by accident, they remove them from the shelves when notified. Asking staff if a certain plant is native will also help as native plants cannot be listed as noxious or considered invasive, or requesting that the nursery stock more natives if they currently do not. Not all non-native plants are invasive, such as daffodils and Russian sage. Both species can spread and increase their foothold in a garden, but are typically not seen escaping ornamentation.

To better educate yourself on noxious weed species before planning your new garden additions, visit the Colorado Department of Ag or Archuleta County website, or swing by the Archuleta County Weed and Pest office and pick up a copy of the Colorado Weed Management Association's "Noxious Weeds of Colorado" booklet.

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

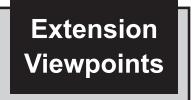




Photo courtesy Ethan Proud Myrtle spurge, an escaped orna-

mental, is a List A noxious weed

#### Email list

in Colorado.

Do you want to be added to our email distribution list to learn about upcoming programs and the latest resources? Email cindi.galabota@ colostate.edu to be added to our list.

Or, to learn more about the many programs, resources and services offered by Colorado State University (CSU) Extension, visit https://extension.colostate.edu.

#### Introduction to Landscaping in Archuleta County

CSU Extension is joining the Geothermal Greenhouse Partnership and Archuleta County Weed and Pest to offer an introduction to landscaping in Archuleta County on June 7 at 10 a.m. at the Native Plant Garden next to the greenhouse domes.

It is free and no preregistration is required. During this free class for the public, participants will discover gardening with native plants, and learn about the plants and animals that might visit your gardens.

#### Vermiculture workshop

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

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

#### CPR and first aid classes

CPR and first aid certification classes are offered every other month at the CSU Extension office, generally

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

Check out the online option on our website, https://archuleta.extension.colostate.edu/.

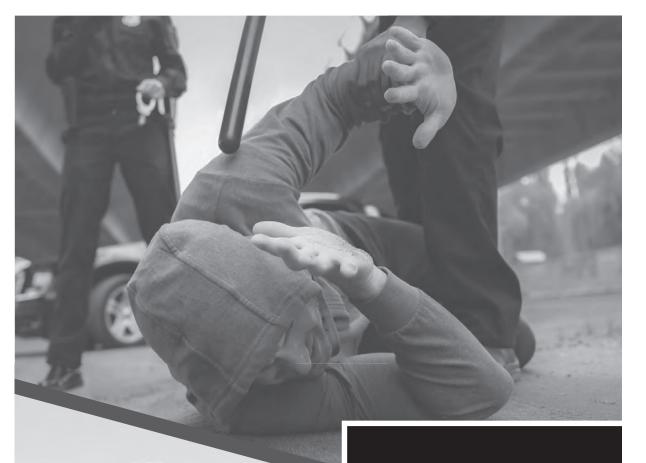
### **Clarks Custom Landscaping**



Flagstone | Pavers | Patios & Walkways Landscape Design & Installation

505-709-8579 (don't worry, we're local!)

www.clarkscustomlandscaping.com clarkscustomlandscape@gmail.com licensed & insured



- Police Misconduct
- Civil Rights Violations
- Wrongful Death
- Disability Violations
- Excessive Force
- Unlawful Seizure and Sale of Property

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Reputation. Respect. Results

#### Classifieds (970) 264-2100 (970) 264-2100 Office Hours: Monday — Friday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Classified Deadline: Tuesday 10 a.m.

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TOO LATE TO CLASSIFY

THINK HAIR

THINK ELIZABETH

970-903-5152

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

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL** The Archuleta

School District is accepting proposals for

upgrading the Pagosa Springs High School

parking lot with accessibility improvements.

Details of the RFP are located on the dis-

trict's website mypagosaschools.com under

District> Bids/ RFPs/ RFQs. All proposals

are due by 2 p.m. on Monday, June 2, 2025.

Please contact Josh Sanchez at isanchez@

pagosa.k12.co.us with any guestions.

check us out on Indeed.com

#### PERSONALS

FREE. CONFIDENTIAL. HELP. 24-hour domestic violence and sexual assault helpline. (970) 264-9075.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

CONCERNED ABOUT ANOTHER'S DRINK-ING? Pagosa Springs Al-anon Family Group meets Tuesdays 6-7p.m., Pagosa Bible Church. Questions? Call/ text (303)815-8569. www.al-anon.org.

COWGIRL GLAM BURLESQUE workshop. Friday, May 23, 6-7:30p.m. \$40. At SpiritFire Center at Pagosa Lodge. Join Sassafras connecting to your sensual self. (970)510-0309.

HUMAN ECOLOGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE Education Group, Evolve, to meet Wednesday, May 21, 4:45p.m., Ruby M. Sisson Library, documentary, "Return of the Wolf." Why here? Why now? Friday, May 23, 4:45p.m., Ruby M. Sisson Library, topic; "The Conservative Environmentalist," Benji Becker, and film, "Beasts of Our Time: Climate Change and Grizzly Bears." Evolve serves to provide information, inspiration and connection for healthy global ecology through media education. No charge, public.

PAGOSA AA: M-W-F 5:30p.m. Mens' meeting Tuesday 5:30p.m. Saturday and Sunday 10a.m. Tuesday and Thursday at noon. 315 N. 2nd St., County Road 200 (.2 miles off 160). Zoom Sunday 10a.m. Zoom Thursday noon women only; ID 858 319 763, password 754 234. Call Kathi (970)946-1482 or Central Office (888)333-9649.

SACRED WATERS MEDICINE WHEEL workshop. Saturday, June 7, 10a.m. -12p.m. at Xanadu. Potluck after. \$25 donation. Maggie Red Eagle and Shayla White Eagle facilitating. Call/ text (970)510-0309.

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. Ann: (303)918-8137. Charlotte: (970)903-9690. More resources: www.aa.org, www.aa-westerncolorado.com, (970)245-9649, (888)333-9649 (24 hours).

### **SERVICES**

ALL ASPECTS OF DIRT WORK and concrete. Insured. Driveways, patios, additions, leech fields, utility lines. (970)946-4408.

ASPENGLOW LANDSCAPING/ YARD MAINTENANCE/ YARD CLEANUP. Mowing, trimming, raking and tree trimming. Tractor available for planting and landscaping. (970)946-2061.

CALL BIG D FLOORING for a free consultation and estimate at (575)419-2366 or visit us at bigdflooring.com to schedule online.

**CLARKS CUSTOM LANDSCAPING** is now scheduling consultations for the 2025 season. If you are ready to add value to your investment with professional, high-quality landscaping, give Rebekah a call at (505)709-8579. Licensed. Insured. Local. www.clarkscustomlandscaping.com; clarkscustomlandscape@ amail.com



Call (970) 585-4846

www.backcountrybuilders.co

946-1737

GREAT MASSAGE PRICES All Massages include a Soak! JAND JENTERPRISES is looking for friendly VERLOOK and enthusiastic people who are eager to HOT SPRNGS help customers navigate the wide world of

SINGLE FEMALE. Non smoker, no drugs, no pets, active with my cleaning business, seeking a room to rent long term. References available. Text (970)507-0748.

SPA

Downtown Pagosa 264-4040

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.

> Submit your classified ad online. PagosaSUN.com

**NEW! PLACE YOUR CLASSIFIED AD ONLINE!** Go to: PagosaSUN.com >> Shop Local >> Place Your Classified Ad

All classified line ads appear on PagosaSUN.com **Regular categories deadline:** Tues., 10 a.m. Too Late To Classify deadline: Tues., 3 p.m.

Holidays will have alternate deadlines.

#### Classifieds (970) 264-2100 (970) 264-2100 Office Hours: Monday — Friday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Classified Deadline: Tuesday 10 a.m.



#### Classifieds (970) 264-2100 (970) 264-2100 Classified Deadline: Tuesday 10 a.m.

#### Office Hours: Monday — Friday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

#### SERVICES

PAGOSA SPRINGS STORAGE has all size units available. 24 hour access, gated, with security cameras. Call for specials. (970)731-0007 www.pagosaspringsstorage.com.

PROFESSIONAL SNOW REMOVAL. - Residential and Commercial. Fully insured. Shovel and salt upon request. Call now for quote. (970)946-4450.

**PROPERTY MAINTENANCE/ HOME CARE** checks, providing snow removal, landscaping, handyman services. Call Eric (970)946-2061.

**RICHARD DECLARK ELECTRICAL** is available for all your electrical services from remodels to new construction. I have been in Pagosa for 15 years, no job too small or too large. (970)903-1456.

**RIVERSTONE CARPET CLEANING. 25** cents/sq. ft. and \$3 per stair. No hidden charges. Owner/operator 20 years experience. Professional, trustworthy and punctual. 100% eco-friendly. Call Mike at (970)403-9222. Credit cards accepted with no fee. Hallways and closets always free.

ROOF REPAIRS, LEAKS, RESCREWS, **INSPECTIONS.** 35+ years experience. Call Jeff at Blair Roofing. (970)903-6556.

**ROOF RESCREWING, CHIMNEY CLEAN-**ING, roof repairs, dryer vent cleaning, valley repairs. Arlie's Chimney Sweep. (970)731-2543

STUCCO REPAIR BY LOCAL AMERICANS! Call for a Free Estimate (970)317-4162 or email us at stuccosystemsest1993@gmail. com.

TANKLESS/ON DEMAND WATER HEAT-ERS. Largest inventory in the area, including replacement parts. Same day Installation and service in most cases. We are the only company that extends the parts & labor warranty from 1 year to 5 years. VAIL HOME SERVICES, (760)835-1041.

TREE & CLEAR LLC. Tree removal, pruning and mitigation. Certified and insured. Call (720)666-5761.

TREE FELLING, TRIMMING, REMOVAL and lot cleaning! MTN Forestry specializes in hazardous and technical tree trimming and removals. Call anytime for a free quote! (970)403-6396.

TREE REMOVAL. 24 years experience. Jerome Nobles (970)317-8610.

WE HAUL. WE WILL haul off anything but your marijuana or your mother- in- law. No job too big or too small. We also move buildings. We don't haul pigs. Dan Snow (719)849-8873.

WEBSITE DESIGN. SOCIAL MEDIA AND DIGITAL AD EXPERT. Available to help grow your business. www.mgmpagosa.com Text: (928)246-1321.

WEST CO, CONSTRUCTION & SERVICES. Services include but not limited to; fencing, gates, greenhouses, sheds, siding, windows, roofing, decks, gardens, remodels/ renovations, tree mitigation and removal. Call (970)698-1362.

WINDOW CLEANING -RESIDENTIAL Bonded and insured. 25 yrs. experience REFLECTIONS Window Cleaning. (480)892-1999 - FRFF estimates

#### HEALTH

HOT SPRINGS HEALERS. Sessions at hot springs! Introducing Quantum Reset. Also, cranial sacral, bodywork, massage. Serving Pagosa 27 years, Dr. Dean and Amanda, (970)844-0645, (970)903-5309.

#### **HELP WANTED**

ARE YOU PASSIONATE about nurturing the next generation? Wings Early Childhood Center is looking for enthusiastic and dedicated Early Childhood Teachers (ages 0-3). College degree and/or experience with kids under 5 is preferred, but we're willing to train candidates who are eager to learn and expand their education. Perks of Joining Our Family: PTO Accrual, 8 Paid Holidays Off; 2 Weeks Paid Time Off Each Year; Career Development: College Tuition Reimbursement; Paid Parental Leave; Discounted Childcare Tuition for Your Kids. We value reliability, patience, a love for the outdoors, and multitasking skills are essential. Your unique contributions can help shape young learners! Start your rewarding journey with us as we ignite a love for learning together! Send resume and references to Sienna Hunter at director@wingsearlychildhood.org or call us at (970) 731-2868.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES. Front office administrative assistant or chair side procedural assistant positions available for immediate hire. Will train if necessary for these valuable positions. Flexible hours, full time or part time available. Great pay with room for advancement. Please send your resume today to pdimplants@yahoo.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.

COLORADO DREAM HOMES is expanding our crew! We are seeking multiple crew assist positions (framing /siding /finish carpentry). Starting rate is \$20+ an hour depending on experience. Paid holidays, accrued PTO and annual bonuses. Please send resumes to coloradodreamhomesinc@gmail.com or swing by our office at 2283 Eagle Drive to hand deliver or fill out an application.

CONSTRUCTION LABOR help needed. Good driving record a plus but not necessary. Pay based on construction experience. Fulltime 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.

DOGGY DAY CARE is now hiring. Dog attendant and or groomer. \$20 to start. \$100 signing bonus. Must have ranch, dog and or grooming experience. Part time to full time 4/9.36 hours per week. Contact Jeffrey Edens (970)799-4691. jeffrey@doggydaycare81147.com

#### **SERVICES**

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COMPETITIVE PAY

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**HELP WANTED** 

**HRNG** 

RIFF RAFF

HOSTS | RUNNERS | KITCHEN

#### **HELP WANTED**



FLITE RECYCLING AND DISPOSAL. a division of Bruin Waste Management, LLC is a rapidly growing organization with services expanding the Western Slope of Colorado.

We currently have a Route Truck Helper/ Tipper position open. The starting rate for this position is \$19/hour. Helpers ride on the trucks and empty trash carts and dumpsters. A valid driver's license is a plus, as helpers do a variety of tasks including cart delivery, shop cleaning, light mechanical and washing trucks and carts.

We offer a competitive benefits package including a matching 401k Plan with opportunities to earn safety bonuses.

We are committed to first-class service, where safety and people are our top priority! Applications can be picked up at 250 Industrial Circle in Pagosa Springs, Colorado or call our office at (970)731-2012 or email ctanner@eliterecycling.com to request one.



ELITE RECYCLING AND DISPOSAL, a division of Bruin Waste Management, LLC is a rapidly growing organization with services expanding the Western Slope of Colorado.

We currently have a Class B CDL Driver Trash Recycle Route Driver position open. The starting rate for this position is \$24/ hour and includes a sign-on bonus of \$500 payable after 6 months of accident-free employment.

We offer a competitive benefits package including a matching 401k Plan with opportunities to earn safety bonuses. Must be able to pass a preemployment drug test.

We are committed to first-class service, where safety and people are our top priority!

Applications can be picked up at 250 Industrial Circle in Pagosa Springs, Colorado or call our office at (970)731-2012 or email ctanner@eliterecycling.com to request one.



LINE COOK AND PREP COOK needed at Two Chicks and A Hippie. Apply at 135 Country Center Drive.

· COLORADO HOME · SUPPLY

Product or home design familiarity is a plus; proficient computer skills, exceptional communication, people and customer service skills are a must have.

Job requires working in a team atmosphere, high level of professionalism, and building long term

ELI STEPHENS LANDSCAPING LLC. is looking to hire. We are looking for someone willing to learn. Pay will be based off of experience. Looking for labor and equipment operators. Call Eli (970)946-0268.

GENERAL LABORER NEEDED Full time. Assorted Duties. Please send resume or work history to frontdesk@pagosalandcompany. com. Phone (970)264-5000.

HIRING SKILLED ARTISAN BARISTAS at Faire Society. Competitive pay. (719)937-8653

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.

JAND JENTERPRISES is looking for friendly and enthusiastic people who are eager to help customers navigate the wide world of cannabis. We offer paid sick leave, product sampling, employee discounts, sales bonuses and comprehensive on-site training! Must be 21 years of age. A Marijuana Enforcement Division badge is required to start work. E-mail your resume to employment@jandjinc.net or check us out on Indeed.com.

JOIN OUR TEAM and help support our box truck. PT and Full-Time Opportunities for shifts available, \$16.00 -\$17.50 per hour DOE and on availability. Please email resume to hsjobs@pagosahumane.org, complete an humane.org, or stop by 279 Pagosa St 10-4

tion. Good pay for good help. (970)946-2277.

for us. The San Juan Trading Post is looking for a sales person. Computer literacy and ability to lift 45 lbs. is required. Starting at \$15/ hour, part-time. Stop by in person at 635 San Juan St.

**TERRY'S COLORADO HOME SUPPLY** AND ACE HARDWARE IS SEEKING A **MOTIVATED, DEPENDABLE, DETAIL ORIENTED INDIVIDUAL FOR SALES IN** 

AWESOME TEAM & FUN ENVIRONMENT

stop by Riff Raff and ask for an application

**OUR FURNITURE DEPARTMENT.** customers through a dynamic service repertoire. Starts at \$18/hr with benefits. Full time/40hr week

> Applicants will need to be available for weekends and holidays. Apply in person at 525 Navajo Trail Drive.

mission to provide a safe haven for animals in need, promote adoptions, humanely reduce pet overpopulation through spay/ neuter programs, support lifelong pet ownership, and to educate the community. The Humane Society of Pagosa Springs Thrift Store is looking for a donation receiving team member to help cover our new uptown donation drop off center and work shifts at the downtown location. Hours and pay will be negotiable according to what responsibilities and experience candidates bring. This can be a fast pace job with a lot of movement throughout the day. It requires repeatedly lifting heavy boxes and furniture. The ideal candidates will also assist with furniture pickups and drive a

application on our website https://pagosa-Tuesday- Sunday.

#### LANDSCAPE LABORERS WANTED. Must have own transportation. Call for an applica-

LIKE GUNS OR GUITARS? Come sell them

### (970) 264-2100 **Classifieds** (970) 264-2100 Classified Deadline: Tuesday 10 a.m.

#### Office Hours: Monday — Friday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

#### **HELP WANTED**

HELP WANTED

#### HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

#### **HELP WANTED**

### **ARCHULETA SCHOOL DISTRICT IS NOW HIRING!**



**Archuleta School District** strives to achieve "Success for Every Student — Every Class — Every Day."

Currently accepting applications for the following full-time position:

#### **Chief Operations Officer**

Seeking an experienced, dynamic leader to oversee district operations including maintenance, custodial services, safety, transportation, and facility management. The ideal candidate will bring strong leadership, project management, and technical expertise to ensure the district's physical infrastructure supports optimal educational outcomes. Requirements: Bachelor's degree (Master's preferred); leadership and project management experience. Salary: \$98,110-\$108,031 (based on experience).

Benefits include (but are not limited to) PERA retirement, life Insurance, optional health/dental Insurance and paid discretionary days. 88





5 .....

For more details and to apply for these positions click on "Job Postings" on the following web-site: www.mypagosaschools.com EOE

#### **CONTRACTOR SALES**

Ponderosa Lumber is seeking a customer service oriented individual to assist contractors with purchasing building materials. Knowledge of building materials is necessary. Responsibilities include:

- Providing excellent customer service
- Completing required paperwork Providing product information
- Data Entry

Please apply in person at

Ponderosa Lumber 2435 Eagle Drive or call (970) 731-4111

LOOKING FOR PART-TIME maintenance help. 20 hours per week. Please email hickoryridge@pagosacreek.com.

MEANDER HIRING COOKS! NYT TOP 50. Competitive pay. Meals included. Dinner service only. GREAT FOOD! 2 days off! Apply: Meandereatery.com.

NORTH PAGOSA MARATHON is hiring a full-time cashier nights and weekends. Competitive wages. Please apply in person at 30 N. Pagosa Blvd.

OWNERS, THERE IS A LONG TERM RENT-AL SHORTAGE IN PAGOSA SPRINGS. We have a waiting list for approved tenants. Need all types of rentals. Call us today for lowest commission and highest customer service. All you have to do is wait for your rent check to come in. We do the rest! Rocky Mountain Realty & Rentals (970)507-1192.

PAGOSA LIQUOR IS HIRING a full-time cashier. Please come and apply in person at 30 N. Pagosa Blvd.

PAGOSA SPRINGS GOLF CLUB and Square Top BBQ Immediate Openings: Irrigation Tech \$20- 25/ hour DOE, Grounds Crew \$17- \$19/ hour DOE, Server/ Bartender \$11.79- \$15/ hour +Tips, Kitchen staff \$17- 20/ hour, 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.

PART-TIME FRONT DESK Opportunity. Are vou friendly, organized, and customer-focused? We are looking to add a reliable and enthusiastic member to our team! Shifts may include a combination of mornings, days, nights, and weekends. Our front desk is open 8a.m. to 10p.m. daily, including holidays. Download application at www.pshotsprings com or stop by to pick one up. Resumes/ applications can be emailed to: sales@ pshotsprings.com, Attention Front Desk Position or dropped off at Healing Waters Resort & Spa, 140 Hot Springs Blvd.

### **ARCHULETA SCHOOL DISTRICT IS NOW HIRING!**

We're looking for Outstanding Employees to join our team!



**Archuleta School District** strives to achieve "Success for Everv Student —

Every Class — Every Day."

Currently accepting applications for the following positions:

#### Elementary Mild to Moderate SPED Teacher 2025-26 SY

Full-time position with a starting salary \$51,645-\$67,469 for 175 days paid over a 12-month period.

#### Middle School SPED Instructional Aides

(2) Full-time positions with a starting salary \$27,899-\$31,175 for 173 days paid over a 12-month period.

#### High School Teachers 2025-26 SY

Full-time positions with a starting salary \$51,645-\$67,469 for 175 days paid over a 12-month period.

#### **High School Significant Support Needs Aide**

Full-time significant support needs paraprofessional position with a starting salary \$29,283-\$32,559 for 173 days paid over a 12-month period.

#### MS & HS Coaching Positions 2025-26 SY

Part-time positions based on salary schedule range from \$3,411 up to \$3,750 paid at the end of the season.

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.



For more details and to apply for these positions click on "Job Postings" on the following web-site: www.mypagosaschools.com EOE

You belong on the

**Archuleta School District Team!** 

THE HUMANE SOCIETY of Pagosa Springs Administrative Assistant. Salary Range: \$17 -\$19 per hour (DOE). 24 -32 hours per week. Do you love animals? Would you like to be an integral part of our organization's administration, supporting the important work of our thrift store and animal shelter? The Humane Society of Pagosa Springs is seeking an Administrative Assistant who will play a key role in fostering our relationships with donors and supporters. This position involves administrative tasks crucial to the HSPS Shelter and Thrift Store operations - including donation processing, managing accounts receivable and payable. An attention to accuracy and detail, the ability to learn new software, experience with CRM platforms, and Microsoft office programs are a must. See our website at pagoashumane.org for more information.

SEEKING PART-TIME HELP. For landscaping, experience helpful. Must have valid drivers license and transportation. Contact Eric. (970)946-2061.

THE HUMANE SOCIETY SHELTER animals need you. Do you dream of a career working with animals who need you? The Humane Society of Pagosa Springs has an opening for a full-time Animal Care Specialist. Must love to work with animals AND people, spend time outdoors in all kinds of weather, and get a lot of exercise throughout the day. Previous dog and cat handling experience is a plus. A positive attitude is a must. PTO. additional sick time. and great shelter and thrift store discounts as benefits. Hourly rate \$16.00- 16.50 DOE. Apply online https://pagosahumane.org/ or stop in the Shelter and complete an application. Come join our team caring for the homeless pets of Pagosa Springs.

#### **NEWSPAPER REPORTER** — We are searching for a talented reporter to fill a fulltime 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.

THE SPOTTED PUP GROOMING SALON in Pagosa Springs is hiring a full-time experienced groomer. Please call (970)507-0905.

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 equip ment 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

#### Classifieds (970) 264-2100 (970) 264-2100 Classified Deadline: Tuesday 10 a.m.

#### Office Hours: Monday — Friday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

#### **HELP WANTED**

#### **HELP WANTED**

#### HELP WANTED

**CUSTOMER SERVICE** REPRESENTATIVE

The Pagosa Springs SUN is recruiting for a dynamic, versatile customer service representative. This position is required to work at our office at 457 Lewis Street, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147. Hours 8am to 4:30pm, Monday through Friday.

#### Job Responsibilities

Account Management: Support the Advertising Department with account management activity that's associated with customers running ads in The SUN, PREVIEW, special publications and on our digital platforms. Administrative: Handle postal paperwork, insertion order processing and payment processing for advertising and subscriptions.

Service: Provide personable, friendly customer service answering phones and interacting in person with customers that visit the office.

Communication: Serve as a point of contact for internal and external communications. Answer phones, respond to emails and direct inquiries to the appropriate team members.

Project assistance: Assist with special projects and initiatives as needed.

#### Requirements

3-5 years of experience working in an office.

Excellent attention to detail and accuracy in data entry.

Strong organizational and time management skills to meet payroll deadlines.

Excellent communication skills on the phone and through all communication channels

High level of proficiency in MS Excel and other Microsoft Office 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  $\mathbf{S}$ an O'Rourke Media Group company

RISE ABOVE VIOLENCE is seeking a Director of Advocacy to lead a team of advocates who provide 24-hour support and advocacy services to survivors of domestic and sexual violence. Applicant must be proficient in Microsoft Office; have excellent public speaking, teaching and leadership skills; and, be a highly organized, independent worker, Position is FT with benefits. BA in human services or related field preferred. Equitable experience will be considered. Rise is an equal opportunity employer where we celebrate diversity and are committed to inclusion. Visit www.riseaboveviolence.org for complete job description. Email resume to carmen@riseaboveviolence.org.

ROOF LABORER NEEDED with some construction experience. Will train. \$20-\$25/ hour to start. (970)749-0830.

THE TOWN OF PAGOSA SPRINGS is seeking to hire a Police Officer in the Police Department. The individual selected for this position performs a variety of working-level technical law enforcement duties related to enforcing the laws, maintaining the peace, protecting citizens, and conducting investigations. This is a full-time position with benefits. For more information on the position and to apply, go to the Town's website at www.pagosasprings.co.gov and select Employment.

TRAIL RIDE WRANGLER: Must be 18 years or older with a valid driver's license. 5 days a week May-August. Call (970)749-0634 for an interview.

#### BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

OWN YOUR OWN BUSINESS IN 2025! Four year-old profitable Side-by-Side rental business with extremely high reviews on Google. 1 to 8 Polaris Rzrs, LLC, website, reservation site, customer list, insured, bonded, licensed, maintenance and safety gear included. Better location than any of our competition. Operates May- Nov. Call or text Ryan (970)946-2409.

SMALL CRANE BUSINESS FOR SALE. National Crane truck, business, client list, and all attachments come with business. Inquire at (970)903-2381.

#### FOR SALE

BASSMASTER BOAT. trolling motor and battery, \$600. John, (970)946-0293.

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.

DRY FIREWOOD- PINE. Pick up \$255 a cord. Delivery available. Call for prices. Bayfield. Gabe (970)403-2784.

FIREWOOD FOR SALE. Pine and aspen. Cut about 16" long, split. Delivered by longbed truckload. Call (970)946-4450.

NEW 20' CONTAINERS FOR SALE or rent. We deliver to homes or businesses. Pagosa Springs Storage (970)731-0007.

OUTDOOR VEHICLE STORAGE SPACES available. 16', 20', 25', plus indoor 12'x20'. Winter specials starting at \$60. Pagosa Springs Storage. Gated with security cameras. (970)749-1500.

SELL OR TRADE YOUR GUNS. We buy for cash or trade it. No hassle. Licensed, bonded, insured. San Juan Trading Post, 635 San Juan St. (970)731-PAWN (7296).

#### LIVESTOCK

GRASS HAY! \$9 per hefty bale. For 50+ bales, free local Pagosa area delivery. 100+ bales, \$8.50/ bale. (970)264-1365.

#### PETS

ADOPT FROM THE Humane Society. Stop by or call (970)731-4771. You'll be amazed at what we have to offer, www.PagosaHumane.org.

AKC LAB PUPPIES for sale. Three chocolate males left. \$1200 each. Ready to go home. (970)749-4288.

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.

RATTLESNAKE AVOIDANCE TRAINING for dogs. Saturday, June 7th at Sky Ute Fairgrounds. Registration required, see https:// www.durangokennelclub.com/. \$100 per dog.

#### **RECREATIONAL VEHICLES**

2011 22' SUN TRACKER PONTOON with trailer, seats 12, 115HP Mercury, great condition. (970)946-6705.

23' GRAND DESIGNE. Used twice. Many extras. \$44,500 new. Sell: \$35,000. (970)398-1155

#### WANTED

PETS

BLUEGRASS MUSICIANS interested in joining an intermediate/ advanced level regular bluegrass jam, contact Melinda at malutz@ centurytel.net.

#### **AUTOS**

2004 SUBARU IMPREZA SPORT hatchback. AWD. New struts, head gaskets and radiator. 195k miles. \$4500 firm. (720)352-5215.

2006 LINCOLN MARK LT 4x4, 4 Door, super cab. Sun roof, Bed cover. 86k miles, \$15,000 OBO. (970)398-0990 or (970)903-2985.

**GUARANTEED CREDIT APPROVAL!** 4X4 Auto Sales, 21698 Hwy. 160 West, Durango. (970)385-7940.

#### YARD SALES

BE SURE TO CHECK for more yard sales in the Too Late To Classify section.

LARGE MULTI-FAMILY SALE. Furniture, household, collectibles, clothes, books, puzzles, etc., etc. Treasures for all. 70 Hood Ct. Friday/ Saturday, 8a.m.

MOVING SALE FRIDAY, May 23. 8-?. Furniture, patio furniture, desks, shelves, and misc. 80 Woodsman Drive.

PARKING LOT SALE at Memory Lane, right downtown. Saturday, 8-4.

YARD SALE. Saturday, May 24th. 9a.m. -2p.m. 2690 E Hwy 160. Kitchen, household, jewelry, furniture, collectibles.

#### COMMERCIAL FOR RENT

4 OFFICE SPACES. Freshly remodeled, \$400-\$525. Well suited for spa services, 140-270 sq. ft. Beautiful spacious restrooms. (970)946-3232

COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS FOR LEASE. 1501 W. Hwy 160 #1 and #2. (970)398-5290.

**COMMERCIAL STORAGE.** Approximately 1800 sq ft. 1 full bath. 14ft x 10ft door. 15ft ceiling. \$2500 a month. (903)327-3345.

DOWNTOWN OFFICE for rent on 2nd floor with private bathroom. \$400/ month including utilities and WiFi. No smokers. No pets. (970)946-2728.

FLEXIBLE COMMERCIAL/ INDUSTRIAL SPACE on the western side of Pagosa Springs. 2 spaces available. One is 1,000 sf and one is 2,000 sf with 2 14' Overhead garage doors. Both units come with bathrooms. Will be delivered as a shell space ready to be customized with credits for Tenant Improvements, Tenants in compound include building trades, UPS, light manufacturing, and artists. Available May 1st. \$1/sf per month. raswheeler@gmail.com.

COMMERCIAL FOR RENT

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.

PRIME OFFICE SPACE available downtown in the Pagosa Hotel. Call Jacque (970)946-7636

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

#### VACATION RENTALS

OWNERS, WE ARE BOOKED UP AND NEED MORE VACATION RENTAL PROP-ERTIES! Call us today for lowest commission and highest customer service. All you have to do is wait for your rent check to come in. We do the rest! Rocky Mountain Realty & Rentals (970)507-1192.

#### **RESIDENTIAL RENTALS**

1, 2 AND 3 BEDROOMS. Call (720)869-8877. Hickory Ridge Apartments.

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.

FOR RENT. 3 Bed, 2.5 Bath Lake/ Mountain Views. \$2900/ month. First month free. Pets ok. (970)903-2394.

LONG TERM RENTALS AVAILABLE. Call Team Pagosa (970)731-8599, 117 Navajo Trail Dr., pagosaspringsrealty.com.





workshop. \$1.6 million. John, (970)946-0293.

# **Bird of the Week**





Photo courtesy Byron Greco

This week's Bird of the Week, compliments of the Weminuche Audubon Society and Audubon Rockies, is the broad-tailed hummingbird.

With the earliest males typically arriving in mid-April, this is one of the two hummingbird species that breed in our area. These tiny birds fly from as far south as Mexico or Guatemala to spend the summer here. Broad-tailed hummingbirds search for flower nectar in high mountain meadows of the West and build their nests in open woods up to 10,500 feet in elevation.

In courtship flights, a male climbs as high as 100 feet in the air and hovers before descending in a dive at speeds up to 50 mph to pull up in front of a female. He angles his flight to catch the sun and flash his brilliant purple-red gorget. These birds do not form pair bonds. Males may mate with several females and leave them to raise their young alone.

Using gossamer and spiderwebs, a female builds a tiny, well-insulated nest on a tree branch with overhead cover. The outside is camouflaged with lichen, bark and moss. The inner diameter can be less than 1 inch, but the nest is designed to stretch as the chicks grow. When temperatures dip at night, these hummingbirds can enter a state of torpor by slowing their heart rate and dropping their body temperature. Males may move upslope to escape the colder mountain valleys at night, but nesting females have to stay.

Hummingbirds have the fastest wingbeats and heartbeat of any bird. They are the only birds that can fly backward and straight up and down. They are also the most colorful family of birds on Earth, with tiny feather structures that create shiny, reflective iridescence.

The throat of a broad-tailed hummingbird is rose-colored in an adult male and white with green spots on a female. Their tail feathers are broad and rounded with rusty colors tipped in white, but these details can be difficult to see. In flight, the wings of a male produce loud, metallic trills.

A warming climate, which causes plants on their breeding grounds to flower earlier, causes a mismatch in nectar availability for these high-elevation hummingbirds. Populations have declined by around 45 percent in the last 50 years.

For information on events, visit www.weminucheaudubon.org and www.facebook.com/weminucheaudubon/.



# Give the gift of blood at May 27 drive

By Sharee Grazda Special to The PREVIEW

Did you ever consider that your donation of blood during our local drives can be of great benefit to you, as well as to the recipient of your gift?

At each donation visit, the Vitalant staff checks the donor's pulse, temperature, blood pressure and iron levels to ensure the potential donor is healthy enough to give blood.

After giving, donors may also learn their blood type and cholesterol levels, with those results available in their confidential donor account. Our next drive will be on Tuesday, May 27, from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., at Centerpoint Church, 2750 Cornerstone Drive.

As of the submission of this article, there are 30 appointments made, with 33 time slots still open.

Surely in this giving community there are 33 more donors available, some perhaps for the first time, to fill our goal of 63 appointments.

For more information or to make an appointment, please contact local volunteer Sharee Grazda by text or call at (970) 946-2760.

You may also call Vitalant at 1-877-25-VITAL or go to Vitalant.org. Many thanks, and best wishes for

good health to all who read this.



Safe2Tell Colorado (877) 542-7233

Anonymously report anything that concerns or threatens you, your friends, your family or your community.